

SHI HUANGDI DBQ

Part A: Short-Answer Questions

DOCUMENT 1

Shi Huangdi, first emperor of the Qin dynasty, used warfare to weaken six of the seven warring states. His efforts to unify China led to the consolidation of his power.

... The Qin [under Shi Huangdi] made many changes that were meant to unify China and aid in administrative tasks. First, the Qin implemented a Legalist form of government, which was how the former Qin territory had been governed. The area was divided up in 36 commanderies which were then subdivided into counties. These commanderies had a civil governor, a military commander, and an imperial inspector. The leaders of the commanderies had to report to the Emperor in writing. The Legalist form of government involved rewards and punishments to keep order. Also, the state had absolute control over the people, and the former nobility lost all of their power. The nobility were also transplanted from their homes to the capital. Groups were formed of units of five to ten families, which then had a group responsibility for the wrongdoings of any individual within the group....

Source: "Qin Dynasty," EMuseum, Minnesota State University at Mankato

Based on this EMuseum document, what were *two* ways the Qin under Shi Huangdi attempted to control China?

- (1) _____

- (2) _____

DOCUMENT 2

...His [Shi Huangdi's] most significant reforms were to standardise Chinese script [writing], weights and measures and even the length of cart axles so that every cart could run smoothly in the ruts. An extensive new network of roads and canals improved trade and the movement of troops between provinces....

Source: "The Emperor with an ego big enough for all time," Timesonline

Based on this document, what was *one* way Shi Huangdi's actions helped China?

DOCUMENT 3

Li Si was a strong supporter of legalism and served as the Grand Counselor to Emperor Shi Huangdi. In this passage, Li Si is responding to a scholar who has challenged the Emperor's movement away from traditional values.

... "I humbly propose that all historical records but those of Chin [Qin] be burned. If anyone who is not a court scholar dares to keep the ancient songs, historical records or writings of the hundred schools, these should be confiscated and burned by the provincial governor and army commander. Those who in conversation dare to quote the old songs and records should be publicly executed; those who use old precedents [examples] to oppose the new order should have their families wiped out; and officers who know of such cases but fail to report them should be punished in the same way.

"If thirty days after the issuing of this order the owners of these books have still not had them destroyed, they should have their faces tattooed and be condemned to hard labour at the Great Wall. The only books which need not be destroyed are those dealing with medicine, divination and agriculture. Those who want to study the law can learn it from the officers." The emperor sanctioned this proposal....

Source: Szuma Chien, Records of the Historian, The Commercial Press

According to Li Si's proposal, what was *one* way Shi Huangdi could control the people of China?

Part B: Essay

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, a body paragraph, and a conclusion. Use evidence from *three* documents in your essay. Support your response with relevant facts, examples, and details. Include additional outside information.

Historical Context:

Throughout history, autocratic leaders have exercised authority over their countries and the lives of their people. The actions of autocratic leaders have both helped and hurt their countries and their peoples. An example of such leaders include Emperor Shi Huangdi.

Task: Using the 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

Select the leader (Shi Huangdi) mentioned in the historical context and

- Describe actions taken by the leader that show this individual was an autocrat
- Discuss the extent to which this leader's use of autocratic power helped and/or hurt his country or his people

Guidelines:

In your essay, be sure to

- Develop all aspects of the task
- Incorporate information from *three* documents
- Incorporate relevant outside information
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization, including an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

SHI HUANGDI DBQ ESSAY OUTLINE

Introduction

1) Describe the historical context:

2) Thesis:

Body Paragraph

1) Description of the actions taken by Shi Huangdi that show he was an autocrat (Don't forget to use documents and outside information to support the description!)

2) Discussion of the extent to which this leader's use of autocratic power helped and/or hurt his country or his people (Don't forget to use documents and outside information to support the discussion!)

Conclusion

1) Restate the essay topic but begin the sentence with "In conclusion", "It is clear that", etc.:

2) Summarize and wrap up the main points you have made in your body paragraph:
