

# 2020 Renaissance DBQ Sample Responses

## AP European History



### SAMPLE RESPONSE A (6/10 Points)

Body Paragraph #1 (Line of Reasoning)	Body Paragraph #2 (Line of Reasoning)
Christianity in Renaissance Humanism	Secularism in Political Writings
Evidence from Documents (1-2 Docs) Doc 1 - Petrarch (Poem to Virgin Mary) Doc 2 - Pico (God the Father)	Evidence from Documents (1-2 Docs) Doc 4 - Machiavelli
Outside Evidence (1) Michelangelo Creation of Adam	Outside Evidence (1) Castiglione

<p>Although Renaissance humanism was strongly influenced by Christianity, as can be seen in writing and art, the political writings of civic humanists were very secular without any reference to Christian ideas.</p>	<p>The THESIS makes a clear argument that is supported by a line of reasoning.</p>
<p>Renaissance writing and art were full of Christian ideas. Petrarch, the Father of Humanism, was the person who started the Renaissance when he found texts that had been written by Cicero and preserved them. He liked Cicero so much that he even wrote letters to him. Even with his fascination with classical Rome, he was still a devout Christian, which can be seen in a poem he wrote to the Virgin Mary, where he praised her for being Jesus' mother (Doc 1). In his "Oration on the Dignity of Man," Pico della Mirandola referred to God the Father setting man at the center of all things, indicating that he was basing his thinking on Christianity mostly even though he mentioned Plato, as well (Doc 2). The Christian story of creation was also portrayed by Michelangelo in his painting, <u>The Creation of Adam</u>, which is one of many paintings on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. In the painting, the Christian God is reaching for the man, who has been created in His own image.</p>	<p>A TOPIC SENTENCE makes the paragraph's argument clear.</p> <p>HISTORICAL CONTEXT is provided for Doc 1.</p> <p>DOC 1 is clearly understood and SUPPORTS the claim in the topic sentence.</p> <p>DOC 2 is clearly understood and SUPPORTS the claim in the topic sentence.</p> <p>Michelangelo's <i>Creation of Adam</i> is used as OUTSIDE EVIDENCE to support the claim in the topic sentence.</p>
<p>In political writings, the Renaissance was very secular. This can be seen in Machiavelli's famous work, <u>The Prince</u>, where Machiavelli says that a prince should break his word and deceive people in order to be effective. Machiavelli refers to Greek mythology but never says anything about the Bible because Christians are not supposed to deceive people (Doc 4). Another political writer during the Renaissance was Castiglione, who wrote <u>The Book of the Courtier</u>. Castiglione wrote <u>The Courtier</u></p>	<p>A TOPIC SENTENCE makes the paragraph's argument clear</p> <p>DOC 4 is clearly understood and SUPPORTS the claim in the topic sentence</p> <p>Castiglione's <i>The Courtier</i> is used as OUTSIDE EVIDENCE to support the claim in the topic sentence..</p>

<p>in order to help men succeed politically in serving in the court of a prince. This book was about getting ahead in life - not about being a good Christian. Castiglione even wrote that a courtier should focus on being good at war, which is not a very Christian idea.</p>	
<p>The Renaissance was heavily influenced by Christianity in its art and philosophy, but the political writings of the Renaissance were much more influenced by secularism.</p>	<p>THESIS is restated without looking back at the original thesis in the first paragraph.</p>

**SCORING GUIDE (SAMPLE RESPONSE A) - 6/10 Points**

CONTEXTUALIZATION	
<b>THESIS</b>	<b>X</b> (Thesis present with clear line of reasoning)
<b>ACCURATELY DESCRIBES 2</b> (Rec: 3)	<b>X</b> (3 Docs accurately described)
<b>SUPPORTS ARGUMENT WITH 2</b> (Rec: 3)	<b>X</b> (3 Docs support argument)
SUPPORTS ARGUMENT WITH 4 (Rec: 5)	
<b>POV+ FOR ONE DOC</b> (STRONG)	<b>X</b> (Historical Context for Doc 1)
POV+ FOR SECOND DOC	
<b>ONE PIECE OF OUTSIDE EVIDENCE</b>	<b>X</b> (Michelangelo - Creation of Adam)
<b>SECOND PIECE OF OUTSIDE EVIDENCE</b>	<b>X</b> (Castiglione - The Courtier)
COMPLEX UNDERSTANDING* <i>Only for select students attempting to a 5</i>	

