

Unit 1 - Renaissance and Exploration

Multiple Choice Practice Questions

Upon this a question arises: whether it is better to be loved than feared or feared than loved? It may be answered that one should wish to be both, but, because it is difficult to unite them in one person, it is much safer to be feared than loved, when, of the two, either must be dispensed with. Because this is to be asserted in general of men, that they are ungrateful, fickle, false, cowardly, covetous, and as long as you succeed they are yours entirely; they will offer you their blood, property, life, and children, as is said above, when the need is far distant; but when it approaches they turn against you. And that prince who, relying entirely on their promises, has neglected other precautions, is ruined; because friendships that are obtained by payments, and not by nobility or greatness of mind, may indeed be earned, but they are not secured, and in time of need cannot be relied upon; and men have less scruple in offending one who is beloved than one who is feared, for love is preserved by the link of obligation which, owing to the baseness of men, is broken at every opportunity for their advantage; but fear preserved you by a dread of punishment which never fails.

Niccolo Machiavelli - *The Prince* - 1533

1. Based on this passage, which of the following actions would Machiavelli agree with based on the passage above?
- A. Charles V's Peace of Augsburg
 - B. The Elizabethan Settlement passed by Elizabeth
 - C. Ferdinand and Isabella's exile of the Jews from Spain
 - D. Henry VIII's use of executions to force the population of England to convert

The Correct Answer:

D. Machiavelli believed that it was important to have the people fear their ruler, and that's how they maintained power. He wrote "...fear preserved you by a dread of punishment which never failed" and Henry VIII's use of the fear of death to get his subjects to convert to Anglicanism is a perfect example of Machiavelli's advice.

The Incorrect Answers:

- A. The Peace of Augsburg was passed by HRE Charles V in 1555 in response to the unrest among the German States as a result of the Protestant Reformation. Charles V hoped that by allowing princes to declare that they were either Protestant or Catholic it would end the unrest between the states. Charles' choice to compromise was not something that Machiavelli would have agreed to, and is certainly not reflected in this particular passage.
- B. Elizabeth I passed the Elizabethan Settlement for similar reasons to Charles V's Peace of Augsburg. She was hoping that by allowing the toleration of Catholicism the unrest among the British population between Catholics and Anglicans would be quelled. Just like with Charles V, her compromise was not something Machiavelli would have agreed to, and was not reflected in this passage.

- C. Although Machiavelli would very likely have agreed with Ferdinand and Isabella's actions regarding the Jews in 1492, it would be more of a reflection of Machiavelli's theory that the end justifies the means. The means being the exile of the Jews and the end being the creation of a homogenous country and a centralization of power under the King and Queen.

Questions 2-5 refer to the following excerpt:

Albeit the king's majesty justly and rightfully is and ought to be supreme head of the Church of England and so is recognised by the clergy of the realm in their convocations; yet nevertheless for corroboration and confirmation thereof and for increase in virtue in Christ's religion within the realm of England, and to repress and uproot all errors heresies and other enormities and abuses heretofore used in the same, be it enacted by authority of this present Parliament that the king our sovereign lord, his heirs and successors kings of the realm shall be taken, accepted and reputed the only supreme head on earth of the Church of England called Anglicana Ecclesia and shall have and enjoy annexed and united to the imperial crown of this realm as well the title and style thereof, as all honours, dignities, pre-eminences, jurisdictions, privileges, authorities, immunities, profits and commodities to the said dignity of supreme head of the same Church belonging and appertaining. And that from time to time to visit, repress, redress, reform, order, correct, restrain, and amend all such errors, heresies, abuses, offences, contempts, and enormities whatsoever they be, which by any manner [of] spiritual authority or jurisdiction ought or may lawfully be reformed, repressed redressed, ordered, corrected, restrained, or amended, most to the pleasure of Almighty God the increase of virtue in Christ's religion and for the conservation of the peace, unity, and tranquillity of this realm, any usage, custom, foreign laws, foreign authority, prescription or any other thing or things to the contrary hereof notwithstanding.

Henry VIII's - Act of Supremacy, 1534

https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/citizenship/rise_parliament/transcripts/henry_supremacy.htm

2. Which of the following religious reformers created a government similar to what Henry VIII created with the passing of the Act of Supremacy?

