Mrs. Bagley’s DBQ Essay Writing Packet

Golden Ages of Greece and Rome

Name: _________________________ Period: ___
There are two types of essays you will need to write for the final exam.

1. Thematic Essay
2. Document Based Question Essay (DBQ)

But first, let’s break down some important parts...
The Vocabulary of Essay Tests

Be certain that you understand what is being asked in an essay question. Remember to pay attention to key words and respond accordingly.

Look at the words in the box below. An essay question usually starts with or includes a key word.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Word</th>
<th>Answer requires you to…</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>describe</td>
<td>Create a verbal picture of the topic, to give details or tell what or how something is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>summarize</td>
<td>Give a brief account of main ideas without many specific details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>compare</td>
<td>Point out similarities and differences between two or more things</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>contrast</td>
<td>Point out differences only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>explain</td>
<td>Make clear the cause or reason for something, use specific details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>evaluate</td>
<td>Weigh positive and negative evidence about something and give your own opinion based on that evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>criticize</td>
<td>Give your opinion based on reasons-including good and bad points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>discuss</td>
<td>Give reasons for and against something</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A. Directions: Match the keyword with statement that best describes it.

1. ___ describe  
   a. state differences
2. ___ summarize  
   b. state both similarities and differences
3. ___ compare  
   c. create a verbal picture; give many details
4. ___ contrast  
   d. make clear a cause or reason
5. ___ explain  
   e. write a shortened account; note major points
6. ___ criticize  
   f. state your opinion; include good and bad points.

B. Directions: Circle the letter that shows what each questions asks you to do.

1. Evaluate your school lunch program
   a. Tell about both the strong points and weak points.
   b. Tell about the ingredients of a typical lunch.
2. Summarize the school policy on tardiness.
   a. Give your opinion of it.
   b. Give the major points of it.
3. Contrast the climate of India to Russia.
   a. Tell the similarities and differences.
   b. Tell only the differences.
4. Describe your city’s downtown area.
   a. Create a clear picture of it.
   b. Tell how it could be improved.
Writing a DBQ is easy if you learn to see some simple clues!

Clue #1: The first page of any DBQ has the words: Historical Context written on it. Following the historical context is one or perhaps several sentences.

Historical Context is just a fancy way of saying: The Big Idea! In other words, the historical context is the big idea of the DBQ. It will also be the big idea of the essay you will eventually write.

So, let’s try it: What’s the big idea of the following DBQs?

Sample 1: Historical Context: Throughout history, different civilizations have contributed to the cultural and intellectual life of humanity. These periods are often called Golden Ages, as society enjoys not only cultural and intellectual achievements, but also stable government and a strong economy.

The big idea of this DBQ is (in your own words, please): __________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

Sample 2: Historical Context: Throughout history, people have changed their environments to meet their needs. These changes have had both positive and negative effects on people, societies, and regions. Examples include the development of irrigation in ancient Egypt, the construction of chinampas by the Aztecs, and the mining of coal in Great Britain during the Industrial Revolution. The big idea of this DBQ is: __________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

Sample 3: Historical Context: For a variety of reasons, groups have set out to conquer other regions or people using various methods of force. These groups include the Mongols, the Spanish, and the Ottoman. Their conquests have had an impact on both the conqueror and the conquered. The big idea of this DBQ is: __________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

Review: The historical context is the essay’s _____________________________.

Clue #2: After we understand what the essay’s big idea is, we need to find the word: **TASK.**

The task will tell us what we have to include in our essay.

- Know what the historical context and task are before you even open the DBQ booklet.
- P.S. The box underneath the word task will list the essay’s directions.

So, let’s practice.

Choose two Golden Age civilizations, and for each one:

- Describe at least two specific achievements during that civilization’s Golden Age.
- Explain how these achievements had an impact on other civilizations.

So, what do you have to do?

_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Clue #3: Now, calmly open the DBQ booklet. Relax! You know what you’re looking for and you know where you’re going. It’s just a matter of time before you get there.

- Now, read or analyze each document carefully. Remember the big idea. Finally, answer each document using the document. Please answer in your own words. Here’s a sample document below to answer.

Document #1:

Our plan of government favors the many instead of the few: That is why it is called a democracy... As for social standing, advancement is open to everyone, according to ability. While every citizen has an equal opportunity to serve the public, we reward our most distinguished citizens by asking them to make our political decisions. Nor do we discriminate against the poor. A man may serve his country no matter how low his position on the social scale.

- What type of government was Pericles describing? __________________________
- Identify two characteristics of Athenian government.
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________

Remember; answer every question following every document.
**Clue #4:** You must include one more than half of the DBQ’s documents in your essay. If there are six documents, you must include four.

**Clue #5:** You must acknowledge when you have referred to a document in your essay. This can be done by writing the document number in parentheses after your summation sentence of the document.

Example: The type of government in ancient Athens was a direct democracy (Document 2).

