Unit 1 DBQ Questions
The Renaissance

Directions:

(Read these documents)

Select 6 of the 10 documents below to read and analyze. For each document, answer the two questions provided and complete the APPARTS acronym.

Essay Prompt:

Analyze Humanist ideas and how they were unique to the Renaissance period.
Document 1:


Here the question arises: whether it is better to be loved than feared or feared than loved. The answer is that it would be desirable to be both but, since that is difficult, it is much safer to be feared than to be loved, if one must choose. For on men in general this observation may be made: they are ungrateful, fickle, and deceitful, eager to avoid dangers and avid for gain and while you are useful to them they are all with you, offering you their blood, their property, their lives, and their sons so long as danger is remote, as we noted above, but when it approaches they turn on you. Any prince, trusting only in their words and having no other preparations made, will fall to his ruin.

Guiding Question

**Interpretation:** What is Machiavelli saying in this document? How does it relate to the principles of humanism and the Renaissance?

Your answer

**Perspective:** Identify and explain reasons why Machiavelli would feel this way (look at his social class, personal relationships, religion, political associations, time written, or gender). Do you think he is being honest?

Your answer
Document 2:

Source: Pico de Mirondola, Oration on the Dignity of Man, 1486.

As man is born, the Father has planted in him seeds of every sort, shoots of every life; those which each man cultivates will grow, and bear their fruits in him. If these are vegetables, he will become a plant; if sensual, a brute; if rational, a heavenly being; if intellectual, an angel and son of God. But if Man, not contented with any creature's lot, betakes himself into the center of his oneness, then, made one with God, in the solidary darkness of the Father he who was created above all things will excell all things. Who would not admire this chameleon of ours?

Guiding Question

Interpretation: What is Mirondola saying in this document? How does it relate to the principles of humanism and the Renaissance?

Your answer

Perspective: Identify and explain reasons why Mirondola would feel this way (look at his social class, personal relationships, religion, political associations, time written, or gender). Do you think he is being honest?

Your answer
Document 3:

Source: Giorgio Vasari, Lives of the Painters, 1568.

The richest gifts are occasionally seen to be showered, as by celestial influence, upon certain human beings; nay they sometimes supernaturally and marvelously gather in a single person—beauty, grace, and talent united in such a manner that to whatever the man thus favored may turn himself, his every action is so divine as to leave all other men far behind...This was...the case of Leonardo de Vinci...who had...so rare a gift of talent and ability that to whatever subject he turned his attention...he presently made himself absolute master of it...

He would without a doubt have made great progress in the learning and knowledge of the sciences had he not been so versatile and changeful...the instability of his character led him to undertake many things, which, having commenced, he afterwards abandoned.

Guiding Question

Interpretation: What is Vasari saying in this document? How does it relate to the principles of humanism and the Renaissance?

Your answer

Perspective: Identify and explain reasons why Vasari would feel this way (look at his social class, personal relationships, religion, political associations, time written, or gender). Do you think he is being honest?

Your answer
**Document 4:**


Just as it is disgraceful and sinful to be unmindful of God so it is reprehensible and dishonorable for any man of discernment to judge not to honor you as a brilliant and venerable artist whom the very stars use as a target at which to shoot the rival arrows of their favor. You are so accomplished, therefore, that hidden in your hands lives the idea of a new king of creation, whereby the most challenging and subtle problem of all in the art of painting, namely that of outlines, has been mastered by you that in the contours of the human body you express and contain the purpose of art...And it is surely my duty to honor you with this salutation since the world has many kings but only one Michelangelo.

**Guiding Question**

**Interpretation:** What is Aetino saying in this document? How does it relate to the principles of humanism and the Renaissance?

*Your answer*

**Perspective:** Identify and explain reasons why Aetino would feel this way (look at his social class, personal relationships, religion, political associations, time written, or gender). Do you think he is being honest?

*Your answer*
Document 5:


I have always possessed extreme contempt for wealth...I have on the contrary led a happier existence with plain living and ordinary fare...the pleasure of dining with one's friends is so great that nothing has ever given me more delight than their unexpected arrival.

I possess a well-balanced rather than a keen intellect--one prone to all kinds of good and wholesome study, but especially to moral philosophy and the art of poetry. The later I neglected as time went on, and took delight in sacred literature...Among the many subjects that interested me, I dwelt especially on antiquity, for our own age always repelled me, so that, had it not been for the love of those dear to me, I should have preferred to have been born in any other period than our own. In order to forget my own time, I have constantly striven to place myself in spirit in other ages, and consequently I delighted in history...

