**Document C: Excerpts on Society from Hammurabi’s Code**

If anyone fail to meet a claim for debt, and sell himself, his wife, his son, and daughter for money or give them away to forced labor: they shall work for three years in the house of the man who bought them, or the proprietor, and in the fourth year they shall be set free.

If a man wishes to separate from his wife who has borne him no children, he shall give her the amount of her purchase money and the dowry which she brought from her father's house, and let her go.

If a man put out the eye of another man, his eye shall be put out.

If he break another man's bone, his bone shall be broken.

If he put out the eye of a freed man, or break the bone of a freed man, he shall pay one gold mina.

If he put out the eye of a man's slave, or break the bone of a man's slave, he shall pay one-half of its value.

If a man knock out the teeth of his equal, his teeth shall be knocked out.

If he knock out the teeth of a freed man, he shall pay one-third of a gold mina.

If any one strike the body of a man higher in rank than he, he shall receive sixty blows with an ox-whip in public.

If a free-born man strike the body of another free-born man or equal rank, he shall pay one gold mina.

***Source****: “Code of Hammurabi,” 1780 BCE.*

Analysis Questions:

1. Laws 196-199 discuss putting out the eye of “another man,” a “free man” and a “slave.”

a. According to this document, whose eye was worth the most?

b. According to this document, whose eye was worth the least?

c. How do you know?

1. According to this document, was everyone equal in Babylonia? How do you know this from Hammurabi’s Code?
2. According to law 138, what happens to a dowry if a man leaves his wife? What does this suggest about the position of women in Babylonian society?