

Renaissance DBQ

Homework Due _____

How Did the Renaissance Change Man's View of Man?

The Renaissance was a period of big change in European history. It was a time of intellectual excitement, when art and literature blossomed and groundbreaking scientific advances were made. Over the course of about 300 years, the Renaissance spread from its home base in Italy to western and northern Europe. The effect was like a sunrise making its way across the land.

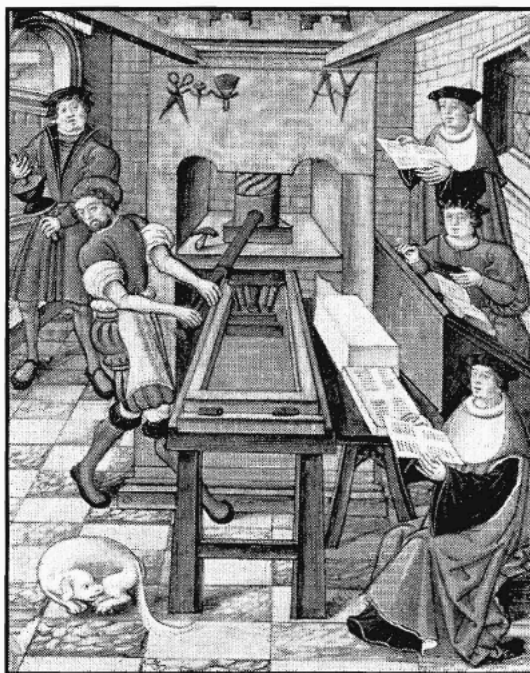
To understand the changes the Renaissance produced, it helps to review what European society was like before it arrived. The time period before the Renaissance is usually called the **Middle Ages**, which stretched from the fall of the Roman Empire around 500 CE to about 1350. During the Middle Ages, the Roman Catholic Church and the Pope were the primary players in Europe. The custodians of culture – that is, the people who owned most of the books and made handwritten copies of the Bible – were priests who often lived a closed existence inside the walls of **monasteries**. Schools were few. **Illiteracy** was widespread. Most of the population, more than 85 percent, was peasant farmers called **serfs** who worked for a lord and his estate. Serfs were little more than slaves. Both serfs and their masters looked to the Catholic Church and the Bible to explain the world. The art and literature that existed focused on Jesus Christ and sin.

In the 1300s, important changes began to happen. Improved farming methods helped

peasants become more self-sufficient. More and more serfs gained their freedom and no longer depended on lords. Some freed serfs migrated to towns, where they took up trades. The number of merchants and bankers increased. Since these people needed to have an education to effectively carry on their work, literacy spread. Eventually, educated people began to question the teachings of the Church. A movement called **humanism** developed, which praised the beauty and intelligence of the individual.

As more people became educated, humanism worked its way into the arts, literature, the sciences, and medicine.

The early Renaissance was especially vigorous in the city-states of Italy – places like Rome, Venice, Florence, and Milan. The invention of the printing press in the mid-1400s gave the Renaissance and humanism even more momentum. Initially, the Renaissance was an upper-middle class movement, but thanks to the mechanization of printing, shopkeepers and street sweepers were able



to afford books and articles that discussed the new ideas spreading across Europe. As a result, people started to look at themselves in a new way.

But what, exactly, was this new way? Examine the documents that follow and answer the question: *How did the Renaissance change man's view of man?*

Directions: Please **annotate** the following documents to help you prepare to write a claim that answers the question: **How did the Renaissance change man's view of man?**

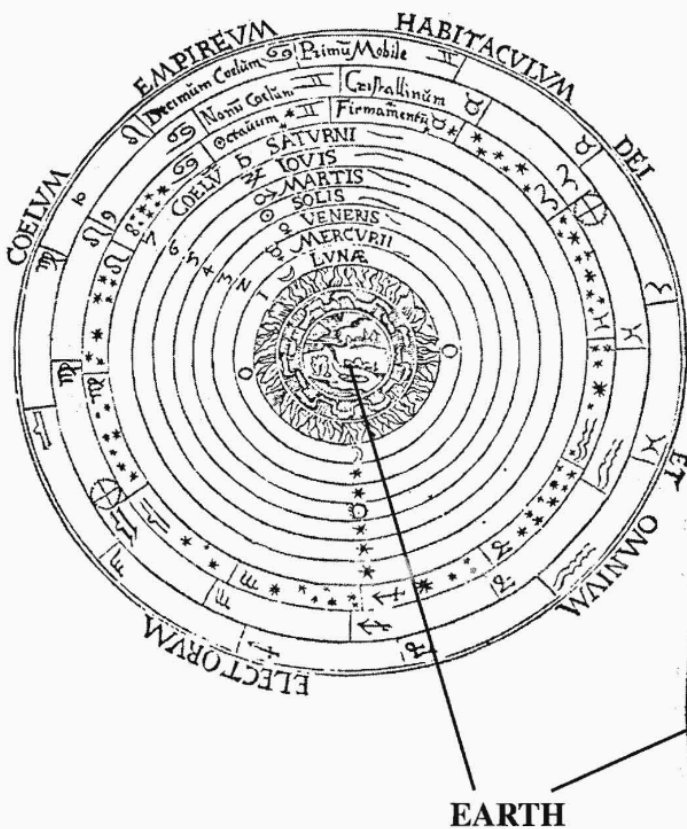
(your score will include points for 2 PURPOSEFUL annotations – not just highlighting☺)

