

**HUM 101: WORLD CIVILIZATIONS AND CULTURES**

Weekly Worksheet #4 (on Session 9 and 10)

Spring 2022

**Part 1-**

1. **Multiple Choice:**
2. By definition, rule by a few wealthy and powerful citizens is known as:
3. Democracy; (b) Tyranny; (c)Oligarchy; (d) Both a and b; (e) None of the above.

**ANS:** (c) Oligarchy

1. Women held property rights in which of the following ancient Greek city-states?
2. Athens; (b) Crete; (c) Macedonia; (d) Sparta; (e) Mykonos

**ANS:** (d) Sparta

1. Chattel Slavery refers to:
2. Killing off captured women and children; (b) Human beings brought and sold as private property; (c) Mass genocide; (d) Conquest of nomadic groups; (e) None of the above.

**ANS:** (b) Human beings brought and sold as private property

1. Which of the following best describes the spread of Hellenistic culture?
2. Transcontinental linkages; (b) Returning to rural culture and way of life; (c) Cosmopolitanism; (d)Rise of the Mongols; (e) Both a and c.

**ANS:** (c) Cosmopolitanism

1. **True/False:**
2. Migration of foreign people can be considered the main reason behind the increasing power of Rome as a city-state: **TRUE**
3. Punic Wars, taking place between 246 BCE and 146 BCE, refer to the battle between Rome and Carthage. **FALSE**
4. **Definitions/Identifications (1 or 2 sentences):**
5. Hellenism:

**ANS:** Hellenism is the process by which the individual cultures of the Greek city-states gave way to a uniform culture stressing the common identity of all who embraced Greek ways.

1. Cosmopolitanism:

**ANS:** Cosmopolitanism is the belief that all people are entitled to equal respect and consideration, regardless their citizenship status or other affiliations happen to be.

1. Pax Romana:

**ANS:** Pax Romana (Latin: “Roman Peace”) is a state of most pervasive and long-lasting comparative tranquillity and peace throughout the Mediterranean world.

**Part 2-**

1. **Please answer ONE of the following questions in your own words.** (350 to 500 words)
2. Do you think the Greek concept of *Isonomia* (equal application of law) was essential to the practice of *demokratia* (democracy) in Athens? Was *Isonomia* applied in ancient Athenian city-state? Explain your claim.
3. Aristotle claimed that the best constitution for most actual states is a mixed constitution of *demokratia* and oligarchy. Do you agree with this claim? Explain your answer.
4. Define the term *Phallocracy*. Do you think there is presence of phallocracy in your society or the cultures you identify yourself with?
5. Do you think the constitution of Roman Republic was designed to support the elite class and supress the freedoms of the common people? Explain your answer
6. “What we hear from ancient Rome is, therefore, hardly the voice of Rousseau; it is **imperialist democracy**. Similarly, nineteenth-century Europe and the twenty-first-century United States have boasted of liberty and democracy at home, while practicing imperialism abroad-only without saying so” (Black 181). What is imperialist democracy?

# **Answer to the question no: 1**

Yes, I do think the Greek concept of *Isonomia* (equal application of law) was essential to the practice of *demokratia* (democracy) in Athens. Isonomia was also applied in ancient Athenian city-state. All these claims are explained below.

To understand the concepts, we need to get introduced with some terms in the first place. Firstly, let’s talk about Isonomia. It is the concept of equal application of law among all the people regardless of the class of well-offs and less-well-offs. The idea came to the mind of people because there were often conflicts between rich and poor. It became endemic. For similar reason, people wanted and needed a change. As a result, there were some constitutional and political changes took place and also some new ideas appeared. The whole idea of the changes was equal application of law, which they referred to as ‘Isonomia’. These new rules expressed as ‘rule by laws, not by men’. This idea then was widely held to be an essential characteristic of the people (the *polis*). Secondly, we need to know another term which is ‘demokratia’ (democracy). Democracy basically means rule by the people (the whole population, *polis*). For further information, democracy means constitutional government, where all the appointment of government offices will be determined by the law (which means election).

Now, we need to constitute the connection between Isonomia and Demokratia. Isonomia was so essential for democracy. Firstly, equality under the law protected all citizens alike. And, secondly, it was the laws which prescribed who held office and on what terms. Without legal and political equality (Isonomia), there won’t be any sort of democracy. So Isonomia was very much essential for practicing demokratia in the Athens.

Isonomia was applied in ancient Athenian city-state. Here a very important personality comes into place, who is the great Solon. He was from the Athens, who was elected to solve the class war. After being appointed, Solon worked on various aspects of the governance, economy and social order. He then prescribed some dos and don’ts for the people. He not only emphasized on the rights of the poor, but also advised some great ideas for the wealthy people. For the wealthy people, his advises were not to spend the wealth for excess or unnecessary things, contribute majority of the wealth for social causes. Most of the wealthy people actually followed these. For the poor or less-well-off people, he opened up the political system and ensured their contribution on the overall system. He worked for the poor peasants as well. According to him, he set up a strong shield around both the parties by not allowing either to overcome another unjustly. All these refers back to democracy, for which, isonomia is a prerequisite. So, it is clear that, isonomia was purely applied in the ancient Athenian city state.

Lastly, the above discussion concludes on the fact that, Isonomia was applied in the ancient Athenian city states, which was solely essential for Demokratia.