- A. Martin Luther
- B. John Calvin
- C. Ignatius Loyolla
- D. The Anabaptists

The Correct Answer:

B. John Calvin, who also created a theocracy when he established Geneva as the center of his religion. The laws of the Calvinist Church were also the laws of Geneva. When Henry VIII established himself as the head of the Anglican Church in England, he was creating a theocracy where the laws of the church and the laws of the country were intertwined.

The Incorrect Answers:

- A. Martin Luther did not create a theocracy although he did rely on the protection of the German Princes who ultimately created the Lutheran Church and even though there was no separation of church and state.
- C. Ignatius Loyola was the founder of the Jesuits, which was a sect of the Catholic Church created in reaction to the Protestant Reformation. The Jesuits were focussed on spreading a reformed version of Catholicism.
- D. The Anabaptists believe in the separation of church and state, which is the exact opposite of what Henry VIII's Act of Supremacy established in England.

3. Henry VIII's actions in the establishment of the Anglican Church can most closely be related to the beliefs of

- A. Machiavelli
- B. Martin Luther
- C. Erasmus
- D. Castiglione

The Correct Answer:

- A. Machiavelli - Henry VIII's Act of Supremacy states "And that from time to time to visit, repress, redress, reform, order, correct, restrain, and amend all such errors, heresies, abuses, offences, contempts, and enormities whatsoever they be, which by any manner [of] spiritual authority or jurisdiction ought or may lawfully be reformed, repressed redressed, ordered, corrected, restrained, or amended, most to the pleasure of Almighty God the increase of virtue in Christ's religion and for the conservation of the peace, unity, and tranquillity of this realm," which condoned Henry's use of violence to force the people to convert to his new religion. Machiavelli supported the use of violence and punishment by the government in order to achieve a greater end. Henry's actions align with Machiavelli's theory "The end justifies the means."

Incorrect Answers:

- B. Martin Luther's Reformation was in response to the abuses of authority used by the Catholic Church and he never would have condoned Henry's use of violence to force the people into compliance.
- C. Erasmus was also upset with the abuses performed by the Catholic Church so it is unlikely that he would have supported Henry's use of violence.
- D. Castiglione, who wrote the *Courtier*, was a civic humanist who believed that it was every person's duty to contribute to society. He valued each person and their ability to contribute to the good of the community so it was unlikely that he would have supported the violent means that Henry used.

4. Which of the following accurately describes the economic results of Henry's *Act of Supremacy*?

- A. The British Crown lost revenue as Catholic Countries refused to continue to trade with Britain.

- B. There was a decline in tax revenues
- C. Royal revenues tripled
- D. There were no changes in the economic status of the British Government

The Correct Answer:

C. The increase in Royal revenues was due to the fact that Henry had combined Religious and Political Authorities, so the crown not only collected taxes, but it also collected the tithe that the population paid to the Church. This money would have previously gone to Rome but now it would stay in England. In addition all of the land owned by the Catholic Church now reverted to Henry and the Crown, and when he sold off some of this property he increased royal revenues.

The Incorrect answers:

- A. Great Britain was extremely reliant on trade and Henry built up the Royal Navy to be the most powerful Navy in the world. British trade actually increased under Henry.
- B. He actually increased the tax revenues as not only was Henry continuing to collect taxes from the population but he also started to collect the tithes.
- D. Henry tripled the royal revenues with the establishment of the Anglican Church.

5. Henry VIII's decision to start a new Protestant Religion and pass the Act of Supremacy was in direct opposition to which of his previous actions?

- A. His marriage to his brother's widow in order to maintain a strong alliance with Catholic Spain
- B. His condemnation of the actions of Luther was given the title "Defender of the Faith" by the Pope
- C. His refusal to payback the loan he received from the Medici's Bank
- D. His marriage to Anne of Cleves

The Correct Answer:

B. Henry VIII condemned the actions of Luther in support of the Catholic Church, and was given the title by the Pope, "Defender of the Faith". However, when it came down to his own ability to assure that his family remained in power over England, Henry, like Luther, lost his faith in the Pope and his use for the Catholic Faith, when it came to his desire to maintain power he created his own Protestant Religion that would allow him to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, and to marry a woman he hoped would produce the male heir he desired.

