

Late Medieval Cultural Revival DBQ

Directions: Examine the documents below and answer the questions that follow.

DOC #1: IMPACT OF THE CRUSADES ON LEARNING

“During the Crusades, European contact with Muslims and Byzantines greatly expanded. This contact brought a new interest in learning, especially in the works of Greek philosophers. The Muslim and Byzantine libraries housed copies of these writings. Most had disappeared during the centuries following the fall of Rome and the invasions of western Europe. In the 1100s, Christian scholars from Europe began visiting Muslim libraries in Spain. Few Western scholars knew Greek but most did know Latin. So Jewish scholars living in Spain translated the Arabic versions of works by Aristotle and other Greek writers into Latin. All at once, Europeans acquired a huge new body of knowledge. This included science, philosophy, law, mathematics, and other fields. In addition, the Crusaders brought back to Europe superior Muslim technology in ships, navigation, and weapons.”

Source: Roger B. Beck, Linda Black et al., *World History: Patterns of Interaction*, McDougal Littell

1. How did the Crusades lead to a revival of learning?



Muslim Scholars

A number of Islamic scholars had a great influence on European thought. The image above shows Ibn Sina, known in the West as Avicenna. He was a Persian philosopher, astronomer, poet, and physician. His book, *The Cure*, an interpretation of Aristotle's philosophy, greatly affected Western thought. This work, translated into Latin, influenced the scholastics.

DOC #2: SCHOLASTICISM

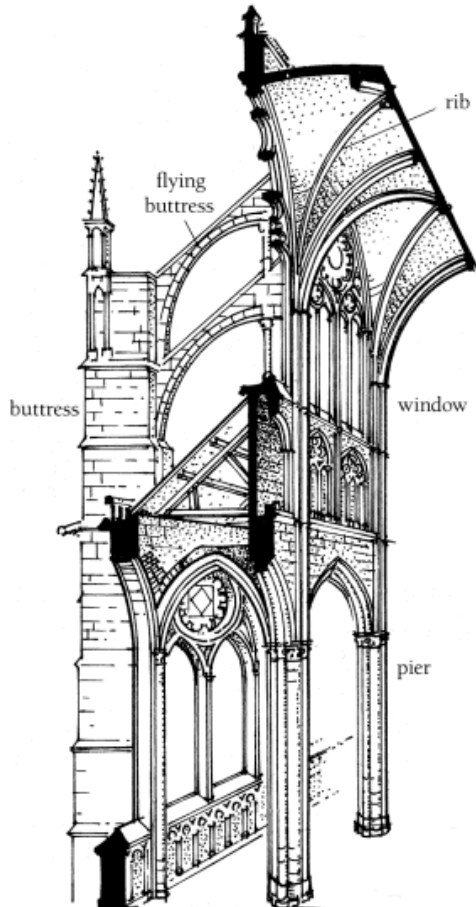
“The teachers in medieval universities included some of the greatest scholars of the age. Perhaps the most influential of all these scholars was Thomas Aquinas (uh-KWY-nuhs), a teacher at the University of Paris. Aquinas was keenly interested in the works of ancient philosophers, especially Aristotle. The revival of interest in the Greek philosophers sparked a major controversy in the church over how humans could learn about the world. Aristotle believed that truth could be discovered only through human reason. Christians, on the other hand, believed that truth was revealed by God and depended on faith. Aquinas tried to reconcile (bring together) the two approaches. He argued that both reason and faith were necessary for an understanding of truth. His approach, known as **Scholasticism**, tried to show that Christian teachings were also knowable and provable through the use of logic and reason. Thus Aquinas ensured that in western Europe human reason would remain a primary element in determining truth.”

Source: Susan Ramirez et al., *World History: Human Legacy*, Holt

2. What is scholasticism? Why do you think some Christians disagreed with Scholasticism?



DOC #3: GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE



In the Middle Ages, some of the greatest examples of the religious feelings were found in churches like Notre Dame. These churches were built in the new Gothic style. Gothic churches were both taller and brighter than earlier churches had been. The design of Gothic churches was made possible by advances in engineering. The most important of these advances was a new type of support called the flying buttress. Earlier churches had used interior columns and braces to support the roof, which meant that ceilings were low. Flying buttresses supported a church's walls from the outside, allowing much higher ceilings and largely eliminating the need for columns. This gave churches a much more [wide-open] feeling... Church builders were [also] able to include much larger windows than ever before. In order to take advantage of this light, church officials hired artists to create panels of stained glass for the windows.

Source: Susan Ramirez et al., *World History: Human Legacy*, Holt
3. What were two ways that the flying buttresses on Gothic cathedrals improved the appearance of the building?

DOC #4: VERNACULAR LITERATURE

While Latin remained the written language of scholars and churchmen, new writings began to appear in the **vernacular**, or everyday languages of ordinary people, such as French, German, and Italian. These writings captured the spirit of the High and Late Middle Ages. Medieval literature included epics, or long narrative poems, about knights and chivalry as well as tales of the common people.

Source: Elizabeth Gaynor Ellis and Anthony Esler, *World History*, Prentice Hall

4. What is vernacular? Why do you think Late Medieval writers wrote in vernacular language instead of Latin?