**SAMPLE RESPONSE B (7/10 Points)**

<b>Body Paragraph #1 (Line of Reasoning)</b>	<b>Body Paragraph #2 (Line of Reasoning)</b>
Fusion of Christian/Classical (Italian)	Christian Humanism (Northern)
Evidence from Documents (1-2 Docs) Doc 2 - Pico (God the Father) Doc 5 - Classical Architecture at a Church Doc 1 - Petrarch (Historical Context)	Evidence from Documents (1-2 Docs) Doc 3 - More (Northern Humanism)
Outside Evidence (1) Michelangelo's David	Outside Evidence (1) Erasmus

<p>The Italian Renaissance represented a fusion of Christian and classical ideals, while the Northern Renaissance focused more on Christian principles. In both cases, Christian influence was strong even though there were some secular ideas.</p>	<p>The THESIS makes a clear argument that is supported by a line of reasoning.</p>
<p>The Italian Renaissance represented a fusion of Christian and classical ideas, as can be seen in the writings, architecture, and art of Renaissance humanists. In his <u>Oration on the Dignity of Man</u>, Pico della Mirandola writes about the creation of man from both Christian and non-Christian viewpoints. He mentions "God the Father," a Christian idea, and also mentions that Plato agrees with humans being created last in a special place (Doc 2). A Benedictine church in Venice shows the influence of classical architecture, featuring columns and a dome (Doc 5). The church looks like a Roman temple, but it is a Christian church dedicated to Jesus Christ. Michelangelo's <u>David</u> is another great example of this, since Michelangelo sculpted a figure from the Bible, but he sculpted him as a nude figure that looked like a Roman statue. Even Petrarch, the father of humanism, wrote poems to the Virgin Mary, showing that he was a Christian (Doc 1). Petrarch was most famous for finding classical texts written by Cicero and other Roman authors, so he is a great example of someone who combined Christian and classical ideals.</p>	<p>A TOPIC SENTENCE makes the paragraph's argument clear.</p> <p>DOC 2 is clearly understood and SUPPORTS the claim in the topic sentence.</p> <p>DOC 5 is clearly understood and SUPPORTS the claim in the topic sentence.</p> <p>Michelangelo's <i>David</i> is used as OUTSIDE EVIDENCE to support the claim in the topic sentence.</p> <p>DOC 1 is clearly understood and SUPPORTS the claim in the topic sentence.</p> <p>HISTORICAL CONTEXT is provided for Doc 1.</p>
<p>Northern Renaissance humanists tended to focus more on Christianity than Italian Renaissance humanists, even though there were still secular ideas present. Sir Thomas More, writing in <u>Utopia</u>, showed his belief that in an ideal society, people would not be persecuted for their religious beliefs, but everyone would be tolerant (Doc 3). This could be seen as a secular idea because religious toleration involves separation of Church and state, which is an idea that comes around later in the Enlightenment, but More mostly just wanted to see Christians act more like</p>	<p>A TOPIC SENTENCE makes the paragraph's argument clear</p> <p>DOC 3 is clearly understood and SUPPORTS the claim in the topic sentence</p> <p>The discussion of the idea of religious toleration provides HISTORICAL CONTEXT for Doc 3.</p>