Incorrect Answers:

- A. Henry used marriage to gain power and maintain power. His marriage to Catherine of Aragon, his brother's widow, was a means of maintaining a strong Catholic alliance between Catholic Spain and Catholic England. This was similar to Henry's reason for starting the Anglican Church so that he could marry his lover, Ann Boleyn in the hope of having a male heir that would assure his family's ability to maintain the throne of England.
- C. Henry's refusal to payback his loan to the Medici's Bank, which crippled the bank, was a power move by Henry but does not really relate to his decision to start a new religion.

D. Once again Henry attempted to use marriage as a means to gain power and position. His desire to marry a German princess was an attempt to make an alliance between two Protestant regions. However, this was done after Henry established the Church of England, so it was not something in opposition to this decision but rather an action that was intended to strengthen that decision.

Questions 6-8 refer to the following excerpt:

Let tyrants fear. I have always so behaved myself that, under God, I have placed my chiefest strength and safeguard in the loyal hearts and good-will of my subjects; and therefore I am come amongst you, as you see, at this time, not for my recreation and disport, but being resolved, in the midst and heat of the battle, to live and die amongst you all; to lay down for my God, and for my kingdom, and my people, my honour and my blood, even in the dust.

I know I have the body of a weak and feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England too, and think foul scorn that Parma or Spain, or any prince of Europe, should dare to invade the borders of my realm: to which rather than any dishonour shall grow by me, I myself will take up arms, I myself will be your general, judge, and rewarder of every one of your virtues in the field.

Queen Elizabeth I's Speech to the Troops at Tilbury - "The Armada Speech" - 1588

6. Whose reputation did Elizabeth I use to garner the support of her soldiers?

- A. Henry VIII
- B. Mary I
- C. Machiavelli
- D. Philip I

The Correct answer:

- A. As a woman, ruling at a time when women were not particularly seen as powerful, much less capable of ruling a country, Elizabeth made the conscious decision to refer to herself in the masculine during her speech to her troops. When Elizabeth said "I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England" she was making sure it was clear that the troops understood that she was Henry VIII's daughter, using his reputation to her advantage.

The Incorrect Answers:

- B. Mary I, Elizabeth's sister and predecessor as Queen of England, and although she was a strong ruler, she too was a female, and faced the same prejudices that Elizabeth did, so it would not have benefitted Elizabeth to use her sister as a means to gain the favor of her troops.
- C. Machiavelli was definitely a supporter of the use of war and strategy to maintain power, just as Elizabeth was doing by rallying the support of her troops in this speech. However, she was not referencing Machiavelli in the speech.

- D. Philip I was Elizabeth's foe in the battle she was preparing her troops to engage in. As the King of Spain it was Philip who had sent the Armada to defeat Elizabeth. Therefore it is very unlikely that Elizabeth would have used Philip as a means of rallying her troops behind her.

7. The battle Elizabeth was preparing her troops to fight was part of a greater historical context that included disputes caused by which of the following?

- A. Peace of Westphalia
- B. Treaty of Versailles
- C. The Act of Supremacy, 1534
- D. The Treaty of Tordesillas

The Correct answer:

D. The Treaty of Tordesillas was established in 1497 between Spain and Portugal. The two Catholic countries turned to a mutually agreed upon authority figure, the Pope, to settle their disputes over the "New World". The Pope in turn, divided the World in half, establishing the line of demarcation, stating that all lands West of the line would be controlled by Spain, and all lands to the East of it would be controlled by Portugal. The British Colonies in North America were in fact located on the "Spanish" side of the line, and thus both Spain and England claimed the rightful ownership of the land. This was one of the motivations behind Philip's decision to send the Armada to defeat Elizabeth.

The Incorrect Answers:

- A. The Peace of Westphalia ended the 30 Years War, a war in which Spain and England were on opposite sides. However, the 30 Years War ended in 1648, and the War with the Spanish Armada was in 1588, so it could not have been a cause of Philip's decision.
- B. The Treaty of Versailles ended World War I and was signed in 1918, over 300 years after Philip sent his Armada to defeat Elizabeth. Therefore it was not a reason for the conflict.
- C. The Act of Supremacy made Henry VIII the head of the Anglican Church and finalized England's transition from a Catholic state to a Protestant one. The religious divide between Spain and England was a cause of Philip's decision, however, since the passing of the Act of Supremacy, Philip had married Henry's oldest daughter Mary I, who had converted England back to Catholicism. It was upon Mary's death and Elizabeth's rise to the throne and her reimplementing of her father's church that contributed to Philip's decision.

