

# Do-It-Yourself DBQ Project

Description: Students will research and then create their own document-based question (DBQ) in AP World History. The DBQ should follow the format used on the Advanced Placement Examination, and students should observe the following guidelines:

1. The question must deal with feudalism or manor life.
2. The question should be phrased using one of the following key terms or phrases:

Defend or refute	To what extent and in what ways
Analyze	Assess the validity
Evaluate	Contrast and compare
3. The DBQ must contain 7 primary source documents. These documents can consist of journals, letters, diaries, newspaper articles, poems, photographs, paintings, speeches, maps, laws or proclamations, quotations and political cartoons. At least one of each of the following must be included:  
  
quotation  
painting or photograph  
letter, diary, or journal  
law, proclamation, or court ruling
4. Each document must be identified by the author, title, and date of the work.
5. The DBQ must be typed and checked for spelling and grammar.

In addition to the DBQ, the following must be provided:

1. Attach an annotated bibliography of the documents used in the question. The annotations should include: 1) an explanation of how the document relates to the question, 2) if the document supports outside information from the time period, 3) why the document was selected.
2. Attach a list of outside information for the DBQ. This is a list – no annotations are necessary.

## Rubric: Do-It-Yourself DBQ

The Question:	Deals with either feudalism or manor life The question challenges students to compare and contrast particular issues from multiple perspectives, reconciling differing positions, evaluating the strength of particular arguments, providing authentic opportunities at a high level of thinking, and developing life skills.	_____/10 points
Documents:	Includes 7 primary source documents. Includes one of the each of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· quotation</li><li>· painting or photograph</li><li>· letter, diary, or journal</li><li>· law or proclamation or court ruling</li></ul>	_____/60 points
Citation:	Each document must be identified by author, title, and date.	_____/20 points
Annotated Bibliography:	Annotated Bibliography	_____/30 points
Spelling and Grammar:	The DBQ should be typed, and free of spelling and grammar errors.	_____/10 points
Outside Information:	A list of outside information.	_____/20 points
	Total Points	_____/150 points

## Project Deadlines

Select groups (3 to a group) and topics (in class)	Oct 22
Draft of question	Oct 24
Group Presentation of question and material	Oct 26

You will also need to spend some time outside of class creating the DBQ.

History is the act of selecting, analyzing, and writing about the past.

## Effective Document Based Questions

Document-based questions challenge students to compare and contrast particular issues from multiple perspectives, reconciling differing positions, evaluating the strength of particular arguments, providing authentic opportunities at a high level of thinking, and developing life skills.

### Good Document Based Questions:

- Require thinking on a deeper level.
- May uncover nuances in meaning, reveal contradictions or even errors, or highlight possible ramifications of an expressed idea.
- May contrast what has been said with what someone else has to say on a similar subject.
- Are those which enable many acceptable answers.

### Examples of effective Document Based Essay Questions:

- Analyze the extent to which . . .
- To what extent, and in what ways did . . .
- Analyze and discuss the impact of . . .
- Using the documents and your knowledge of the period, discuss how . . .
- . . . Assess the validity of this statement.
- Compare and contrast . . . and discuss how . . .
- Assess (or evaluate) the impact of . . .
- Defend or refute . . .

## AP World History DBQ Scoring Guidelines – Generic Version

The 8-9 essay:

- Contains a well-developed thesis that address the question.
- Presents an effective analysis of the question.
- Effectively uses a substantial number of documents.
- Supports thesis with substantial and relevant outside information.
- Is well-organized and has clear expression of ideas.
- May contain minor errors.

The 5-7 essay:

- Contains a thesis that addresses the question.
- Has limited analysis, is mostly descriptive.
- Uses some documents effectively.
- Supports the thesis with some outside information.
- Shows evidence of acceptable organization and writing; language errors do not interfere with comprehension of the essay.
- May contain errors that do not seriously detract from overall essay.

The 2-4 essay:

- Contains a limited, confused, and/or poorly developed thesis.
- Has little or no analysis of the question, explanation is general or simplistic.
- Quotes or briefly cites some documents.
- Contains little outside information that is generally inaccurate or irrelevant.
- Lack of organization and language errors interfere with comprehension of the essay.
- May contain major errors.

The 0-1 essay:

- Contains no thesis or a thesis which does not address the question.
- Exhibits inadequate or inaccurate understanding of the question.
- Contains little or no understanding of the documents or ignores them completely.
- Is so poorly organized or written that it inhibits understanding.
- Contains numerous errors, both major and minor.

The "--" essay:

- Is completely off topic or blank.

SPECIAL NOTE: Documents may be used implicitly or explicitly.

### Conversion Table for Essay Letter Grades & Percentages

9	=	A+	100%
8	=	A	95-99
7	=	B+	90-94
6	=	B	85-89
5	=	C+	80-84
4	=	C	75-79
3	=	D+	70-74
2	=	D	65-69
1	=	F	00-64