**Justinian DBQ Essay**

**Historical Context:**

In 527, Emperor Justinian was determined to revive the Roman Empire by making Constantinople the new Rome. Under Justinian, the Byzantine Empire, would go on to make many significant cultural contributions to the world.

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

* Discuss the cultural contributions of the Byzantine Empire under Justinian’s rule
* Explain whether Justinian was successful as a ruler or not

**Guidelines:**

**In your essay, be sure to**

* Develop all aspects of the task
* Incorporate information from at least four 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

**Grading Rubric:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CATEGORY**  | **5 - Excellent** | **4 - Very Good**  | **3 - Solid**  | **2 - Needs Work**  | **1 - Poor**  |
| **Introduction and Conclusion**  | Includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme  | Includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme  | Includes an introduction and a conclusion that may be a restatement of the theme  | May lack an introduction and/or a conclusion  | May lack an introduction and/or a conclusion  |
| **Developing the Task (the “bullet points” in the task box)**  | Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth  | Develops all aspects of the task but may do so somewhat unevenly  | Develops all aspects of the task with little depth or develops most aspects of the task in some depth  | Minimally develops all aspects of the task or develops some aspects of the task in some depth  | Minimally develops some aspects of the task  |
| **Use of Documents**  | Incorporates relevant information from at all five documents  | Incorporates relevant information from at least four documents  | Incorporates some relevant information from some of the documents  | Incorporates limited relevant information from the documents or consists primarily of relevant information copied from the documents  | Makes vague, unclear references to the documents or consists primarily of relevant and irrelevant information copied from the documents  |
| **Outside Information**  | Incorporates substantial relevant outside information  | Incorporates relevant outside information  | Incorporates limited relevant outside information  | Presents little or no relevant outside information  | Presents no relevant outside information  |
| **Details and Support**  | Richly supports the theme with many relevant facts, examples, and details  | Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details  | Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details  | Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details  | Includes few relevant facts, examples, or details  |
| **Description and Analysis**  | Is more analytical than descriptive (analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates information)  | Is both descriptive and analytical (applies, analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates information)  | Is more descriptive than analytical (applies, may analyze, and/or evaluate information)  | Is primarily descriptive; may include faulty, weak, or isolated application or analysis  | Is descriptive; may lack understanding, application, or analysis  |

**Short Answer Questions**

**Document 1**

Justinian created countless cities which did not exist before. And finding that the belief in God was…straying into errors…he brought it about that it stood on the firm foundation of a single faith. Moreover, finding the laws obscure because they had become far more numerous than they should be, and obviously confusing because they disagreed with each other. He preserved them [in the Legal Code of Emperor Justinian, A.D. 529]…by controlling their discrepancies with the greatest firmness.

Source: Procopius, Buildings, Loeb Classical Library, 1940 (adapted)

1. According to Procopius, what is ***one*** contribution of Justinian?

**Document 2**

In this adapted excerpt, Procopius describes the Hagia Sophia, a magnificent church after its completion in 537.

In height it rises to the very heavens….A spherical shaped dome…makes it exceedingly beautiful: from the lightness of the building it does not appear to rest upon a solid foundation, but to ….be suspended from heaven by a fabled golden chain…The entire ceiling is covered with pure gold, which adds glory to the beauty, though the rays of light reflected upon the gold from the marble surpass it in beauty…And whenever anyone enters this church to pray, he understands at once that it is not by any human strength or skill, but by the influence of God, that this work has been perfected. And so his mind is lifted up toward God… Moreover, it is impossible to describe the treasure of Gold and silver plate and gems which the Emperor Justinian has presented to it.

1. What is ***one*** characteristic of the Hagia Sophia?

**Document 3**

The Justinian code became the official body of laws of the Eastern Roman [Byzantine] Empire through the Middle Ages and was gradually reintroduced into Western Europe in the Twelfth century. Roman law continued in the post medieval world and formed the basis of all common law in some western lands. Below are some examples of Justinian’s code.

- No one suffers a penalty for thinking freely

- It is better to allow the crime of a guilty person to go unpunished than to punish one who is innocent

- The crime or the punishment of a father can place no reputation upon his son

3a. What is ***one*** characteristic of the Justinian code?

3b. What is ***one*** impact of the Justinian code?

**Document 4**

Justinian was a great builder. This is evident from the fortifications and buildings he constructed in Constantinople, shown on the map below.

4. What is ***one*** example of a building project that Justinian brought to Constantinople?

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**Document 5**

The Byzantine Empire reached its greatest size under Justinian. From 565 until the empire's collapse in 1453, several invaders took sections of it.



5. What is ***one*** area that was included in the Byzantine Empire?

**Essay Outline**