8. The effects of Elizabeth's defeat of the Spanish Armada

- A. Allowed England to replace Spain as the perceived most powerful country in Europe
- B. Destroyed the Hapsburg's ability to establish a hegemony in Europe
- C. Gained independence for the Netherlands from Spanish rule
- D. Was an insignificant event in Spanish military history

The correct answer:

- A. Up until the defeat of the Spanish Armada at the hands of the English Navy, Spain, a Hapsburg territory and fueled by the strength of its Empire, was seen as the most powerful state in Europe. England at the time however, was underestimated as it was ruled by a woman, Elizabeth. With the defeat of the Armada, Elizabeth was able to prove that her Navy and her country were more powerful than Spain.

Questions 9-10 refer to the following image:



Pieter Bruegel - *The Dance Around the Maypole* - 16th Century

9. Which of the following shifts that occurred during the Renaissance is most apparent in Bruegel's work?

- A. Scholasticism to Humanism
- B. Religious to Secular
- C. Idealism to Realism
- D. Italian Humanism to Christian Humanism

The correct answer:

C. During the Renaissance the artwork experienced a shift. During the Italian Renaissance artists like Michelangelo painted and sculpted images that reflected the ideal human form in the style of the Greek Gods. Michelangelo's statue of The David which became the symbol of Florence, was a perfect example of this idealism. By the time the Renaissance had spread to Northern Europe artists such as Pieter Bruegel were painting images that were more like snapshots of everyday life. Paintings such as The Dance Around the Maypole reflect the shift towards realistic representations of people.

Incorrect answers:

- A. The move from the scholasticism of the Middle Ages to the humanism of the Renaissance was a shift in intellectual pursuits. This was not something that was particularly reflected in the artwork of the Northern Renaissance. Humanism includes a nod to Antiquity and that was not something that was not particularly reflected in the artwork of Pieter Bruegel.
- B. During the Renaissance there definitely was a shift in religion, especially after the onset of the Protestant when more and more people started to not only question the Catholic Church but religion in general. However this was not something that was very apparent in the artwork at the time. Pieter Bruegel was a Christian Humanist and although his artwork didn't always reflect the religious influence it was not seen as an example of secularism.
- D. Even though there was a definite shift during the Renaissance from Italian Humanism to Christian Humanism as the Renaissance spread north, the artwork did not seem to reflect that. The artwork of the Italian Renaissance reflected Christianity more so than the Northern artwork, even though the northern artists were more involved in the Christian Humanism. This was actually more a reflection of patronage, as it was the Catholic Church, more often than not, that paid the Italian artists for their work.

10. Which of the following best explains why the artwork of the Italian Renaissance was more religious based than the artwork of the Northern Renaissance such as Pieter's Bruegels painting *The Dance Around the Maypole*.

- A. Patronage
- B. Christian Humanism
- C. Civic Humanism
- D. The Protestant Reformation

The Correct Answer

- A. The artwork of the Italian Renaissance reflected Christianity more so than the Northern artwork, even though the northern artists were more involved in the Christian Humanism. This was actually more a reflection of patronage, as it was the Catholic Church, more often than not, that paid the Italian artists for their work.

Incorrect Answers:

- B. Christian Humanism, also known as Northern Humanism would have been a great explanation if the artwork of the Northern Renaissance was more religiously based since it was the center of Christian Humanism. However, it was in fact the Italian Renaissance where the artwork was more reflective of religion, and it was a result of the patronage of the Catholic Church.
- C. Civic Humanism is the belief that every person has a role that they need to fulfill within society. This was made prominent by the writings of Castiglione. Civic Humanism is not related to religion and would not have been an explanation as to why the artwork reflected religious ideals.
- D. The Protestant Reformation which occurred in the later part of the Renaissance was not an art movement but rather a split in Christianity with the creation of new Protestant religions. Artwork that reflected the Reformation usually also reflected some aspect of religion.

