



**CALIFORNIA CONTENT
STANDARD 10.1.1**

Judeo-Christian and Greco-Roman Perspectives

Specific Objective: Analyze the similarities and differences in Judeo-Christian and Greco-Roman views of law, reason and faith, and duties of the individual.

Read the summary to answer the questions on the next page.

For much of human history, people have lived under the rule of kings or other rulers who held absolute power. A direct contrast is the system of **democracy**, in which people govern themselves through councils and agreed-upon laws. The earliest democracies arose in ancient Greece and Rome.

Ancient Greece had a (limited) form of **direct democracy**. In a direct democracy, citizens represent themselves directly at councils. Ancient Rome saw the rise of the **republic**—an indirect democracy in which citizens rule through representatives, whom they elect. Many countries today, including the United States, use the republic form of democracy.

Greco-Roman Views

- Citizens should **participate in government** by voting, debating in public, making laws, serving on juries, and holding office.
- The world has **natural laws**—patterns that can be discovered through reason and intellect, rather than superstition.
- Democracy can be protected by having **branches of government**:
 - a legislative branch to make laws,
 - an executive branch to approve laws,
 - a judicial branch to resolve legal disputes.
- There should be **written law**.

The development of democracy was supported by Judeo-Christian ideas, which spread in two main ways:

- After the Jews were exiled from Israel in A.D. 70, they brought their beliefs with them to their new lands.
- As Christianity spread throughout the Roman Empire, especially in the A.D. 400s, it became the dominant religion in Europe.

Judeo-Christian Views

- Every person is born with **worth and dignity** because they were created by God.
- Every person has the **ability to choose** between doing good and doing wrong.
- Every person has the **responsibility to help** others in need and the community.



PRACTICE

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Directions: Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

- 1 What was groundbreaking about the development of democracy?
 - A People were able to govern without using written laws.
 - B People were governed by councils, instead of by an absolute ruler.
 - C Democracy brought together religious faith and government.
 - D Democracy balanced power among religious leaders and kings.

- 2 A political system in which representatives are elected by the people follows the model of
 - A direct democracy.
 - B a republic.
 - C branches of government.
 - D Judeo-Christian tradition.

- 3 In the Greco-Roman view, the world is governed by natural laws that can be discovered through
 - A reason.
 - B tradition.
 - C faith.
 - D citizen participation.

- 4 In Judeo-Christian tradition, helping others in need should be the
 - A only duty of political leaders.
 - B sole mission of religion.
 - C responsibility of government.
 - D responsibility of every person.

- 5 Greco-Roman and Judeo-Christian traditions share an emphasis on
 - A prosperity.
 - B fair government.
 - C faith in one God.
 - D individual choice.

- 6 What was *one* means by which Greco-Roman and Judeo-Christian values spread throughout Europe in the first centuries A.D.?
 - A explorers in the Age of Discovery
 - B expansion of the Roman Empire
 - C missionaries building churches
 - D conversion by the sword in Africa