The question is based on the accompanying documents on the following pages. This question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of these have been edited for the purpose of this task. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the source of the document and any point of view that may be presented in the document.

**Directions:**
- Analyze the documents and answer the questions that follow each document.
- Read the essay question and plan your essay using two column notes.
- Write a well-organized essay that includes an introductory paragraph, a body with several paragraphs explaining and supporting your answer, and a concluding paragraph.
- Use evidence from the documents to support your essay.
- Include specific related outside information in your essay.

**Historical Context:**
Geography has always had a great influence on Greece and its inhabitants. The mountains that split the Greek lands are a major barrier to their unity as a nation. The struggle for communication by land and the significant presence of the sea have made mariners out of Greeks for numerous generations. The unique geography of ancient Greece has affected virtually every aspect of their society.

**Task:**
For Part A, read each document carefully and answer the question or questions after each document. Then read the directions for Part B and write your essay.

For Part B, use your answers from Part A, information from the documents, and your knowledge of social studies to write a well-organized essay. In the essay you will be asked to:

- Explain two **positive** effects geography had on the Ancient Greek civilization.
- Explain two **negative** effects geography had on the Ancient Greek civilization.
PART A

The documents that follow relate information about Greece. Examine each document carefully and then answer the question(s) that follow it using complete sentences. These answers will help you in Part B.

Document 1

Mountains cover most of Greece, and the land is rocky with little fertile soil. A Greek legend tells that God sifted the earth through a strainer while making the world. He made one country after another with the good soil that sifted through, and threw away the stones left in the strainer. According to the legend, these stones became Greece.

The mountains of Greece were difficult to cross; therefore, the sea became the Greeks' highway. They settled on the town and sailed from town to town in order to trade their goods. They sailed the Mediterranean, Aegean, and Black Seas to trade their olive oil and wool. No part of Greece is more than about forty miles from the sea: a couple of days walking. These merchants and traders developed a sense of freedom and independence not seen before.

1. What landform covers most of Greece? ________________________________________

2. How did the sea serve as Ancient Greece's highway? ____________________________

3. Where are most of the ancient trading cities located and why? ________________

[1] [2]
Mount Olympus is the highest mountain in Greece. It rises 9,570 feet (2,917 meters) at the eastern edge of the ridge that divides Thessaly from Macedonia. The mountain's summit is usually covered with snow and hidden in clouds. In Greek mythology, the entrance to Olympus was a great gate of clouds, kept by the Seasons. The peak of Mount Olympus was the site of the magnificent palace of Zeus, king of the gods, who was also god of thunder, lightning, and rain. In the palace, the Olympians enjoyed fine banquets and music but had occasional family quarrels. The Muses, nine daughters of Zeus, were thought to live on the slopes of the mountain. According to the ancient Greeks, their gods controlled every part of daily life--the weather, crops, love, money and business, phases of the moon, earthquakes, and even whether a loaf of bread burned in the oven.

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1. What is the highest mountain range in Greece? ________________________________

____________________________________________________________________[1]

2. What is one likely reason the ancient Greeks believed the gods lived on Mount Olympus? ________________________________

____________________________________________________________________[1]

3. Name one positive effect the Ancient Greek’s religion had on their civilization.

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________[2]
Another important aspect of the Greek environment is that it is very unstable. Greece is smack-dab in the middle of a very active volcanic zone, where the Europe tectonic plate meets the Africa tectonic plate. There are several active volcanoes and earthquakes are very common. There is a nervous feeling that there could be a natural disaster at any time. This got the Greeks interested in a particular kind of religion called oracles. Oracles are the gods speaking to people, often in the form of minor earthquakes, and the gods tell the people what is going to happen in the future.

Santorini Island or Thera, is one of the most picturesque islands of Greece, the rim of a gigantic sunken volcano. Half of island was sunken after a volcanic eruption in 1450B.C., which destroyed the island’s civilization. Fira, the island’s capital, sits on the very rim of the crater nearly 300 meters above the sea with a spectacular view to the sea.

1. Why is Greece's environment considered unstable? __________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________[1]

2. How did ancient Greece's unstable environment affect their religious beliefs?
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________[1]

3. Name one positive and one negative effect of Greece’s unstable environment.

   Positive Effect:  __________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________[1]

   Negative Effect: _________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________[1]
Olives have always grown well in Greece's hot, dry climate. Olive oil was as good as money to the ancient Greeks, since they could trade it in other lands for goods not available in Greece. In ancient days, Greeks traded olive oil throughout the Mediterranean for products like grain, perfume, fabrics, dyes, beef, and papyrus. Olive oil was so valuable that when wars were fought, one of the worst things one side could do to the other was to cut down its olive trees. Even the name Athens comes from a myth about olives:

It seems the goddess Athena and her uncle Poseidon were both very fond of the same city in Greece. They quarreled over the city and eventually decided that the one who gave the city the best gift should have it. As his gift, Poseidon struck a cliff with his trident, and a spring of water poured out. This was a nifty trick indeed, and the people were impressed. Then Athena presented her gift—the first olive tree. Although the young tree looked humble, it became clear her gift was priceless, and the city went to Athena. The people named the city of Athens in her honor.

