

How did Ancient Greece influence modern day democracy?

Very Important Vocabulary

Democracy: A system of government where people have the power to make decisions about their country or community, usually by voting.

Voting: The process of choosing someone or making a decision by marking a ballot or using another method to express your choice.

Assembly: A meeting where members of a community come together to discuss and make decisions about important issues or laws.

Metics: Foreigners who lived in Ancient Athens but were not considered full citizens and did not have the same rights as Athenian citizens.

Free Citizen: An adult male in Ancient Athens who had full rights to participate in government, including voting and holding public office.

Modern Democracy: A system of government where all adult citizens have the right to vote and participate in government, regardless of gender, race, or background.

Inclusivity: The practice of including everyone and making sure all people have the opportunity to participate and have their voices heard.

Democracy

Democracy describes a form of government. The word comes from two Greek words that mean 'rule by the people'. In a democracy, like the United Kingdom, the people elect the government, and have a say in how it is run. They do this by voting in elections, a process that allows the people to vote for who they want to represent them locally and nationally.

Where did democracy begin?

Democracy began in Ancient Greece. In fact, the Ancient Greek system is very famous and has helped to shape many systems of democracy around the world today.

Key Features of Democracy

- **Voting:** Citizens participate in decision-making through elections.
- **Representation:** Elected officials represent the people.
- **Rule of Law:** Laws apply equally to all citizens.
- **Individual Rights:** Citizens have rights that are protected by law.

Examples of democratic and non-democratic systems

Democratic: United States, Ancient Greece and Modern Britain

Non-democratic: North Korea (dictatorship), Saudi Arabia (monarchy without parliamentary oversight)

The structure of Athenian democracy

The Assembly (Ekklesia), The Council (Boule), The Dikasteria, The role of magistrates

The Ekklesia

The Ekklesia was the main assembly of citizens who met 40 times a year to make laws and decisions. Any male Athenian citizen could attend. Out of 40,000 men, about 5,000 attended regularly. They made decisions by a simple majority vote.

The Boule

The Boule were a group of 500 men who served for one year. They met daily and made lots of decisions. They decided what issues to take to the Ekklesia. They were chosen at random.

The Dikasteria

The Dikasteria, or popular courts, was a group of 500 jurors who dealt with crimes. There were no rules or police so that the Dikasteria decided what would be tried and what the sentences would be. The jurors were chosen daily at random from a group of male citizens over 30 years old.

Who was part of the democracy? Men, adults, Athenian citizens

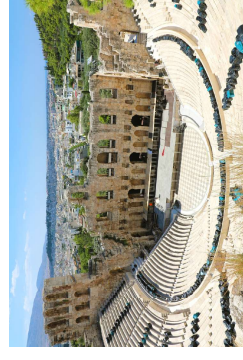
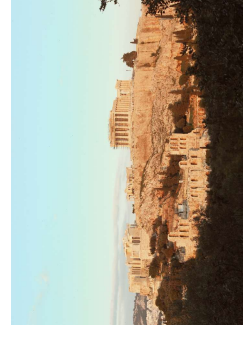
Who could not be a part of the democracy? All women, Metics, Slaves and Children

Free Citizens

Free citizens were adult men who were born in Athens or had parents who were both Athenian. They had full rights to participate in the city's democracy. This meant they could vote on new laws, speak in the Assembly, and run for government positions. They were important because free citizens were the only people who could take part in making decisions about how Athens was run. They were seen as important because they helped shape the laws and rules of their city.

Structure of Modern British Democracy

Parliament: The supreme legislative body, consisting of the House of Commons and House of Lords. Prime Minister: The head of government, elected by Members of Parliament (MPs). Representation: Citizens elect MPs to represent them in Parliament. Voting Rights: Universal suffrage for adults over 18.



Ancient Greek

Philosophers:

Aristotle, Plato, Pericles