Document B

Source: Lucius Flavius Arrianus, *The Campaigns of Alexander*, circa 130 CE.

Note: Lucius Flavius Arrianus, known as Arrian, was a Greek philosopher and historian who lived some 400 years after the time of Alexander. His book is considered the best account of Alexander's reign. In this excerpt, Arrian describes Alexander's last major battle, fought against a prince named Porus on the eastern bank of the Hydaspes River in India. Because he was so impressed with Porus's bravery, Alexander allowed him to retain administrative rule after the Indians' defeat.

Alexander pitched camp on the bank of the Hydaspes ("hay-das-pees"), and Porus was to be seen on the other bank with his whole army and his force of elephants. He realized that he could not cross at the point where Porus was encamped — his elephants were too numerous. When Alexander saw this, he decided to move his troops in all different directions so that Porus would keep puzzled. At night he would take most of his cavalry to various points along the river bank where he would create a clamor, raise the war cry and produce all other such noises as would come from men preparing to cross the river. Porus would actually parallel his movements on the other side, leading his elephants toward the shouting, and Alexander got him into the habit of making these corresponding movements. This actually went on for quite a long time until Porus no longer reacted.

Editor's Note: Arrian then writes that Alexander, leaving 5,000 armed men in full view opposite Porus's camp, led a force exceeding 10,000 foot soldiers, archers, and cavalry and crossed the river about ten miles upstream. Rafts for ferrying the men were made from hides wrapped around hay and sewn watertight. The crossing was further hidden by a midnight thunderstorm. Too late to stop the crossing, Porus arranged his army on a nearby plain and prepared for battle. The narrative continues:

The engagement was ... unlike any other previous battles. Porus's elephants were now boxed in, and the damage inflicted by them fell on friend no less than foe, with men trampled under as the beasts twisted and turned. Most of the drivers of the elephants, too, had been brought down by spears. Eventually the animals grew tired and their charges lost vigor. Alexander then threw his cavalry in a circle around the entire force, and ordered the infantry to lock shields, to group tightly and to advance as a phalanx. ... At this juncture, ... the Indians all took to flight.

III. Answer all the document questions in complete sentences.

**Document Analysis**

1. Where is the Hydaspes River?

2. Explain how Alexander's army was able to cross the Hydaspes before Porus was able to react.

3. How was Alexander able to turn Porus's elephants into a kind of weapon?

4. How can you use this document to argue that Alexander was great?

5. How can you use this document to argue that Alexander was not great?
Document C


Note: During Alexander's march down the Mediterranean coast, many cities surrendered without a fight. Some were happy to have the Persians removed. Alexander treated these cities rather kindly. Tyre ("tire") was another matter. Its citizens refused to surrender. They believed their city was unconquerable because it was built on an island and protected by high walls. Alexander proceeded to build a causeway, or land bridge, of timber and rubble so his soldiers could cross from the mainland to the island. The city held out for seven months and Tyrian counterattacks caused Alexander to lose many men. In the end, however, the causeway was completed and Alexander's army smashed into the city.

When the last organized resistance was broken, Alexander's [soldiers] ranged through the city on a ferocious manhunt . . . Alexander had ordered that all [except] those who sought sanctuary [safety in the temple] were to be slain, and his commands were executed with savage relish. The air grew thick with smoke from burning buildings. Seven thousand Tyrians died . . . and the number would have been far higher had it not been for the men of Sidon, who entered the city alongside Alexander's troops. Even though Tyre had been Sidon's rival for centuries, these neighbors of the victims, horrified by what they now witnessed, managed to smuggle some 15,000 of them to safety.

The great city . . . was now utterly destroyed. Her king, Azimilik, and various other notables, including envoys from Carthage, had taken refuge in the temple of Melkart, and Alexander spared their lives. The remaining survivors, some 30,000 in number, he sold into slavery. Two thousand men of military age were crucified.

III. Answer all the document questions in complete sentences.

Document Analysis

1. How did Alexander feel about Tyre's ability to hold him off for seven months? How do you know?

2. How might you explain Alexander's decision not to kill anyone who took sanctuary in the temple?

3. What do you learn about Alexander from his decision to crucify 2,000 men?

4. Can you think of military reasons for the severe treatment of Tyrian survivors?

5. How can you use this document to argue that Alexander was great?

6. How can you use this document to argue that Alexander was not great?