DOCUMENT A

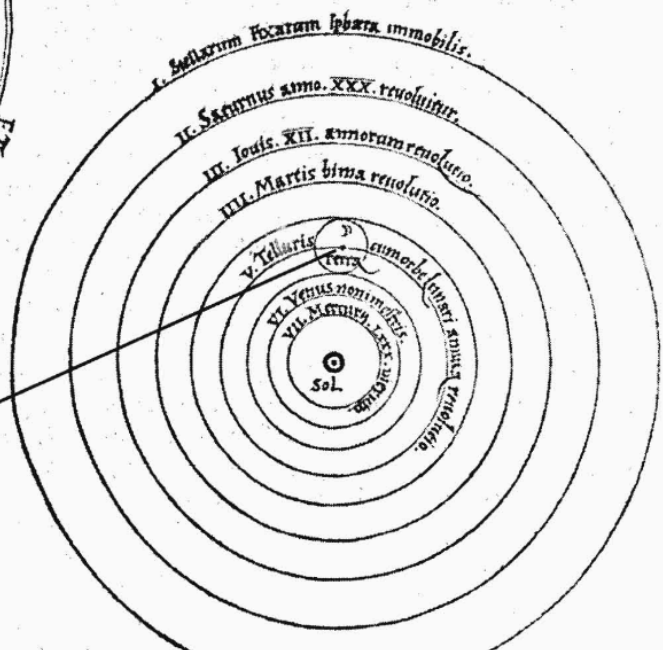
Source: Drawings of the universe by Claudius Ptolemy (circa 100 CE) and Nicolaus Copernicus (circa 1500).

Note: Ptolemy (tol-eh-mee) was a Roman astronomer who lived in Alexandria, Egypt, about 100 years after the time of Jesus. He developed a theory of the universe that was adopted by most scholars during the Middle Ages. The Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus lived from 1473 to 1543. Relying mostly on mathematics, he developed a very different understanding of the universe. Geocentric means "earth-centered" and heliocentric means "sun-centered."

The Geocentric Universe of Ptolemy



The Heliocentric Universe of Copernicus



Guiding questions (will not be graded for points, just meant to help):

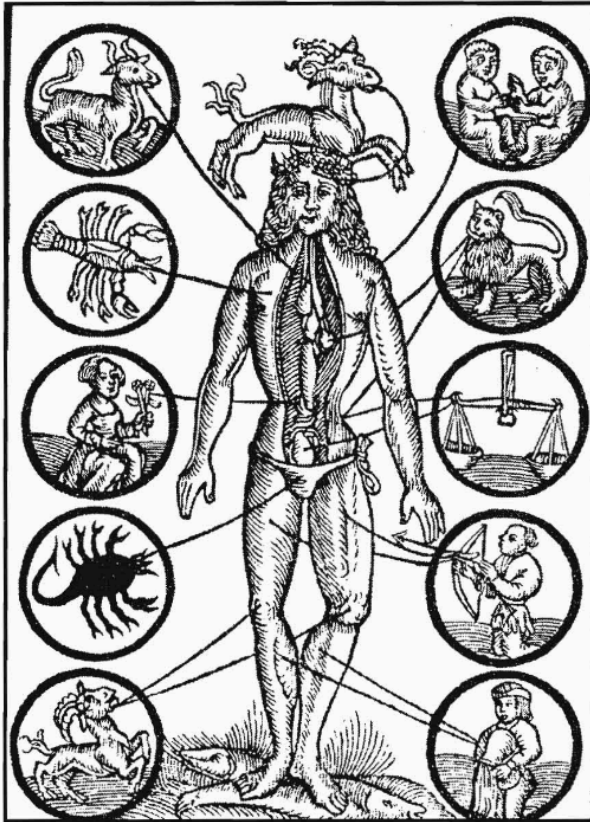
- Where is the sun in each chart?
- Where is the earth in each chart?
- According to Copernicus, how does the universe work?
- How might Copernicus' new model of the universe change what people thought about the nature of man and man's place in the universe?

DOCUMENT B

Source: A woodcut called "Zodiac Man" from a book by German astronomer Johann Regiomontanus, 1512, and a woodcut from the anatomy book *On the Makeup of the Human Body* by Belgian physician Andreas Vesalius, 1543.