<p>Christians since Christianity should be about love. Erasmus, another Northern humanist, also wrote about how the Church wasn't very Christian in <u>The Praise of Folly</u>. He wrote about how bishops claim to have their authority from the Apostles, but that the Apostles were poor. If the bishops wanted to be more like the Apostles, they should be poor, too. Northern Renaissance writers wanted to bring society in line with the teachings of Christianity.</p>	<p>Erasmus is used here as OUTSIDE EVIDENCE to support the claim in the topic sentence.</p>
<p>The Italian Renaissance showed a fusion of Christian and classical ideals in its writings, art, and architecture, while the Northern Renaissance was more focused on Christianity. Both were dominated by Christian ideas but also included secular ideas (like religious toleration) that would become more popular later.</p>	<p>THESIS is restated without looking back at the original thesis in the first paragraph.</p>

### SCORING GUIDE (SAMPLE RESPONSE B) - 7/10 Points

CONTEXTUALIZATION	
THESIS	X (Thesis present with clear line of reasoning)
ACCURATELY DESCRIBES 2 (Rec: 3)	X (4 Docs accurately described)
SUPPORTS ARGUMENT WITH 2 (Rec: 3)	X (4 Docs support argument)
SUPPORTS ARGUMENT WITH 4 (Rec: 5)	X (4 Docs support argument)
POV+ FOR ONE DOC (STRONG)	X (Historical Context for Doc 3)
POV+ FOR SECOND DOC	
ONE PIECE OF OUTSIDE EVIDENCE	X (Michelangelo - David)
SECOND PIECE OF OUTSIDE EVIDENCE	X (Erasmus - Praise of Folly)
COMPLEX UNDERSTANDING* Only for select students attempting a 5	

**SAMPLE RESPONSE C (5/10 Points)**

<b>Body Paragraph #1 (Line of Reasoning)</b>	<b>Body Paragraph #2 (Line of Reasoning)</b>
<i>Secularism in Political Writing</i>	<i>Secularism in Art and Architecture</i>
Evidence from Documents (1-2 Docs) Doc 3 - More (Religious Toleration) Doc 4 - Machiavelli (Deception)	Evidence from Documents (1-2 Docs) Doc 5 - Classical Architecture at a Church
Outside Evidence (1) N/A	Outside Evidence (1) <i>Botticelli, Birth of Venus</i>

<i>The Renaissance was extremely secular because political writers promoted secular ideas and the art and architecture were inspired by ancient Greece and Rome.</i>	The THESIS makes a clear argument that is supported by a line of reasoning.
<i>Renaissance writers focused on secular ideas, promoting a secular society with leaders who were willing to be dishonest. In <u>Utopia</u>, Sir Thomas More wrote that people should not be punished for their religious beliefs or to be allowed to condemn other people for their religious beliefs, writing that a Utopian was kicked out of the community for being intolerant (Doc 3). In advocating for religious toleration, More was promoting a secular idea of the separation of Church and state that would not become common until after the Enlightenment and the French Revolution. During the Renaissance, it was still common to burn people at the stake for heresy and More clearly did not want this to keep happening. Machiavelli, who wrote <u>The Prince</u>, claimed that a leader should be willing to be deceptive and lie to people in order to be effective, while Christianity teaches that people should tell the truth (Doc 4). Machiavelli clearly did not consult Jesus before he wrote this!</i>	A TOPIC SENTENCE makes the paragraph's argument clear.  DOC 3 is clearly understood and SUPPORTS the claim in the topic sentence  The discussion of the idea of religious toleration provides HISTORICAL CONTEXT for Doc 3.  DOC 4 is clearly understood and SUPPORTS the claim in the topic sentence.
<i>Renaissance art and architecture were also secular because they were inspired by Greece and Rome more than Christianity. Botticelli, a famous Renaissance painter, painted the <u>Birth of Venus</u>, showing the Roman goddess, Venus, standing on a shell in the water completely naked! This is not a Christian idea and resembled styles of art that were more common in ancient Greece and Rome, where nudity was more acceptable. Even churches began to look more secular because of the Renaissance. A Benedictine church in Venice has a dome and columns, looking more like a Roman temple than a Christian church (Doc 5).</i>	A TOPIC SENTENCE makes the paragraph's argument clear  Botticelli's <i>Birth of Venus</i> is used here as OUTSIDE EVIDENCE to support the claim in the topic sentence.  DOC 5 is clearly understood and SUPPORTS the claim in the topic sentence.
<i>The Renaissance was much more secular than Christian because of the secular ideas in political writings of humanists and because of Greek and Roman influence in art and architecture.</i>	THESIS is restated without looking back at the original thesis in the first paragraph.

