

**Excerpt where the student places the event in context:**

The battle occurred in the narrow straits of Salamis near the city of Athens in 480BC. It was between the Athenians and the Persians. The intention of the Salamis battle was so the Persians could get revenge on the Athenians from the damage they caused in the past battle of Marathon. This was a key factor that led to the battle of Salamis. The Athenians were led by an Athenian statesman, Themistocles, who thought of the plan to defeat the Persians but a Spartan commander, Eurybiades led them into battle. Compared to the Persians who were led by their King, Xerxes (2), he had great confidence as the Persian had more ships than the Greeks, he had so much confidence he watched from a hill his army fight. *"Xerxes watched the course of the battle from the base of Mt Aegaleos, across the strait from Salamis"* (1). When the battle took place, the Greeks were well prepared as the Persians - *"Forward, sons of the Greeks, liberate the fatherland, liberate your children, your women, the temples of your ancestral gods, the graves of your forebears: this is the battle for everything"* (1) – The battle cry of the Greeks as they charged into battle. The Greeks used their power and their knowledge of the waters to get the speed and power they needed. With the Persians in the wrong position to attack the Athenians barged the ships and destroyed the majority of them. *"Our ships were jammed in the hundreds; none could help another. They rammed each other with their prows of bronze; and some were stripped of every oar."* (1) – From the play *The Persians*, *"The Greek fleet worked together as a whole, while the Persians had lost formation and were no longer fighting on any plan. None the less they (the Persians) fought well that day - far better than in the actions off Euboea. Every man of them did his best for fear of Xerxes, feeling that the king's eye was on him"* (1) –Herodotus.

**Excerpt where the student explains the significance of the event:**

The Battle had a huge effect on the future of Athens. With the Persians being defeated again, this meant the Athenians gained power as they continued to take over and free the western seaboard (2) of Asia Minor. With the development of the Delian League, the Athenian empire flourished. At its highest point in time, Athens had large amounts of land and money under its control. Pericles, a leading statesman, knew that the citizens of Athens wanted a more pleasing city, he planned to rebuild the city and rebuild the buildings that had been damaged during the battles using money from the Delian league (2). Pericles persuaded the city to spend massive amounts of money on reconstructing the city. Today the Parthenon can be seen, which took 15 years to build. Due to Athens' golden age, understanding of the world became more sophisticated. This included scientific discoveries such as Anaxagoras, a scientist that discovered why the moon lit up. Also the first historical work by Herodotus was recorded (2). He wrote about the Persian wars. These outcomes are extremely significant as it helped form the future of Greece that led to many things in modern times. As the Battle was a naval battle, many lower classed Athenians went to fight; they were needed to row, and give power to the ships. As a result of this it led to a reward to them and the top two social classes were reduced and not as powerful. Athens also became a democratic state, which was not quite developed under the reforms of Kleisthenes (2).