DBQ: THE MIDDLE AGES (300 POINTS)

INTRODUCTION
The Middle Ages in Europe, a period of time from approximately A.D. 500 to 1400, have been referred to by a variety of terms: the Age of Faith, the Dark Ages, the Age of Feudalism, and even a Golden Age. The medieval era began with the destruction of the Roman Empire and the disorder that followed, which led to the rise of feudalism. During this period of darkness, the Roman Catholic Church provided spiritual direction as well as many nonreligious functions for the people of the times. Many literary, artistic, and architectural advances occurred.

DIRECTIONS
The following question is based on the accompanying documents. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the source of the document and the author's point of view. Be sure to:

a. Carefully read the document-based question. Consider what you already know about this topic. How would you answer the question if you had no documents to examine?

b. Now, read each document carefully, underlining key phrases and words that address the document-based question. You may also wish to use the margin to make brief notes. Answer the questions that follow each document in order to gain a better understanding of the information in that document.

c. Based on your own knowledge and on the information found in the documents, formulate a thesis that directly answers the question and provides a structural "road map".

d. Organize supportive and relevant information into a brief outline.

e. Write a well-organized essay proving your thesis. The essay should be logically presented and should include information both from the documents and from your knowledge outside the documents.

ESSAY STRUCTURE AND FORMAT
• This essay must be FIVE paragraphs and between 2-3 pages
• Essay must be typed, double-spaced, with 12 pt. Times New Roman font and 1" margins
• Your thesis statement must be underlined
• Make sure to cite at least TWO documents in each of your three body paragraphs.
• AVOID PLAGIARISM. This should be your work.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BEYOND THE DOCUMENTS
The documents provide you with only fragments of evidence. Answers should include relevant information from beyond the documents—information that you have learned from our study of the Middle Ages and your textbook.

Question: Which labels for the Middle Ages best describe the era between 500 and 1400 in Europe: the Dark Ages, the Age of Feudalism, the Age of Faith, or the Golden Age of Europe? You must discuss three labels.
**Term 3 DBQ**

**Question:** Which labels for the Middle Ages best describe the era between 500 and 1400 in Europe: the Dark Ages, the Age of Feudalism, the Age of Faith, or the Golden Age of Europe? You must discuss three labels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Read purposefully</th>
<th>Unacceptable</th>
<th>Needs Improvement</th>
<th>Proficient</th>
<th>Exemplary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Did not read the assignment sheet. Not acceptable.</td>
<td>Format has several errors. Does not follow directions. Weak content within the assignment demonstrates inaccuracies, irrelevance. Content is weak through majority of assignment.</td>
<td>Reads assignment sheet, follows directions and completes assignment according to directions in correct format with few errors. All content within the assignment demonstrates research is accurate and relevant. Content lacks some details.</td>
<td>Reads assignment sheet, follows directions and completes assignment according to directions in correct format. All content within the assignment demonstrates research is accurate and relevant. Content is comprehensive.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Write effectively | 40% | Writing is disorganized. Grammar, spelling, punctuation or capitalization errors are unacceptable. Did not proofread. Outline is not done. Paragraph structure is unacceptable. | Many spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization errors; Word selection, word choice and sentence structure needs improvement. Need to proofread final product. Needs extensive editing. Outline is incomplete. Paragraph structure has many incomplete sections. | Few spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization errors; Could have been more carefully edited. Word selection, word choice and sentence structure could have been more varied. Outline is complete but with few errors. Paragraph structure has few incomplete sections. | Excellent spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization; carefully edited. Excellent word selection. Varied word choice. Varied sentence structure. Outline is completed using a thesis, topic sentences, Diss, DDS. DBQ includes well written introduction, body and concluding paragraph structure. |

| Communicate effectively | 40% | Student did not communicate effectively in writing. Final products demonstrate an unacceptable ability to communicate effectively. | Acceptable content based on examples from documents, textbook, other resources. Able to analyze documents and support thesis based on evidence. (1 label) Communicates an unclear message. | Meaningful content based on examples from documents, textbook, other resources. Able to analyze documents and support thesis based on evidence. (2 labels) Communicates a clear message. | Very meaningful content based on examples from documents, textbook, other resources. Able to analyze documents and support thesis based on evidence. (3 labels) Communicates a clear message. |
DBQ 3: The Middle Ages (continued)

Document 1

In The Middle Ages, historian Frantz Funck-Brentano made use of previously published texts to describe Europe in the ninth and tenth centuries (Heinemann, 1922, pp. 1-3).

