

DBQ ESSAY: Mongols and Ottomans

Directions for the Essay! MUST READ!

At this point, you should have already completed the following:

- **Here Come the Mongols!** – Official and Unofficial Documents Annotated and Questions Answered
- **Istanbul was Constantinople** – Official and Unofficial Documents Annotated and Questions Answered
- **Mongol and Ottoman Task Response Organizers** – One for the Mongols and one for the Ottomans with all of your examples organized for writing your essay

With all of that done, you have pretty much all you need to write your essay! Examine the task below:

Historical Context:

For a variety of reasons, groups have set out to conquer other regions or people using various methods of force. These groups include the *Mongols*, the *Spanish*, and the *Ottoman*. Their conquests have had an impact on both the conqueror and the conquered.

Task: Using the information from the documents and your knowledge of global history, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay in which you will be asked to

Choose **two** groups engaged in conquest mentioned in the historical context and for **each**

- Explain a reason for the conquest
- Explain how the conquest was achieved
- Discuss an impact of the conquest

Since there are three bullet points in the TASK, and there are two TOPICS, there must be SIX body paragraphs. Along with introduction and conclusion, that means the essay will be EIGHT paragraphs. I know that sounds like a lot, but they do not have to be as long. It's really just a way of dividing up your essay so that it is more organized, with each paragraph addressing one bullet point each.

Since this is a DBQ essay, the most important thing is that you use, cite, and analyze information from the documents, but you should also be using outside information as well. All you need to do is go back to your organizers and combine the information from both sides of the same sheet (Mongols or Ottomans) and you have all the examples you need! If you have forgotten some of the specific rules and requirements of writing the DBQ essay, continue reading below.

Structure of the Essay Paragraphs

1. Introduction
2. Bullet One: Mongols
3. Bullet Two: Mongols
4. Bullet Three: Mongols
5. Bullet One: Ottomans
6. Bullet Two: Ottomans
7. Bullet Three: Ottomans
8. Conclusion

DBQ Essays: The Basics

- The DBQ essay is all about showing that you can analyze sources, and then use the information from those sources, along with your own outside information, to respond to the task.
- The examples you use from the documents must be cited, and cited correctly (as explained below).
- It is not enough just to repeat what the documents say. You must add your own further analysis, clearly explaining how the information from the document relates back to the task bullet point.
- Aside from the inclusion of documents, the DBQ Essay is structurally the same as the Thematic:
 - You must have an introduction and a conclusion that go beyond a restatement of the theme
 - You must address the task for one topic first, then do the same for the other, rather than jumping back and forth between topics.
 - You must be analytical and not just descriptive, meaning you must go beyond listing facts to explain the connections between events and establish cause and effect relationships.
 - You must include rich social studies vocabulary, and explain the terms you use.
 - You must avoid inappropriate tone, spelling, grammar, punctuation, and organization.
- Your DBQ essay should include citations from ALL of the documents as well as at least TWO examples of outside information for EACH topic (that means FOUR total) but you are free to include more.

How to Cite Documents

There are three parts to a perfect DBQ citation. Study the sample below (DO NOT STEAL THIS, I WILL KNOW):

Another reason why the Mongols were such successful conquerors was that they were incredibly organized. According to "From Genghis to Kublai" by Duane Damon, "Organization was the key to success of the great Mongol armies." Soldiers were given daily drills and every member of the army knew his role. (Document 2) Due to this training, the Mongols had an advantage over their enemies, who were unprepared for such a force. This allowed the Mongols to conquer even the most powerful Asian empires.

STEP ONE: Present the main point or idea you want to prove with your example from the document. That lets the reader know what you want them to understand from the document.

STEP TWO: Present information from the document with proper citation. This part also has three steps:

1. Introduce the actual source of the document in sentence form. Sources can usually be found written below the documents. Mention the title and author if both are listed. If there is no author, mention the publisher if possible. If the document is a graphic with no title, describe it.
2. Provide information from the source. If the source is text based, you can either quote directly (in quotes) or paraphrase (summarize the ideas in your own words). Short points are better for quoting, while large chunks are better for paraphrasing (The example above shows both quoting and paraphrasing). If the source is a graphic, such as a chart, a diagram, or a drawing, describe the information from the document.
3. After providing the information from the document, write the word **document** followed by the document number in parentheses.

STEP THREE: Provide your own further clarification and analysis. Explain the meaning of the example from the document if necessary, and most importantly, explain how it connects back to and proves your point (Step One) and relates to the Task (the bullet point).

Outside Information

While the documents provide many great examples that relate to the task, they never tell the whole story. You, as the student of history, must bring your own knowledge and understanding into the essay as well. Just like with the Thematic essay, you will have to go back to your textbook and class materials to gather information for writing your essay. You should look for two types of information outside the documents:

1. General information, like important dates, locations, and people, will not all be found within the document, so you should make sure you have that information to provide structure and accurate order and organization for your essay. You do not have to cite general information at all.
2. Specific outside examples, in addition to the ones mentioned in the documents, allow you to provide more support for your task, and show that you know about the topic even without documents to help you. You should cite specific examples by simply adding (OI) to the end of the sentence, which stands for outside information.