**SCORING GUIDE (SAMPLE RESPONSE C) - 5/10 Points**

CONTEXTUALIZATION	
<b>THESIS</b>	<b>X</b> (Thesis present with clear line of reasoning)
<b>ACCURATELY DESCRIBES 2</b> (Rec: 3)	<b>X</b> (3 Docs accurately described)
<b>SUPPORTS ARGUMENT WITH 2</b> (Rec: 3)	<b>X</b> (3 Docs support argument)
SUPPORTS ARGUMENT WITH 4 (Rec: 5)	
<b>POV+ FOR ONE DOC</b> (STRONG)	<b>X</b> (Historical Context for Doc 3)
POV+ FOR SECOND DOC	
<b>ONE PIECE OF OUTSIDE EVIDENCE</b>	<b>X</b> (Botticelli - Birth of Venus)
SECOND PIECE OF OUTSIDE EVIDENCE	
COMPLEX UNDERSTANDING* <i>Only for select students attempting a 5</i>	

**SAMPLE RESPONSE D (10/10 Points)**

**NOTE: VERY FEW STUDENTS** will be able to produce an essay of this quality in 45 minutes.

<b>Body Paragrah #1 (Line of Reasoning)</b> <i>Early Religious Influence</i>	<b>Body Paragraph #2 (Line of Reasoning)</b> <i>Increasing Secularism</i>
<b>Evidence from Documents (1-2 Docs)</b>  Doc 1 - Petrarch ( <i>Historical Context</i> )  Doc 2 - Pico ( <i>God the Father</i> )	<b>Evidence from Documents (1-2 Docs)</b>  Doc 3 - More ( <i>Religious Toleration</i> )  Doc 4 - Machiavelli ( <i>Deception</i> )  Doc 5 - Christian Church / <i>Classical Arch.</i>
<b>Outside Evidence (1)</b> <i>The Tribute Money</i>	<b>Outside Evidence (1)</b> <i>Michelangelo's David</i>

<p>The Late Middle Ages were a tumultuous time, as Europeans struggled with the Black Death, which killed off over a third of Europe's population in only five years. The Catholic Church, which had been a stable institution in Europe for hundreds of years, was having its own turmoil with competing popes in Rome and Avignon. France and England fought bloody wars that lasted over one hundred years. Add famine to that and it is no wonder why Europeans began to look for inspiration in a time before their Christian world collapsed. The Renaissance represented a rebirth of the ideals of ancient Greece and Rome in Europe. <b>Although early Renaissance humanists remained faithful to the Christian tradition and the ideas of the Catholic faith, the Renaissance became more secular as it continued, as shown by political writings, art, and architecture.</b></p>	<p>Effective CONTEXTUALIZATION is provided with specific examples of the turmoil that Europe experienced in the Late Middle Ages.</p> <p>The THESIS makes a clear argument that is supported by a line of reasoning. In focusing on change over time, this thesis has an element of complexity.</p>
<p>Early Renaissance humanists tended to exhibit loyalty to the Christian tradition while also valuing classical influences. This can be seen in Petrarch's poem glorifying the Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ (Doc 1). As the "father of humanism," Petrarch was one of the first to show interest in preserving classical texts, so to see his religious devotion is evidence that the first humanists were strong Christians. In his <u>Oration on the Dignity of Man</u>, Pico della Mirandola writes about "God the Father," using language familiar to Christianity and making references to Christian accounts of creation while also mentioning Plato (Doc 2). Early Renaissance art was also heavily Christian. One example of this would be the painting, <u>The Tribute Money</u>, which showed a scene from the Bible where Jesus asks Peter to go to the sea to get money to pay a tax. This work used linear perspective to give a 3D element to painting - a departure from flat medieval art but still with a Christian theme.</p>	<p>A TOPIC SENTENCE makes the paragraph's argument clear.</p> <p>DOC 1 is clearly understood and SUPPORTS the claim in the topic sentence.</p> <p>HISTORICAL CONTEXT is provided for Doc 1.</p> <p>DOC 2 is clearly understood and SUPPORTS the claim in the topic sentence.</p> <p>The Tribute Money is used as OUTSIDE EVIDENCE to support the claim in the topic sentence.</p>

