

Unit 3 - Classwork 1: Gyges, Psamtik, Cylon, and Draco

In order to help you answer these questions, see pages 3—12 in Unit 3.

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1. Gyges faced a dilemma. On the one hand, he could be punished with the death penalty for a crime that he didn't commit. On the other hand, he could be rewarded for committing the crime of murder.

(i) Which horn of the dilemma did he grab? In other words, what did he choose to do?

(ii) In your opinion, did Gyges make the right decision? Why or why not? Explain.

2. Why did the Lydians ultimately agree to let Gyges become King of Lydia?

3. Psamtik had a theory about how we can figure out which language is the oldest language.

(i) According to Psamtik, how can we figure out which language is the oldest language?

(ii) Do you agree with Psamtik? Why or why not? Explain.

4. How did Athens almost become a tyranny ruled by a tyrant?

5. Draco of Athens wrote draconian laws for Athens, which he also helped to make more democratic (and less aristocratic).

(i) Why did Draco make the death penalty the punishment for every crime?

(ii) How did Draco make Athens more democratic (and less aristocratic)?

(iii) What does the word “draconian” mean?

(Note: If you don’t know what it means, then you can look up the definition, but make sure to state where you got the definition that you give as your answer.)

(iv) How were Draco’s laws *draconian* laws?