1. What land conditions are favorable to grow olives? ____________________________________________
   [1]

2. Why did the people of Greece name the city of Athens in Athena's honor? __________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________[1]

3. Why was olive oil so valuable to ancient Greece?__________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________[2]
The mountains, which served as natural barriers and boundaries, dictated the political character of Greece. In ancient times, the Greeks lived in independent communities isolated from one another by the landscape. Later these communities were organized into poleis or city-states. These city-states were an important political innovation, which began to appear about 800 BC. Each city-state also had a special god that they chose and built a temple for on their acropolis, or a high hill in the center of the city. The city-states fought against each other, especially Sparta and Athens, who were bitter rivals and started the Peloponnesian War. However, when Greece was attacked by a different country or civilization, like Persia, most of Greece would unite and defend their country together.

1. What naturally divided ancient Greece? ____________________________________________________________________________[1]

2. Name one negative effect this natural barrier had on ancient Greece. ________________

__________________________________________________________________________________[2]
High on a hill in the country of Greece overlooking the city of Athens stand the ruins of a once splendid temple. This famed temple is known as the Parthenon and it sets on a hill called the Acropolis. The Acropolis became the religious center of ancient Athens, and it was on this hill that the Greeks built the Parthenon almost 2,500 years ago. They built the Parthenon to honor Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom and the Warrior Maiden. The city of Athens was named in her honor. Acropolis is a Greek word meaning "high part of the city." The Acropolis is a precipitous hill about 200 feet high. In the 300's B.C. the hill was used as a large fort. When their enemies attacked, the people would run to the safety of the fort. Later the Athenians decided to build walls around their city for protection and no longer used the fort.

http://ri.essortment.com/parthenongreece_rzct.htm

1. What famous temple was built on the Acropolis in ancient Greece? _____________
_____________________________________________________________________[1]

2. Why was the Acropolis a safety fort for ancient Greeks? ________________
_____________________________________________________________________[1]
Greeks have always spent a lot of time sailing on the seas. The combination of good sailing and lousy farming tends to make Greeks try to get a living from the sea. This can take several forms. First, Greeks fish a good deal. Second, they sail trade routes from one city to another, both Greek cities and elsewhere, all over the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea, and make a living buying and selling things. Third, Greeks often turn to piracy or raiding to make a living, as in the Trojan War.

1. What are two ways ancient Greeks made a living from the sea? ______________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________[2]

2. Why have the Greeks always spent a lot of time sailing on the seas? __________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________[2]
PART B

Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs, and a conclusion. Use evidence from at least four documents in the body of the essay. Support your response with relevant facts, examples, and details. Include relevant outside information.

Historical Context:
Geography has always had a great influence on Greece and its inhabitants. The mountains that split the Greek lands are a major barrier to their unity as a nation. The struggle for communication by land and the significant presence of the sea have made mariners out of Greeks for numerous generations. The unique geography of ancient Greece has affected virtually every aspect of their society.

Task:
Using information from the documents and your knowledge of social studies, write an essay in which you:

- Explain two positive effects geography had on the Ancient Greek civilization.
- Explain two negative effects geography had on the Ancient Greek civilization.

Guidelines:

In your essay, be sure to:
- Address all aspects of the Task by accurately analyzing and interpreting at least four documents
- Incorporate information from the documents in the body of the essay
- Incorporate relevant outside information
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization
- Introduce the theme and conclude with a summation of the theme
DBQ Essay Response Grading Rubric

Your DBQ essay response will be rated a 0-5 according to the scale below.

To earn a 5, the DBQ essay:
- Thoroughly addresses all aspects of the Task by accurately analyzing and interpreting at least four of the documents
- Includes information from the documents in the body of the essay, but does not copy document
- Includes relevant outside information
- Richly supports essay with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Is a well-developed essay, consistently demonstrating a logical and clear plan of organization
- Includes a strong introduction and conclusion

To earn a 4, the DBQ essay:
- Addresses all aspects of the Task by accurately analyzing and interpreting at least four of the documents
- Includes information from the documents in the body of the essay, but does not copy document
- Includes some relevant outside information
- Includes relevant facts, examples, and details, but discussion may be more descriptive than analytical
- Is a well-developed essay, demonstrating a logical and clear plan of organization
- Includes a good introduction and conclusion

To earn a 3, the DBQ essay:
- Addresses most aspects of the Task or addresses all aspects in a limited way; using some of the documents
- Includes some information from the documents in the body of the essay
- Includes limited or no relevant outside information
- Uses some facts, examples, and details, but discussion is more descriptive than analytical
- Is a satisfactorily developed essay, demonstrating a general plan of organization
- Restates the theme in the introduction and concludes with a simple restatement of the theme

To earn a 2, the DBQ essay:
- Attempts to address some aspects of the Task, making limited use of the documents
- Includes no relevant outside information
- Includes few facts, examples, and details; simply restates contents of the documents
- Is a poorly organized essay, lacking focus
- Has vague or missing introduction and/or conclusion

To earn an 1, the DBQ essay:
- Shows limited understanding of the Task with vague, unclear references to the documents
- Includes no relevant outside information
- Uses little or no accurate or relevant facts, details, or examples
- Attempts to complete the Task, but essay demonstrates a major weakness in organization
- Has vague or missing introduction and/or conclusion

To earn a 0, the DBQ essay:
- Fails to address the question
- Is illegible
- Is missing; a blank paper is handed in