

NAME:

DATE:

CLASS:

DBQ FOCUS: Crusades



Document-Based Question Format

Directions: The following question is based on the accompanying Documents (The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.) This question is designed to test your ability to work with and understand historical documents.

Write a response that:

- Has a relevant **thesis** and **supports that thesis with evidence** from the documents.
- Cites evidence from included source perspectives.
- Analyzes the documents by grouping them in as many appropriate ways as possible. Does not simply summarize the documents individually.
- Takes into account both the sources of the documents and the author's points of view.

Historical Context: Historically, the Crusades were a series of several military campaigns, usually sanctioned by the Papacy, that took place during the 11th through 13th centuries. Originally, they were Roman Catholic endeavors to recapture the Holy Land from the Muslims. A traditional numbering scheme for the crusades gives us nine during the 11th to 13th centuries, as well as other smaller crusades that are mostly contemporaneous and unnumbered. There were frequent "minor" crusades throughout this period, not only in Palestine but also in Spain and central Europe, against not only Muslims, but also Christian heretics and personal enemies of the Papacy or other powerful monarchs. Such "crusades" continued into the 16th century, until the Renaissance and Reformation when the political and religious climate of Europe was significantly different than that of the Middle Ages.

Question

Were the Crusades caused primarily by religious devotion or by the desire for political and economic gain?

Document 1

Source: Pope Urban II, 1095.

...."Although, O sons of God, you have promised more firmly than ever to keep the peace among yourselves and to preserve the rights of the church, there remains still an important work for you to do. Freshly quickened by the divine correction, you must apply the strength of your righteousness to another matter which concerns you as well as God. For your brethren {brothers} who live in the east are in urgent need of your help, and you must hasten to give them the aid which has often been promised them. For, as the most of you have heard, the Turks and Arabs have attacked them and have conquered the territory of Romania [the Greek empire] as far west as the shore of the Mediterranean and the Hellespont, which is called the Arm of St. George. They have occupied more and more of the lands of those Christians, and have overcome them in seven battles. They have killed and captured many, and have destroyed the churches and devastated the empire. If you permit them to continue thus for awhile with impurity {not pure}, the faithful of God will be much more widely attacked by them. On this account I, or rather the Lord, beseech you as Christ's heralds to publish this everywhere and to persuade all people of whatever rank, foot-soldiers and knights, poor and rich, to carry aid promptly to those Christians and to destroy that vile {disgusting} race from the lands of our friends... Moreover, Christ commands it." All who die by the way, whether by land or by sea, or in battle against the pagans, shall have immediate remission {forgiveness} of sins. This I grant them through the power of God with which I am invested. O what a disgrace if such a despised and base race, which worships demons, should conquer a people which has the faith of omnipotent {all-powerful} God and is made glorious with the name of Christ!....

Student Analysis

Why does Pope Urban II want Christians to go to the Middle East to fight?

What reward does he give to those who respond to his appeal?

Document 2

Source: Ekkehard's Hierosolymita, a history, 1099.

"[After Urban had aroused the spirits of all by the promise of forgiveness to those who undertook the expedition with single-hearted devotion,] toward one hundred thousand men were appointed to the immediate service of God from Aquitaine and Normandy, England, Scotland, Ireland, