**Practice DBQ**

*Directions:* The following question is based on the accompanying Documents 1–7. (The documents have been slightly edited for use with this exercise.) The purpose of this question is to assess how well you are able to apply several historical thinking skills simultaneously. These skills include the ability to understand and use arguments based on historical interpretation, the ability to assess and use evidence from history, the ability to understand historical context, and the ability to synthesize historical knowledge. In writing your response, base your ideas on your analysis of the documents and on whatever outside knowledge of the topic you may have. Your essay should do the following:

* Present a thesis that addresses all parts of the question
* Support that thesis with evidence from all of the documents (or all but one of them) AND your own knowledge of European history
* Analyze and interpret the documents in terms of their intended audience, the author’s purpose and point of view, any limitations in the author’s perspective, and the historical context within which the document was created
* Place your thesis within the context of broader national, regional, or global historical trends

Bucketing the documents

Topic sentence 1

Topic sentence 2

Topic Sentence 3

Topic Sentence 4

Applying the Principles of the High-Quality History Essay to the DBQ

Keeping in mind the need to use all, or all but one, of the sources, the five steps to outlining a history essay explained above can easily be modified for the DBQ. Here are the five steps adapted for the DBQ:

**Step 1.A Read the question and understand the action word.**

**Step 1.B.** As you read the documents, determine what they have in common and how you can group them.

**Step 2.** Compose a thesis that explains how these documents are linked in the way you have chosen (Answer the question)

**Step 3.**Compose your topic sentences, and make sure that they add up logically to your thesis.

**Step 4.**Support and illustrate your thesis with specific examples that contextualize the documents.

**Step 5.** *If you have time*, compose a one-paragraph conclusion that restates your thesis.

**A Sample DBQ**

**Question:** Discuss the changing attitudes and arguments regarding the basis for knowledge of the natural world in the following documents.

**Document 1**

Source: Giambattista della Porta, *Natural Magick*, 1584.

“There are two sorts of Magick, the one is infamous, and unhappy, because it has to do with foul spirits and consists of incantations and wicked curiosity; and this is called sorcery. . . . The other Magick is natural; which all excellent, wise men do admit and embrace, and worship with great applause; neither is there anything more highly esteemed, or better thought of, by men of learning. . . . Others have named it the practical part of natural philosophy, which produces her effects by the mutual and fit application of one natural thing to another. Magick is nothing else but the survey of the whole course of nature.”

**Document 2**

Source: Galileo Galilei, “Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina of Tuscany,” 1615.

“[Copernicus] stands always upon physical conclusions pertaining to the celestial motions, and deals with them by astronomical and geometrical demonstrations, founded primarily on sense experiences and very exact observations. . . . I think that in discussions of physical problems we ought to begin not from the authority of scriptural passages, but from sense-experiences and necessary demonstrations. . . . Nature . . . is inexorable and immutable; she never transgresses the laws imposed upon her, or cares a whit whether her abstruse reasons and methods of operation are understandable to men.”

**Document 3**

Source: Robert Bellarmine, “Letter on Galileo’s Theories,” 1615.

“For to say that, assuming the earth moves and the sun stands still, all the appearances are saved better than with eccentrics and epicycles, is to speak well; there is no danger in this, and it is sufficient for mathematicians. But to want to affirm that the sun really is fixed in the center of the heavens . . . is a very dangerous thing, not only by irritating all the philosophers and scholastic theologians, but also by injuring our holy faith and rendering the Holy Scripture false.”

**Document 4**

Source: Francis Bacon, *Novum Organum*, 1620.

“There are two ways, and can only be two, of seeking and finding truth. The one, from sense and reason, takes a flight to the most general axioms, and from these principles and their truth, settled once for all, invents and judges of all intermediate axioms. The other method collects axioms from sense and particulars, ascending continuously and by degrees so that in the end it arrives at the most general axioms. This latter is the only true one, but never hitherto tried.”

**Document 5**

Source: William Harvey, *On the Motion of the Heart and Blood in Animals*, 1628.

“The heart, it is vulgarly said, is the fountain and workshop of the vital spirits, the centre from which life is dispensed to the several parts of the body. Yet it is denied that the right ventricle makes spirits, which is rather held to supply the nourishment to the lungs. … Why, I ask, when we see that the structure of both ventricles is almost identical, there being the same apparatus of fibres, and braces, and valves, and vessels, and auricles, and both in the same way in our dissections are found to be filled up with blood similarly black in colour, and coagulated—why, I say, should their uses be imagined to be different, when the action, motion, and pulse of both are the same?”

**Document 6**

Source: Johannes Agricola, *Treatise on Gold*, 1638.

“All true chymists and philosophers write that common corporeal gold is of not much use in man’s body if it is only ingested as such, for no metallic body can be of use if it is not previously dissolved and reduced to the *prima materia*. We have an example in corals. The virtue of corals is not in the stone or the body but in their red color. If the corals are to release their power, a separation must first occur through a dissolution, and the redness must be separated from the body. . . . Consequently, whoever wants to do something useful in medicine must see to it that he first dissolve and open his metallic body, then extract its soul and essence, and the work will then not result in no fruit.”

**Document 7**

Source: Isaac Newton, *Principia Mathematica*, 1687.

“Rule I. We are to admit no more causes of natural things than such as are both true and sufficient to explain their appearances.

“Rule II. Therefore to the same natural effects we must, as far as possible, assign the same causes.

“Rule III. The qualities of bodies, which admit neither intension nor remission of degrees, and which are found to belong to all bodies within reach of our experiments, are to be esteemed as universal qualities of all bodies whatsoever.”

**DBQ Graphic Organizer**

**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Class period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Document #:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Categories of Analysis: (GSPRITE: Geography, Social, Political, Religious, Intellectual, Technology, Economics)

Where:

When:

How could this document represent Continuity and/or Change over Time:

Author of Document:

Type of Document:

Document Summary:

POV/CAP (Contextualization, Audience, Purpose):

How does the document answer the question: