

## DBQ Essay (Medieval Europe) Planning

Prompt: Develop an argument that evaluates the extent to which political decentralization impacted Europe during the time period 1000- 1450.

### Analyze the Prompt

What are the key words in this prompt?

### Outline (must use at least 7 different sources at least once)

Body 1 Main Idea-

Doc #s-

Body 2 Main Idea-

Doc #s-

Body 3 Main Idea-

Doc #s-

### Contextualization (Background)

*Make a brief list of specific ideas/events/developments that you could write about in your introduction contextualization sentences (must be different than the evidence you will use in your body paragraphs!)*

Contextualization ideas...

### Thesis Statement

### Document 1

Source: *Investiture Controversy (1077) Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV journeying to Canossa, where the Pope to seek absolution and the revocation of his excommunication*



### Document 2

Source: *Excerpt from the monastic vows of Brother Gerald*

I hereby renounce my parents, my brothers and relatives, my friends, my possessions . . . and the vain and empty glory and pleasure of this world. I also renounce my own will, for the will of God. I accept all the hardships of the monastic life, and take the vows of purity, chastity, and poverty, in the hope of heaven; and I promise to remain a monk in this monastery all the days of my life.

### Document 3

Source: *Photo of Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, France (Medieval Gothic Cathedral Opened 1345)*



### Document 4

Source: *Excerpt from the Magna Carta (1215)*

(29) No freeman is to be taken or imprisoned or disseised of his free tenement or of his liberties or free customs, or outlawed or exiled or in any way ruined, nor will we go against such a man or send against him save by lawful judgement of his peers or by the law of the land. To no-one will we sell or deny of delay right or justice.

### Document 5

Source: *The Battle of Agincourt, 15<sup>th</sup>-century miniature (battle took place in 1415 as part of the Hundred Years War)*



### Document 6

Source: *Marco Polo, The Travels of Marco Polo (1300)*

“With these pieces of paper they can buy anything and pay for anything. And I can tell you that the papers that reckon as ten bezants [a quantity of money] do not weigh one. . . . There is no one who does not visit a bath-house at least three times a week and take a bath—in winter every day, if he can manage it. Every man of rank or means has his own bathroom in his house. . . .

Here too the inhabitants worship Mahomet [Muhammad] and are subject to the Great Khan. It has villages and towns in plenty. . . . There are rivers here in which are found stones called jasper and chalcedony [quartz crystals] in plenty. There is no lack of the means of life. Cotton is plentiful. The inhabitants live by trade and industry.”

Marco Polo, *The Travels of Marco Polo*, c. 1300

### Document 7

Source: *Excerpt from Pope Urban II to Crusaders (1095)*

. . . Your brethren who live in the [Middle] East are in urgent need of your help. . . . For, as most of you have heard, the Turks and the Arabs have attacked them and have conquered the territory of Romania [the Byzantine Empire]. . . . They have occupied more and more of the lands of those Christians. . . . They have killed and captured many, and have destroyed the churches and devastated the Empire. . . . All who die by the way, whether by land or sea, or in battle against the pagans, shall have immediate remission of sins.

### Document 8

The Islamic capital of Cordova (in present-day Spain) was described by a contemporary as the “jewel of the world.” European scholars preferred Cordova’s Islamic schools and universities over other study sources in Europe.

Besides the university library, Arab statisticians assure us the city boasted 37 libraries, numberless bookstores, 800 public schools . . . and a total population of 300,000. Its people enjoyed a high standard of living and refinement and walked on paved streets . . . all this at a time when hardly a town in Europe, Constantinople excepted, counted more than a few thousand inhabitants. Parisians and Londoners were still trudging on muddy, dark alleys.

Source: Philip Hitti, *Capital Cities of Arab Islam*, University of Minnesota Press, 1973 (adapted)

## Document 9

Physician al-Razi wrote a medical reference encyclopedia, the *Comprehensive Book*. He also wrote *Treatise on Smallpox and Measles*. Ibn Sina (Avicenna) wrote the five-volume *The Canon of Medicine*. These books were translated into Latin and other languages and influenced doctors in Europe. This document describes the influence of these Islamic books on European medicine.

### Medical Reference Books

When Europeans learned that Muslims had preserved important medical texts, they wanted to translate the texts into Latin. In the 11th century, scholars traveled to libraries in places such as Toledo, Spain, where they began translating—but only after they learned to read Arabic.

Through this process, European medical schools gained access to vital reference sources such as al-Razi's *Comprehensive Book* and Ibn Sina's *The Canon of Medicine*. Ibn Sina's five-volume encyclopedia guided doctors of Europe and Southwest Asia for six centuries. For nearly 500 years, al-Qasim's work, *The Method*, which contained original drawings of some 200 medical tools, was the foremost textbook on surgery in Europe.

Source: Bech, Black, Krieger, Naylor, Shabaka, *World History: Patterns of Interaction*, McDougal Littell, 1999 (adapted)

## Document 10

Source: *Northern Europe in the 1400s, showing the extent of the Hanseatic League*



## Document 11

Source: *Excerpt from European living during the Black Death. The plague lasted from 1348 to 1349, killing an estimated 25 million people in Europe.*

...there was such a shortage of servants, craftsmen, and workmen, and of agricultural workers and labourers...[that] churchmen, knights and other worthies have been forced to thresh their corn, plough the land and perform every other unskilled task if they are to make their own bread.<sup>21</sup>