

Unit 3 - Homework 1: Thales, Pittacus, and Solon

In order to help you answer these questions, see pages 32—12 in Unit 3.

~~*

1. During the Lydian-Milesian War, both Bias of Priene and Thrasybulus of Miletus used a war ruse to trick Alyattes and the Lydian army, and their war ruses were quite alike.

- (i) What war ruse did Bias orchestrate?

- (ii) What war ruse did Thrasybulus orchestrate?

2. How did Thales become rich?

3. One day, Thales was approached by a man who was suspected of having committed a serious crime, and the man confided in Thales. Speaking to Thales, the man said, "I'm accused of a serious crime, and I'm *guilty* of the crime, but nobody can prove it. Yet when I'm asked to confess, should I tell the truth?"

(i) How did Thales answer the question? (Note: You can answer the question *verbatim*, and you don't need to rewrite in your own words.)

(ii) In your *opinion*, was Thales suggesting that the criminal should confess? Why or why not? Explain.

4. According to Thales, can the gods read our minds?
5. At the time when he was the tyrant of Mytilene, Pittacus was the father of his son Tyrraeus. While in the Aeolian city of Cyme, Tyrraeus sat in a barber's shop, where he was murdered by a metalsmith. After arresting the metalsmith, the people of Cyme sent the murderer to the victim's father Pittacus.

(i) When presented with his son's murderer, what did Pittacus decide to do?

(ii) OPINION: Do you agree with his decision? Why or why not? Explain.

6. When he became the eponymous archon of Athens, Solon made promises to the rich Athenians and to the poor Athenians.

(i) How did Solon break his promise to the rich Athenians?

(ii) How did Solon break his promise to the poor Athenians?

7. One of Solon's achievements was his *seisachtheia* (σεισάχθεια), but his friends took advantage of it, and they betrayed him by doing so.

(i) What was Solon's *seisachtheia* (σεισάχθεια)?

(ii) How did Solon's friends betray him?

8. Even though he was democratic (rather than aristocratic or tyrannical), Solon had become so popular among the Athenians that they wanted him to become their tyrant.

(i) Why did Solon refuse to be a tyrant?

(ii) When he refused to be a tyrant, how did Solon's friends react?

(iii) How did Pittacus prove both Solon and Solon's friends wrong?

(iv) Why did Pittacus refuse to keep all of the land that he was gifted?

9. Anacharsis criticized Solon about the law.

(i) How did Anacharsis criticize Solon about the law?

(ii) How did Solon respond to the criticism by Anacharsis?

10. How did Thales become famous?