THE CODE OF HAMMURABI

The Code of Hammurabi contained over 200 laws. Read some of the laws listed below and answer the questions that follow. If you need help, refer to pages 108–115 in your textbook.

If a citizen has stolen property of the temple or of the crown, that man shall die, and whosoever receives the stolen goods from his hand shall die.

If a citizen steals the child of a citizen, he shall die.

If a citizen has committed a robbery and is caught, that man shall die.

If a son has struck his father, they shall cut off his hand.

If a citizen has destroyed the eye of one of citizen status, they shall destroy his eye.

If he has destroyed the eye of a vassal, he shall pay one mina (17.5 ounces) of silver.

If he has destroyed the eye of a slave of a citizen, he shall pay half of his market value.

1. What kinds of behavior did the above laws punish?

2. What punishment did the law require if a father complained that his son hit him during a quarrel?


4. What are the advantages to society of having a written code?