Democracy in Athens

Pre – Watching

- **Learn new words**
  1) ***vote*** - a formal indication of a choice between two or more candidates or courses of action
  2) ***elect*** - choose someone to hold public office or some other position by voting
  3) approximately - more or less
  4) ***expenses*** - the money that something costs you or that you need to spend in order to do something
  5) ***assembly*** - the action of gathering together as a group for a common purpose
  6) ***contribution*** - a gift or payment to a common fund or collection
  7) ***reference*** - the action of mentioning something
  8) ***allowance*** - a sum of money paid regularly to a person to meet needs or expenses
  9) ***encourage*** - give support and advice or persuade someone to do something
  10) ***successful*** - accomplishing a desired aim or result

- **Fill in the gaps using the words above**
  a) The Pnyx was the meeting place of the Athenian .....
  b) There were ..... 30,000 citizens in Athens in the classical period.
  c) Men over 20 years old could speak and ....., while those over 30 could be elected.
  d) The ekklesia made important decisions about grain importation, ... and declaration of war.
  e) Magistrates were often ..... orators and charismatic politicians.

Match

1.	filled to its	a)	speech
2.	draft and adopt	b)	council
3.	deliver a	c)	citizen
4.	an average	d)	laws
5.	attend a	e)	meeting
6.	an executive	f)	capacity
7.	preside over an	g)	assembly
8.	enact	h)	innovations
9.	introduce	i)	matters
10.	civic	j)	decrees

1. ..... 2. .....

3. .....
4. .....
5. .....
6. .....
7. .....
8. .....
9. .....
10. .....

While – Watching

- **Multiple choice**
  1. What happened at the Pnyx?
     a) public gatherings
     b) festivals
     c) offerings to gods
  2. How many times a year did ekklesia take place?
     a) 4 b) 40 c) 14
  3. How long did each session of civic matters discussion last?
     a) a few days
     b) a few weeks
     c) a few hours

  4. What does "pnyx" mean?
     a) "glued together"
     b) "tied together"
     c) "packed together"
  5. Who was allowed to participate in the democratic process?
     a) men
     b) women
     c) both men and women
  6. What was the population of Athens?
     a) 60,000
     b) 30,000
     c) 20,000

  7. How many districts did Attika consist of?
     a) 10
     b) 20
     c) 30
  8. Who was prytaneis?
     a) a chairman of the ekklesia
     b) a major priest
     c) a representative of the rich
  9. Which god was the patron of the ekklesia?
     a) Perikle
     b) Adonis
     c) Zeus

  10. How did the citizens vote?
      a) threw sticks in an urn
      b) delivered speeches
      c) with the help of hands
  11. Which decisions of the ekklesia are NOT mentioned?
      a) grain exportation
      b) taxes collecting
      c) declarations of war
  12. What could the ekklesia NOT do?
      a) adopt laws
      b) influence politicians

c) appoint legislators

13. What is true about magistrates?
    a) they were chosen
    b) they were rich people
    c) they were people over 40

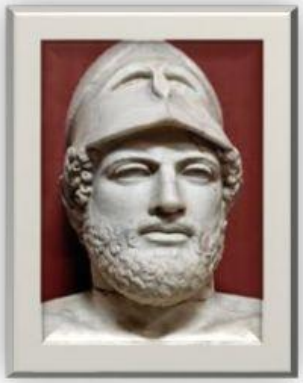
14. How long did Perikles hold his position of a magistrate?
    a) 5
    b) 15
    c) 50
15. What was NOT a reason why many people couldn't attend the assembly?
    a) distance
    b) lack of money
    c) bad weather
16. How many obols was misthos ekklesiastikos?
    a) 2 b) 12 c) 20
17. Why was payment misthos ekklesiastikos introduced?
    a) to raise people's interest in the ekklesia
    b) to buy people's votes
    c) to promote Athens
18. Which politician raised a payment to three obols?
    a) Perikles
    b) Miltiades
    c) Kleon

19. Which innovation of Athensare is mentioned?
    a) medicine
    b) music
    c) architecture
20. When was democracy adopted?
    a) 680 BCE
    b) 805 BCE
    c) 508 BCE

After – Watching

- **Read and answer the questions**

In theory, the Athenian democracy was supposed to give laborers as much power as aristocrats, but in practice, the influence of the nobility remained strong. This is mostly because aristocrats had more resources available to them when it came to forging political alliances and maintaining their prestige.



As a result, many elected officials from the 5th century BCE belonged to the aristocracy. For example, even though the statesmen Perikles championed many reforms that limited the power of aristocracy, he himself belonged to the powerful family that claimed to be descended from the Homeric hero Nestor.

After the death of Perikles in 429 BCE, a new breed of leaders emerged who did not belong to old nobility. Instead, they were wealthy merchants who made their fortunes from trade or small factories rather than from land. Their opponents called these new leaders "demagogues", meaning leaders of the common people.

1) What was a paradox of Athenian democracy?
2) Who was Pericles?
3) What was a difference between the politicians of Perikles' time and after his death?