

# 3 PRIMARY SOURCES

## THE OLIGARCH

1 Read the following extract.

I object to this form of government because it means that the interests of the mob are more important than those of respectable people. Throughout the whole world, aristocracy is opposed to democracy; for aristocracy means discipline, obedience to the laws and concern for what is respectable. On the other hand, the common people are ignorant, ill-disciplined and immoral. However, it is appropriate that in Athens the poor and the common people should seem to have more power than the noble and the rich, because it is this class that provides the rowers for the fleet and on which the power of the city is based.

SOURCE 2 Adapted from 'The mob', by 'The Old Oligarch'

a Do the Oligarchs like or dislike democracy? Give one piece of evidence from the extract that supports your answer.

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b The document states that one group of Athenians are 'respectable'. To which social group is the Oligarch group referring?

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c What were the characteristics of 'respectable' Athenians, according to the extract?

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d What name was given to common Athenians? Is this a compliment or an insult? Explain your answer.

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e What reasons are given for the common people being unsuitable to hold power?

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f To which social group do you think the Oligarch belong and why?

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g From this extract, what do you understand democracy to be?

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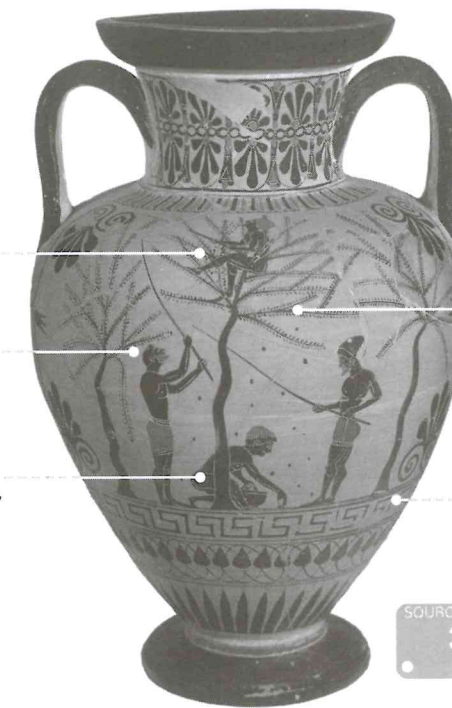


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## POTTERY

Greek pottery was functional and artistically beautiful. The designs and drawings on pottery give an insight into life in Ancient Greece.

2 Look carefully at the amphora below and complete the tasks.



SOURCE 3 Athenian black figure amphora showing olive gathering, c. 520 BCE

a Select labels from the list below and place them in the correct boxes to describe the amphora.

- olive tree
- man collecting olives
- geometric pattern
- man in olive tree shaking branches
- man with stick hitting branches

b What is happening in the scene painted on the pottery?

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c Why do you think that the product that is being farmed was important enough to be the topic for decorating the pottery?

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