**Clue #6:** You must include outside information in your essay. You must include, at least, one bit of information that will help to explain your essay’s big idea that is not in the documents.
Part III

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

This question is based on the accompanying documents. The question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of these documents have been edited for the purposes of this question. As you analyze the documents, take into account the source of each document and any point of view that may be presented in the document.

Historical Context:

Throughout history, different civilizations have contributed to the cultural and intellectual life of humanity. These periods are often called Golden Ages, as society enjoys not only cultural and intellectual achievements, but also stable government and a strong economy. These Golden Ages have laid the foundation for the modern world. Many of their contributions influence our lives today.

Task: Using information from the documents and your knowledge of global history, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay, in which you will be asked to:

Choose two Golden Age civilizations, and for each one:

- Describe at least two specific achievements during that civilization’s Golden Age.
- Explain how these achievements had an impact on other civilizations.

Guidelines:

In your essay, be sure to:

- Address all aspects of the Task by accurately analyzing and interpreting at least four documents
- Incorporate information from the documents
- Incorporate relevant outside information
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization
- Introduce the theme by establishing a framework that is beyond a simple restatement of the Task or Historical Context and conclude with a summation of the theme.
**Document 1:**

Our plan of government favors the many instead of the few: That is why it is called a democracy... As for social standing, advancement is open to everyone, according to ability. While every citizen has an equal opportunity to serve the public, we reward our most distinguished citizens by asking them to make our political decisions. Nor do we discriminate against the poor. A man may serve his country no matter how low his position on the social scale.

-Pericles’ Funeral Oration, given to the Athenians in about 430 BCE

1. What type of government was Pericles describing? ______________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2. Identify two characteristics of Athenian government. _______________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

**Document 2:**

Ancient Greeks held athletic competitions every four years to honor their gods. These contests were held in the city of Olympia and soon became known as the Olympic Games. They included running, boxing, wrestling, and other events. Look at the pictures of an ancient Olympic contest and a modern Olympic contest.

1. Name two things you see in common between the two depictions of an Olympic competition.
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Document 3:

Architecture was very important to the ancient Greeks. One distinctive feature was the use of columns. Modern architecture is often modeled after Greek architecture. Look at the three types of Greek columns, along with a photograph of the White House.

1. What are three types of columns in Ancient Greece?
   ____________________________________________________________

2. What type of column do the White House columns most closely resemble?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

Document 4:

1. What Roman innovation is pictured in Document 4? __________________________

2. What was the purpose of this structure? __________________________________________
Document 5:

The Flavian Amphitheatre/Colosseum was a stadium-like structure which held deadly gladiatorial combats and wild animal fights free of charge.

1. How has the concept of the Flavian Amphitheatre/Colosseum been reflected in today’s western society?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Document 6:

1. What are two principles of Roman law?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Document 7a:

A. Citizen Rights
   1. commercium ☑ right to own property & enter into contracts
   2. connubium ☑ right to marry
   3. ius ☑ access to Roman civil law
   4. suffragium ☑ right to vote
      a. voted as a member of a tribe, not individual

1. What are two rights every Roman citizen were guaranteed?

_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Document 7b:

A. Obligations
   5. Tributum ☑ direct property tax
   6. Military service ☑ during adulthood or when needed; no limit to term in military

1. What is one responsibility every Roman Citizen had? ________________________________
Organize your DBQ Essay here:  

**Civilization:** ____________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achievement 1:</th>
<th>Information from Documents:</th>
<th>Outside Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Document # ___:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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**Achievement 1:**

**Explain how this achievement had an impact on other civilizations.**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achievement 2:</th>
<th>Information from Documents:</th>
<th>Outside Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Document # ___:</td>
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<td></td>
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**Achievement 2:**

**Explain how this achievement had an impact on other civilizations.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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Writing an introduction paragraph...

An introduction should:

- Provide background information to “set the scene.”
- Specify points that will be made in your body paragraphs.
- Introduce the reader to what the essay is about.
  - Use the historical context to help get ideas!
  - What 2 civilizations did you choose?
- Make a good first impression to the reader.

An introduction should NOT:

- Restate the theme or task. PUT IT IN YOUR OWN WORDS!
- Include details. Save specific details for body paragraphs.
- Do NOT use “I” or “me” in your introduction!
- DO NOT say “in my essay” or “I will write about...”!

Let’s practice! Write an introduction for your essay on Golden Ages on the lines below.

I have included the historical context that was given in the question to help you.

**Historical Context:** Throughout history, different civilizations have contributed to the cultural and intellectual life of humanity. These periods are often called Golden Ages, as society enjoys not only cultural and intellectual achievements, but also stable government and a strong economy. These Golden Ages have laid the foundation for the modern world. Many of their contributions influence our lives today.

**Introduction:**

______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
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Regents Examinations in Social Studies
ESSAY BOOKLET

Mark an X in the box for the examination you are taking.

☐ Global History and Geography
☐ United States History and Government

Student Name ____________________________________________
School Name ____________________________________________ Date ________________________

Start your essay for Part III on the lines below:

____________________________________________________________________________________
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