DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

Directions: Read the documents in Part A and answer the questions after each document. Then read the directions for Part B and write this part of the essay on essay paper.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT: The Renaissance was a time noted for a "rebirth" of learning. Many advances were made in the fields of literature, the arts and science.

TASK: Using 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 show how advances in literature, the arts and science during the Renaissance contributed to the advancement of human society.

PART A

Directions: Analyze the documents and answer the questions that follow each document in the space provided.

Document 1

Sketch from one of the notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci.

1. This drawing by Leonardo da Vinci shows that Renaissance artists contributed to our knowledge of science. According to this drawing, to what branch of science did artists contribute?

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Document 2
The scientific method, still used today, was based on a new way of thinking. For the first time, scientists relied on objective data that they collected and measured, rather than on pre-existing ideas. After reaching a conclusion, followers of the scientific method repeated their work at least once – and usually many times – to make sure that their findings were correct.

The Scientific Method

1. State the problem.
2. Gather information on the problem.
3. Form a hypothesis, or educated guess.
4. Experiment to test the hypothesis.
5. Record and analyze data.
7. Repeat the steps.

2. How did the scientific method change the way scientists came to a conclusion?


Document 3
This excerpt is from *The Renaissance* by Wassace K. Ferguson (New York: Holt, 1940, pp. 1-3).

The idea that there was a great revival or rebirth of literature and the arts... in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries originated with the Italian writers of the Renaissance themselves. Finding the medieval and church literature and Gothic art of the Middle Ages unsatisfactory, they turned for inspiration to the civilizations of ancient Greece and Rome. Thus, from the beginning, the double conception of medieval darkness and subsequent cultural rebirth was colored by the acceptance of classical standards.

3. Since the Renaissance artists and writers rejected the learning of the Middle Ages, to whom did they turn for inspiration?
Document 4
Linear perspective – the mathematical representation of three-dimensional space on a two-dimensional picture plane – is one of the lasting achievements of Renaissance art. Although there was a long history of interest in spatial representation, the precise technique needed was discovered by the sculptor and architect Filippo Brunelleschi during the second decade of the 15th century.

4. What does the use of perspective allow artists to do?


Document 5


The Printing Press


5. How did the printing press contribute to the spread of ideas?
PART B

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction (thesis statement), several paragraphs, and a conclusion. Use evidence from at least four (4) of the documents in the body of the essay. Support your response with relevant facts, examples, and details. Include additional outside information.

Historical context:

The Renaissance was a time noted for a "rebirth" of learning. Many advances were made in the fields of literature, the arts and science.

Task:

Using information from the documents above and your knowledge of history, write an essay in which you show how advances in literature, the arts, and science during the Renaissance contributed to the advancement of human society.