

Diagnostic Writing Pre-Test

Directions: The following diagnostic test has been designed to simulate an actual Advanced Placement European History essay section. Just as on the real test, you will have a total of 90 minutes to complete this practice test. Although you may use this time as you wish, the test makers suggest that you use 15 minutes for document analysis and prewriting, 40 minutes for writing the DBQ essay, and 35 minutes for writing the LEQ essay.

Complete the following practice test in its entirety, then score your responses using the rubrics in **Part 1** of the Instructional Handbook.

Section A – DBQ

The following question is based on Documents A-G. Read the question and documents carefully and write a response that meets all the requirements of the DBQ rubric. You should allow 15 minutes to read the documents and 40 minutes to complete your response.

Question 1: Analyze the various sources of influence on the ideas of the Italian Renaissance.

Document A

SOURCE: Lucius Mestrius Plutarchus (Plutarch), Greek historian in the Roman Empire, *Parallel Lives*, 75 A.D.

. . . without trouble or the assistance of any instrument [he] merely set up a stick at the extremity of the shadow cast by the pyramid and, having thus made two triangles by the impact of the sun's rays, . . . showed that the pyramid has to the stick the same ratio which the shadow [of the pyramid] has to the shadow [of the stick].

Document B

SOURCE: Shen Kua, Chinese scientist and statesman of the Song Dynasty, Dream Pool Essays, 1086

With the old method of hauling the boats over, burdens of not more than twenty-one tons of rice per vessel could be transported, but after the double gates were completed, boats carrying twenty-eight tons were brought into use, and later on the cargo weights increased more and more.

Document C

SOURCE: Leon Battista Alberti, Genoese author and humanist, Ludi matematici, circa 1450

Stick an arrow or a rod into the ground so as to form a straight perpendicular line along which to take sightings to the tower. Mark the rod with wax where the line of sight to the top of the tower crosses it. The triangle formed by the arrow, ground and eye is the geometric counterpart of the triangle formed by the tower, ground and eye hence it can be used to find the height of the tower.

Document D

SOURCE: Leon Battista Alberti, Genoese author and humanist, De re aedificatoria, circa 1452

Also, if you wish you can make two gates cutting the river in two places . . . that a boat can lie for its full length between the two: and if the said boat desires to ascend when it arrives at the place, close the lower barrier and open the upper one, and conversely, when it is descending, close the upper and open the lower one. Thus the said boat shall have enough water to float it easily to the main canal. . . .

Document E

SOURCE: Paolo Toscanelli, Florentine mathematician and astronomer, letter to Canon Fernan Martins (confessor to King Alfonso of Portugal), 1474

There are said to be as many ships, mariners and goods there as in the rest of the world put together. . . . That country has many inhabitants, provinces, kingdoms and innumerable cities all of which are ruled by a prince known as the Grand Khan. . . . In the days of Pope Eugenius [1431-1447], there came an ambassador to him, who told him of their great feelings of friendship to all the Christians, and I had a long conversation with the ambassador about many things. . . .

Document F

SOURCE: Francesco di Giorgio Martini, Sienese painter and architect, Trattato di Architettura, circa 1475

If along a river. . . we wish to conduct boats, when due to little water and an incline it might be impossible to navigate, it is necessary to determine the fall. . . . Let us suppose that the first part of the river has a drop of thirty piede: construct at that point a high door in the manner of a portcullis. . . with windlasses to raise it, and in this manner lay off the entire length of the river and all its falls with such doors. After the boat enters, and the door is closed, the boat will soon rise . . . and will be able to enter the second chamber . . . and so step by step you will be able to take the boat to wherever you wish.

Document G

SOURCE: Giorgio Vasari, Italian painter and biographer, *The Lives of the Most Excellent Painters, Sculptors and Architects*, 1550

Donatello made a wooden crucifix [1412-13] which was placed in Santa Croce [and] he was anxious to hear Filippo's opinion of it; but Filippo told him that he had shown a peasant hanging on the cross. This provoked Donatello to retort: "Get some wood and do it yourself" ... Filippo kept quiet for a few months while he worked on a wooden crucifix of the same size ...



Section B – LEQ

Choose ONE of the following questions and write a response that meets all the requirements of the LEQ rubric. You should allow 35 minutes to complete your response.

Question 2: To what extent is twenty-first century Europe a continuation of the unification process begun at the end of World War II?

Question 3: To what extent was the Scientific Revolution a continuation of the Italian Renaissance?