Guiding Question

Interpretation: What is Petrarch saying in this document? How does it relate to the principles of humanism and the Renaissance?

Your answer

Perspective: Identify and explain reasons why Petrarch would feel this way (look at his social class, personal relationships, religion, political associations, time written, or gender). Do you think he is being honest?

Your answer
**Document 6:**

*Source: Baldassare Castiglione, The Courtier, 1528.*

Let the man we are seeking be very bold, stern, and always among the first, where the enemy are to be seen; and in every other place, gentle, modest, reserved, above all things avoiding ostentation [showiness] and that impudent [bold] self-praise by which men ever excite hatred and disgust in all who hear them...

I would have him more than passably accomplished in letters, at least in those studies that are called the humanities, and conversant not only with the Latin language but for Greek, for the sake of the many different things that have been admirably written therein. Let him be well versed in the poets, and not less in the orators and historians, and also proficient in writing verse and pose.

**Guiding Question**

**Interpretation:** What is Castiglione saying in this document? How does it relate to the principles of humanism and the Renaissance?

**Your answer**

**Perspective:** Identify and explain reasons why Castiglione would feel this way (look at his social class, personal relationships, religion, political associations, time written, or gender). Do you think he is being honest?

**Your answer**
**Document 7:**

*Source: Isabelle d'Este, Lettersd’ Mantua. 1504.*

To Master Leonardo da Vinci, the painter:

Hearing that you are settled at Florence, we have begun to hope that our cherished desire to obtain a work by your hand might at length realized. When you were in this city and drew our portrait in carbon, you promised us that you would some day paint it in colors. But because this would be almost impossible, since you are unable to come here, we beg of you to keep your promise by converting our portrait into another figure, which would be still more acceptable to us; that is to say, a youthful Christ of about twelve years... executed with all the sweetness and charm of atmosphere which is the peculiar excellence of your art.

**Guiding Question**

**Interpretation:** What is d'Este saying in this document? How does it relate to the principles of humanism and the Renaissance?

**Your answer**

**Perspective:** Identify and explain reasons why d'Este would feel this way (look at his social class, personal relationships, religion, political associations, time written, or gender). Do you think he is being honest?

**Your answer**
**Document 8:**


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Gold and silver, of which money is made, are treated... that no one values them more highly than their true nature deserves. Who does not see that they are far inferior to iron in usefulness since without iron mortals cannot live any more than without fire and water?

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**Guiding Question**

**Interpretation:** What is More saying in this document? How does it relate to the principles of humanism and the Renaissance?

*Your answer*

**Perspective:** Identify and explain reasons why More would feel this way (look at his social class, personal relationships, religion, political associations, time written, or gender). Do you think he is being honest?

*Your answer*
**Document 9:**

*Source: Christine de Pisan, *The Book of the City of Ladies*, 1405.*

I am amazed by the opinion of some men who claim that they do not want their daughters, wives, or kinswomen to be educated because of their mores [morals] would be ruined as a result... Here you can clearly see that not all opinions of men are based on reason and that these men are wrong.

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**Guiding Question**

**Interpretation:** What is Pisan saying in this document? How does it relate to the principles of humanism and the Renaissance?

**Your answer**

**Perspective:** Identify and explain reasons why Pisan would feel this way (look at his social class, personal relationships, religion, political associations, time written, or gender). Do you think he is being honest?

**Your answer**
In the Middle Ages, both sides of human consciousness lay dreaming or half awake beneath a common veil. The veil was woven of faith, illusion, and childish prepossession . . . Man was conscious of himself only as a member of a race, people, party, family, or corporation – only through some general category. In Italy, this veil first melted into air . . . man became a spiritual individual, and recognized himself as such. In the same way the Greek had once distinguished himself from the barbarian . . .

When this impulse to the highest individual development was combined with a powerful and varied nature, . . . than arose the “all-sided man” . . . In Italy at the time of the Renaissance we find artists who in every branch created new and perfect works, and who also made the greatest impression as men.

**Guiding Question**

**Interpretation:** What is Burchardt saying in this document? How does it relate to the principles of humanism and the Renaissance?

*Your answer*

**Perspective:** Identify and explain reasons why Burchardt would feel this way (look at his social class, personal relationships, religion, political associations, time written, or gender). Do you think he is being honest?

*Your answer*