

Find a piece of evidence in what you have been researching and discuss it.

"But these men, who took at once their own legacies from the estate, and as my guardians administered all the remainder for ten years, have robbed me of my entire fortune except the house, and fourteen slaves and thirty silver minae, which they have handed over to me—amounting in all to about seventy minae." – Demosthenes 27 paragraph 6.

Demosthenes was an ancient lawyer who fought in civil economic cases in ancient Athens. One of these cases is outlined in the speech given in Demosthenes 27. This speech outlines the case of an issue that lead to the theft of rather expensive property.

In this quote we see Demosthenes attempting to argue the case of theft of furniture and silver minae. These would have been very expensive items and would therefore have been a large financial blow to the owner if the theft had not been dealt with in the financial aspect. We can tell this as disputes such as these would have been among the higher income to rich levels of disputes as they are usually the ones who could afford to hire a lawyer such as Demosthenes. We can also tell that the person in question in this extract is of a wealthy family as the thirty minae mentioned would have been worth 3000 drachmas which would be over the worth of a thousand days work for a high paying job. This is a case of an individual's issue with money however it does show one point of the Athenian economy and that is that the economy was not the same as it is today as the economy was more controlled by the oikos rather than the government or the market.¹ We can also see in this case that the person who has hired Demosthenes is of the higher levels of income as he is an owner of fourteen slaves with slaves being very expensive for the poorer of people in ancient Athens. With this quote we must also look at the source itself with Demosthenes being a lawyer on the side of the person who has hired him we can tell that this quote would have been created to convict the defendant and persuade the judge in the case. Therefore this would have been heavily in favour of the defendant. However, we could use this source to determine the value of certain property such as the value of an estate or slaves in the eyes of the Athenians. As previously stated, the Athenian economy was based more on the people and the values, they attributed to goods rather than any value set by the government on goods. The only value that would have been added on in a government format would have been in the form of taxation. Unfortunately, this text does not show this as it is merely the experience of one court case in ancient Athens.

In conclusion then we can see here that this source is useful in showing the Athenian court system as well as the values of coinage and certain goods such as furniture and slaves. However, this source is not as useful in showing the true nature of the Athenian economy along with the population-controlled economy. Therefore we must say that in an examination of law and theft this source is useful but not as useful in the case of the overall economy.

¹ Athenian Economy and Society: A Banking Perspective - Edward Cohen chapter 1 pg 6.

Did you read?

Bibliography

Athenian Economy and Society: A Banking Perspective - Edward Cohen

https://books.google.co.uk/books?hl=en&lr=&id=5jCkt4zdsKQC&oi=fnd&pg=PP2&dq=the+ancient+athenian+economy&ots=g3XYWqFy0f&sig=4QfBT1h-eS1z-esNupB6a9iyg&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=the%20ancient%20athenian%20economy&f=false

Demosthenes 27

https://www.loebclassics.com/view/demosthenes-orations-xxvii-aphobus-i/1936/pb_LCL318.9.xml?fbclid=IwAR0ZcrMkWmKS0SM2pop43trFh6riqSqr-bvac-r-nhLcMlg6wRlnhCDxhGMs

Structure - Mediocre	5/10 - seemingly messy with some sentences
Referencing - Bad	4/10 - Only contains 2 sources
Engagement - Okay	6/10 - Ok analysis of the source or more direct quotes.
Management - Okay	6/10 - Left a little late but still had some research.

1. Read the surrounding texts more carefully ✓
2. Improve on referencing and the amount of references ✓
3. Engage with the source in a better way ✓
4. Go to Study Skices in Canterbury Building. I worry about your reading / comprehension.