Note: The image on the left reflects the Middle Ages belief that each sign of the zodiac* governed a certain part of the body. For example, the constellation of stars called Aries the Ram controlled the head; Sagittarius the Archer controlled the thighs. The illustration on the right was based on the research done by Andreas Vesalius, who dissected human corpses to better explain the human body to his medical students.

*The zodiac is a band of 12 groups of constellations (stars) that stretch across the sky.



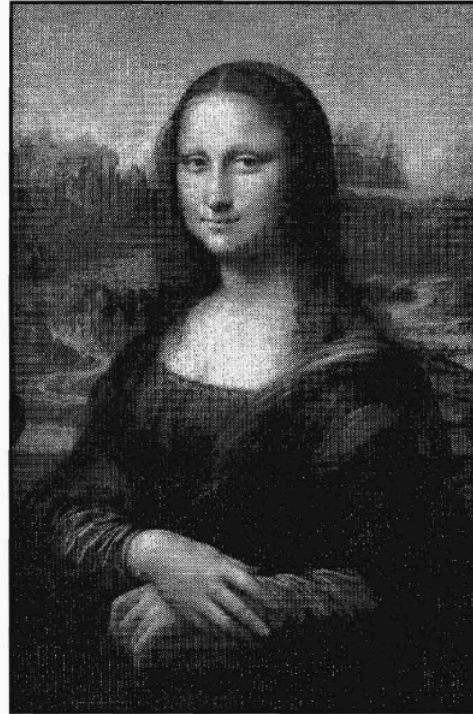
Guiding questions (will not be graded for points, just meant to help):

- Which drawing is more realistic?
- During medieval times what force did people believe controlled their health? (this back to the plague)
- How did Vesalius get his information about the makeup of the human body?
- What does Vesalius' research suggest is changing when it comes to man's understanding of his own body?

DOCUMENT C

Sources: Images: *Madonna Enthroned Between Two Angels* by Duccio di Buoninsegna; *Mona Lisa* by Leonardo da Vinci.
Text: Theodore Rabb, *The Last Days of the Renaissance & The March to Modernity*, Basic Books, 2006.

Note: The painting on the left was done in the late 1200s by the Italian artist Duccio di Buoninsegna. During the Middle Ages, most paintings had religious subject matter. The painting on the right, the *Mona Lisa*, was made by the Renaissance artist and scholar Leonardo da Vinci in the early 1500s.



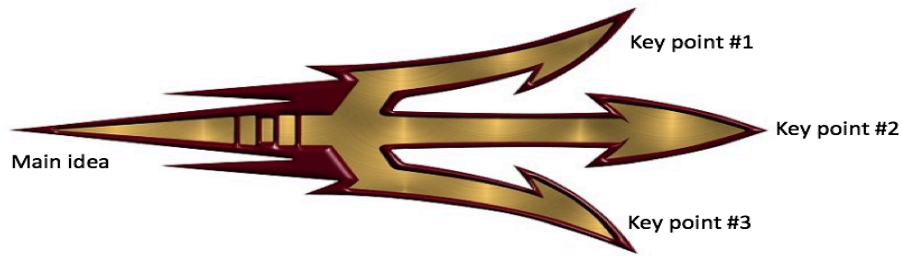
The [clearest] evidence of the break with medieval culture comes from the visual arts. [It] was the essence of the Renaissance.... One begins to know the names of the artists ... feel stronger emotions in the subjects ... see well-defined landscapes, natural folds in drapery, and three-dimensional figures; and one begins to notice the emphasis on symbolic representation giving way to depictions of recognizable scenes ... the new artistic styles would echo the broader movements and interests of the new age.... Neither the techniques nor the forms of artistic expression were to be the same again.

Guiding questions (will not be graded for points, just meant to help):

- Who is the painting on the left meant to honor?
- Who is the painting on the right meant to honor?
- Which one is more realistic?
- Art has always been a form of expression and celebration. What seems to be changing from medieval art styles of expression and celebration to Renaissance art styles and celebration?

How did the Renaissance change man's view of man?

Write a claim (ONE sentence) that includes 3 pieces of evidence:



Quick check list for claims:

- My claim is a complete sentence (no “it” or “he/she” or “they”)
- My claim takes a position: It is clear to the reader that I have come to a conclusion about the topic and the rest of my essay would be the explanation of that conclusion
- My claim explains my position/opinion in an academic argument **with at least 3 key points**
- My claim is arguable it can be backed up with evidence, quotations, argumentation, expert opinion, statistics, and telling details from the sources I have to work with

0	1	2	3	4
Please complete in and turn in as soon as possible	Some major errors. Annotations are incomplete, claim does not meet the requirements	Needs to undergo revisions. Annotations show an understanding of the documents, but claim does not show an understanding of the changes in thought during the Renaissance	You mostly have it! Annotations show an understanding of the documents. Venn diagram shows student can group ideas and draw conclusions. Claim shows an understanding of the changes in thought during the Renaissance	