The barbarians have broken through the ramparts. The Saracen [Moors] invasions have spread in successive waves over the South. The Hungarians swarm over the Eastern provinces . . . they sacked town and village, and laid waste the fields. They burned down the churches and then departed with a crowd of captives. . . . There is no longer any trade, only unceasing terror. . . . The peasant has abandoned his ravaged fields to avoid the violence of anarchy. The people have gone to cower in the depths of the forests or in inaccessible regions, or have taken refuge in the high mountains. . . . Society has no longer any government.

According to the author, what were conditions like in Europe during the 800's?

Document 2

This excerpt is from the Homage Oath taken by John of Toul.

"I, John of Toul, make known that I am the liege man of the [count and countess of Champagne]. . . . I will aid the count of Champagne in my own person, and will send to the count and countess of Champagne the knights whose service I owe to them for the fief which I hold of them. . . ."

What are the obligations John is promising to uphold?

Document 3


842 In this year there was a great slaughter in London and Quentovic and in Rochester.
846 According to their custom the Northmen plundered . . . and burned the town of Dordrecht. . . . the Northmen, with their boats filled with immense booty, including both men and goods, returned to their own country.

According to this Chronicle, what is happening at this time (842-846)?
Document 4

FEUDAL OBLIGATIONS

Vassal to lord:

Obligation:
Loyalty
Military service
Ransom, if needed

Lord to vassal:

Obligation:
Protection
Land (fief)

Explain the mutual obligations as illustrated in this diagram.

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

Document 5

A Church council calls for the observance of the Truce of God, 1083:

...That from the first day of the Advent of our Lord through Epiphany ... and throughout the year on every Sunday, Friday, and Saturday, and on the fast days of the four seasons ... this decree of peace shall be observed ... so that no one may commit murder, arson, robbery, or assault, no one may injure another with a sword, club, or any kind of weapon ... On ... every day set aside, or to be set aside, for fasts or feasts, arms may be carried, but on this condition, that no injury shall be done in any way to any one ... If it shall happen that any castle is besieged during the days which are included within this peace, the besiegers shall cease from attack unless they are set upon by the besieged and compelled to beat the latter back ...

According to this document, what is the Church trying to accomplish?

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

(continued)
DBQ 3: The Middle Ages (continued)

Document 6

This excerpt describes the Middle Ages. (From Gray C. Boyce, "The Medieval Period" in The 34th Yearbook of the National Council for the Social Studies, 1964, pp. 69–70.)

... we learn that an age once traditionally described as “dark” had remarkable vitality and exuberance. Even at its worst it performed the function of guarding, frequently by accident and chance, the knowledge and treasures of what had come before, but even more it was creative and inventive, and transmitted to later ages great riches of its own.

What functions were provided during the Middle Ages according to this author?


Document 7

This description of the positive aspects of the Middle Ages was taken from Medieval Europe by H. C. Davis, Oxford University Press, 1946, p. 79.

... Medieval culture was imperfect, was restricted to a narrow circle of superior minds. ... Measure it, however, by the memories and the achievements that it has bequeathed to the modern world, and it will be found not unworthy to rank with those of earlier and later Golden Ages. It flourished in the midst of rude surroundings, fierce passions, and material ambitions ... we must judge of them by their philosophy and law, by their poetry and architecture. ... 

How does this author describe the era?


(continued)
DBQ 3: The Middle Ages (continued)

Document 8

This excerpt is from the monastic vows of Brother Gerald.

I hereby renounce my parents, my brothers and relatives, my friends, my possessions
and the vain and empty glory and pleasure of this world. I also renounce my own will, for
the will of God. I accept all the hardships of the monastic life, and take the vows of purity,
chastity, and poverty, in the hope of heaven; and I promise to remain a monk in this monas-
tery all the days of my life.

What is Gerald promising to do when he becomes a monk?

.

Document 9

In 1095, Pope Urban II issued a call for a holy crusade—a war to recapture the Holy Land.

... Your brethren who live in the [Middle] East are in urgent need of your help.... For, as
most of you have heard, the Turks and the Arabs have attacked them and have conquered
the territory of Romania [the Byzantine Empire]. ... They have occupied more and more of
the lands of those Christians. ... They have killed and captured many, and have destroyed
the churches and devastated the Empire. ... All who die by the way, whether by land or sea,
or in battle against the pagans, shall have immediate remission of sins.

How does this call for a crusade demonstrate the power of the Pope and the Catholic Church?

(continued)
Document 10

Examine this picture of a Gothic cathedral. How does it illustrate the power of the Catholic Church?

Part B—Essay

Which labels for the Middle Ages best describe the era between 500 and 1400 in Europe: The Dark Ages, the Age of Feudalism, the Age of Faith, or the Golden Age of Europe? You must discuss three labels.