<p>As the Renaissance continued, more secularism could be seen in political writings and art. In <u>Utopia</u>, Sir Thomas More wrote about a fictional society where people were allowed to believe in any religion they wanted and the only crime was to be intolerant, as was shown by a man who was exiled for condemning people to hell (Doc 3). Since Thomas More intended for <u>Utopia</u> to be an ideal society, he obviously wanted to see a society where the Church did not have as much control over people's lives as it did during the Renaissance. More would later find himself beheaded because Henry VIII was intolerant of More's Catholic faith. In <u>The Prince</u>, Machiavelli wrote about how a prince should lie to people and deceive them in order to be an effective ruler, saying that a man has to act like an animal sometimes (Doc 4). This is not a very Christian idea, since the Christian religion teaches people to tell the truth. By the end of the Renaissance, even churches had begun to look like Greek and Roman temples, as can be seen in a picture of a church in Venice that has columns and a dome like it had been built in ancient Rome (Doc 5). Even religious art was becoming increasingly classical, as can be seen in Michelangelo's <u>David</u>, which shows a biblical hero standing nude in the style of Greek and Roman statues. Some art, like Botticelli's <u>The Birth of Venus</u>, did not even come from Christianity, but from pagan mythology.</p>	<p>A TOPIC SENTENCE makes the paragraph's argument clear</p> <p>DOC 3 is clearly understood and SUPPORTS the claim in the topic sentence</p> <p>The discussion of More's intent and his life offer HISTORICAL CONTEXT for Doc 3.</p> <p>DOC 4 is clearly understood and SUPPORTS the claim in the topic sentence</p> <p>DOC 5 is clearly understood and SUPPORTS the claim in the topic sentence</p> <p>Michelangelo's David and Botticelli's Venus are used as OUTSIDE EVIDENCE to support the claim in the topic sentence.</p>
<p>Although the earliest Renaissance humanists were products of their medieval Christian world, as the Renaissance continued, it became increasingly secular, as is shown in political writings and art in the later Renaissance.</p>	<p>THESIS is restated without looking back at the original thesis in the first paragraph.</p>

### SCORING GUIDE (SAMPLE RESPONSE D) - 10/10 Points

<b>CONTEXTUALIZATION</b>	X (Late Middle Ages - Black Death, etc.)
<b>THESIS</b>	X (Thesis present with clear line of reasoning)
<b>ACCURATELY DESCRIBES 2</b> (Rec: 3)	X (5 Docs accurately described)
<b>SUPPORTS ARGUMENT WITH 2</b> (Rec: 3)	X (5 Docs support argument)
<b>SUPPORTS ARGUMENT WITH 4</b> (Rec: 5)	X (5 Docs support argument)
<b>POV+ FOR ONE DOC (STRONG)</b>	X (Historical Context for Doc 1)
<b>POV+ FOR SECOND DOC</b>	X (Historical Context for Doc 3)
<b>ONE PIECE OF OUTSIDE EVIDENCE</b>	X (Tribute Money)
<b>SECOND PIECE OF OUTSIDE EVIDENCE</b>	X (Michelangelo and Botticelli)
<b>COMPLEX UNDERSTANDING*</b> <i>Only for select students attempting a 5</i>	X (The Change Over Time argument, with nods to both Christianity and secularism, is complex and sophisticated)