

# 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 standardize 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: Written Response

**Directions:** Write a well-organized paragraph that evidence from *three* documents. 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:

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 (that means address all the bullet points in the task box!)
- Incorporate information from *three* documents
- Incorporate relevant outside information
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Cite documents. Below are examples of how you should cite the documents:

According to EMuseum, under Shi Huangdi’s rule, Qin territory was divided up into 36 territories that had their own governor (Doc 1).

Timesonline states “Shi Huangdi’s most significant reforms were to standardize Chinese script, weights and measures (Doc 2).” This allowed for...

### Rubric:

Category	Distinguished (4 points)	Skilled (3 points)	Limited (2 points)	Unsatisfactory (1 point)
<b>Organization, thesis/topic sentence</b>	Paragraph is well developed and consistently demonstrates a clear plan of organization and has a clearly stated thesis or topic sentence.	Paragraph is well developed and demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization. Thesis or topic sentence is stated.	Paragraph is minimally developed demonstrating a general plan of organization. Thesis or topic sentence is not clearly developed.	Paragraph is poorly organized and lacks focus. Thesis or topic sentence is not present.
<b>Content: Evidence</b>	Richly supports response with relevant facts, examples, details, and/or quotes from documents and outside knowledge. Skillfully uses at least 3 documents into paragraph.	Supports response with relevant facts, examples, details, and/or quotes from documents and outside knowledge. Uses at least 3 documents into paragraph.	Incorporates limited or vague evidence from documents and outside knowledge. May use fewer than 3 documents.	Presents few or no facts from documents and outside knowledge. Uses fewer than 2 documents.
<b>Content: Analysis</b>	Every fact presented is supported by analysis that explains the significance of the evidence presented.	Most facts presented are supported by analysis that explains the significance of the evidence presented.	Some analysis is evident by the paragraph relies more on description, or the analysis is weak or inaccurate.	Analysis is not provided.