Renaissance Study Guide

Terms to Know:

"Black Legend"
"Columbian Exchange"
"El Dorado"
"Great Chain of Being"
16c “Price Revolution”
Albrecht Dürer
Baldassare Castiglione
Bartolomé de Las Casas
Botticelli
Brunelleschi
chiarrusco
Christian Humanism
civic humanism
condottieri
conquistadores
creoles
Cristoforo Colombo
Desiderius Erasmus
Don Quixote
Donatello
enclosure
encomienda system
Federigo da Montefeltro
Ferdinand Magellan
Francisco Pizarro
François Rabelais
Fuggers
Gargantua
Giotto
grandi
Guillaume Dufay
Hernán Cortés
High Renaissance
humanism
In Praise of Folly
Isabella d’Este
Jacob Burckhardt
Jan van Eyck
Johannes Gutenberg
joint stock company
Leonardo Bruni
Leonardo da Vinci
liberal arts
Lorenzo de Medici
Lorenzo Valla
madrigal
Mannerism
Masaccio
merchant capitalism
mestizos
Michel de Montaigne
Michelangelo
Miguel de Cervantes
mulattos
Neo-Platonism
nominalism
Northern Humanism

oligarchy
Oration on the Dignity of Man
paternalism
peninsulares
Petrarch
Pico della Mirandola
popola minuto
popolo grasso
Prince Henry the Navigator
Quattrocento
Raphael
Renaissance
secularism
sfumato
Sir Thomas More
The Book of the Courtier
Treaty of Tordesillas
Utopia
Vasco da Gama
Vasco Nuñez de Balboa
veillée
vernacular
Verrocchio
virtù
William Shakespeare
Questions for Review:

- Why did the Renaissance first begin in Italy?
- Why was Florence at the heart of the Italian Renaissance?
- What role did the Medici family play in Renaissance Florence?
- Regarding humanism:
  - What are the characteristics of humanism?
  - How was it different from medieval scholasticism? from nominalism?
  - Why is Petrarch considered to be the “Father of Humanism”?
  - Why was Cicero a favorite classical figure of Renaissance humanists?
  - What was the goal of a ‘liberal arts’ education? What were core subjects taught?
  - What is meant by the term “civic humanism”?
- How did the Italian Renaissance differ from the Renaissance of the 12th century?
- According to Castiglione, what are the basic attributes of the Renaissance courtier? How did the values of this courtier influence the development of a modern aristocratic class in Western Europe?
- List the qualities of a “Renaissance Man”, the l’uomo universale.
- List the basic beliefs of the Neo-Platonists. How did their beliefs differ from the civic humanists?
- How were humanists responsible for secularizing and professionalizing the writing of history (historiography)?
- What were the distinctive characteristics of Renaissance art and architecture? How were they different from medieval art and Gothic architecture?
- Who were the major artists of the Quattrocento and High Renaissance periods?
- How were Renaissance artists trained? What was their status in Renaissance society? Who was their audience?
- What new artistic techniques were introduced by Renaissance artists?
- In what ways did Renaissance art and philosophy reinforce each other?
- How was the Renaissance artist different in personal style from his medieval predecessors?
- How did Renaissance art reflect the political and social events of the period?
- How did the artists of the Italian Renaissance incorporate the new intellectual and cultural trends of their time into their art?
- How do you account for the fact that people in northern Europe seemed to be more concerned about daily devotion and the state of their relationship with God than those in the south?
- What were the characteristics of the art of the Northern Renaissance? How did it reflect the societies of Northern Europe?
- How was the Northern Renaissance different from that in Renaissance Italy?
- What is meant by the term “Christian humanism”?
- What were some of the causes of religious discontent in early 16th-century Europe?
- Explain the role of the veillée and the impact of the printing press on Northern European art
and literature.

- What were the major themes expressed in the works of Rabelais, Erasmus, More, Montaigne, and Cervantes?
- How do Shakespeare's works reflect Renaissance ideals?
- Had you been a contemporary scholar during the Renaissance, what remedies would you have presented for the problems of the church under the leadership of the major Renaissance popes?
- How did the development of the printing press contribute to the Renaissance?
- How did the Renaissance alter the status of women?
- Was there a "Renaissance Woman?"
- What role was the woman expected to play in Renaissance society as a whole? within each major socio-economic level?
- What were some of the results of the population increase in Europe between 1470 and 1620?
- How did business practices change in Europe by the end of the 16th?
- What new problems were created by the rapid growth of trade in the 16th?
- What are the basic characteristics of capitalism as an economic system?
- How did capitalism disrupt society in the Old World and in the New World?
- Did the prosperity of the age extend to all segments of society?
- How did European society change in the 16th and early 17th as a result of rapid economic growth?
- Why did the Europeans have a long attraction to the Far East?
- What motivated the Europeans to embark on overseas explorations by the 15th?
- Why were overseas voyages possible by the end of the 15th?
- Trace the origins and development of Portuguese exploration and expansion. What relationship did it have to Italian commercial activities? Why were the Portuguese so successful?
- Why didn't the Chinese merchants continue to dominate the vast Afro-Asian trade network of the 15th?
- How did Spain come to acquire an overseas empire?
- What was the encomienda system? How did it work?
- How did this new Spanish Empire created in the Americas continue the traditions of the older Reconquista? How did they organize their vast empire?
- Describe the various social classes that emerged in colonial Spanish America?
- What role did Bartolomé de Las Casas play in colonial Spanish America?
- What were the results for Europe, the Americas, and Africa of the "Columbian Exchange"?
- Compare and contrast how the Spanish and Portuguese exploited their respective overseas empires. [include motives, the economic impact on each country, and their relations with the native populations]
- Identify the impacts of European expansion on both the conquerors and those that they conquered.