

Excerpt where the student places the event in context (2):

The battle of Thermopylae was an extremely significant battle of the Persian wars in regards to Greek society. The battle was fought over 3 days between combined forces from Greek city-states and the Persian Empire who were proceeding to invade and conquer Athens and then the rest of Greece (2). The Greek side was led mainly by the Spartans and King Leonidas and were greatly outnumbered having a force of around 7000 men. This was of great contrast to the Persians whose numbers, according to Ancient sources including Herodotus, reached into the millions, but realistically was around 150000 men (1). Despite the obvious advantage the Persians still took three days of fighting to defeat the Greek forces and win the battle, were almost forced to retreat, and suffered heavy casualties. It was a near impossible feat that the Greeks achieved, and although they suffered defeat their bravery and strength were well respected and received after the battle and helped to boost the morale of Greek troops and citizens, giving them ideas that they did stand a chance against the greatly feared and powerful Persia.

Excerpt where the student explains the significance of the event (3):

As the battle effectively removed the Persian threat one of the differences between Greek and Persia following the battle of Thermopylae is that the Greeks won the Persian wars while the Persians lost. A major consequence of the Greeks winning the Persians Wars was that there was a great shift of power. Most of the Persian forces retreated after Salamis and this let the Greeks to be able to prosper, being able to regain the power they had previously lost and gain back land whilst the Persian Empire began to retreat back into Asia-Minor. In classical times it was common for the victors of wars to heavily document their wins and for the losers to have significantly less written about such events. This is the case for Thermopylae, which is talked about in ancient Greek history a great deal. Herodotus is often thought of as the first real historian as he wrote about the Persian wars. Herodotus's work is considered by many scholars to be exaggerated, which makes sense in relation to the fact that Greece would want to glorify its victories.