Question 11 refers to the following excerpt:

Notwithstanding that we were informed of the great part of this before now and we knew that the true remedy for all these injuries and inconveniences was to prohibit all interaction between the said Jews and Christians and banish them from all our kingdoms, we desired to content ourselves by commanding them to leave all cities, towns, and villages of Andalusia where it appears that they have done the greatest injury, believing that that would be sufficient so that those of other cities, towns, and villages of our kingdoms and lordships would cease to do and commit the aforesaid acts. And since we are informed that neither that step nor the passing of sentence [of condemnation] against the said Jews who have been most guilty of the said crimes and delicts against our holy Catholic faith have been sufficient as a complete remedy to obviate and correct so great an opprobrium and offense to the faith and the Christian religion, because every day it is found and appears that the said Jews increase in continuing their evil and wicked purpose wherever they live and congregate, and so that there will not be any place where they further offend our holy faith, and corrupt those whom God has until now most desired to preserve, as well as those who had fallen but amended and returned to Holy Mother Church, the which according to the weakness of our humanity and by diabolical astuteness and suggestion that continually wages war against us may easily occur unless the principal cause of it be removed, which is to banish the said Jews from our kingdoms. Because whenever any grave and detestable crime is committed by members of any organization or corporation, it is reasonable that such an organization or corporation should be dissolved and annihilated and that the lesser members as well as the greater and everyone for the others be punished, and that those who perturb the good and honest life of cities and towns and by contagion can injure others should be expelled from those places and even if for lighter causes, that may be injurious to the Republic, how much more for those greater and most dangerous and most contagious crimes such as this.

The Treaty of Alhambra - King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain - 1492

11. Ferdinand and Isabella's decision to exile the Jews from Spain was a means to

- A. increase Spanish royal revenues
- B. allow them to focus on exploration

- C. centralize power under Ferdinand and Isabella
- D. make Spain a religiously tolerant state

The Correct Answer:

C. Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain wanted to unify the Spanish people under their rule. In order to accomplish this, they intended to unify the people religiously, and create an entirely Catholic State. Their decision to expel the Jews in 1492 was one example of them working to accomplish their goal of centralizing all of the power under them.

The Incorrect Answers:

- A. Exiling people from a country would most likely reduce royal revenues as it would eliminate part of the tax base.
- B. Not only did Ferdinand and Isabella kick the Jews out of Spain, but they also paid for Christopher Columbus' journey to find a Western route to India. Kicking the Jews out did not in any way provide them with any more means than they already had to fund these voyages.
- D. Kicking the Jews out of Spain is the exact opposite of implementing religious toleration.

Questions 12-13 refer to the following excerpt:

“Why do you suppose they made you king in the first place?” I ask him. ‘Not for your benefit, but for theirs. They meant you to devote your energies to making their lives more comfortable, and protecting them from injustice. So your job is to see that they’re all right, not that you are - just as a shepherd’s job, strictly speaking, is to feed his sheep, not himself.”

Thomas More, “Utopia” - 1516

12. The excerpt from Thomas More’s, Utopia was a critique of

- A. The Catholic Church
- B. The British Monarchy
- C. Italian Humanism
- D. The Medici Family

Correct Answer:

B. Thomas More’s book “Utopia” was an example of Civic Humanism. He was not happy with the rule of Henry VIII and wrote this book as a veiled critique of the King’s reign.

Incorrect Answers:

- A. Thomas More was actually appointed by Henry VIII to the position of English Cardinal, and it was when he had that position that he stood by the Catholic Church and refused to allow Henry to

annul his marriage to his first wife, Catherine of Aragon. It is unlikely that he would have written anything that would have criticized the Catholic Church.

C. Thomas More's book "Utopia" was an example of Northern Humanism and Civic Humanism. He was more inspired by the religious piety and the roles of the individual in society than what Italian Humanism offered.

D. Thomas More was in England during the Renaissance, and although he may have heard of the Medicis and their bank, he most likely never interacted with them, nor would he have been inspired to write about them.

13. **Which of the following is most in line with the ideals expressed by Thomas More?**

- A. Machiavelli's *The Prince*
- B. Castiglione's *The Book of the Courtier*
- C. Erasmus' Christian Humanism
- D. The teachings of the Catholic Church

The Correct Answer:

B. Both More and Castiglione were Civic Humanists whose work centered around the role of the individual in society.

The Incorrect Answers:

A. Machiavelli was more concerned with the role of the Prince or the ruler, and how they were to maintain power, and More was actually critical of that kind of rule, and focused more on the role of the individual in society.

C. Erasmus and More were both Christian Humanists, but Erasmus' focus in his writing was on the piety of the church. More, also believe in this but in Utopia his focus was more on criticizing the King and the role of the individual in society.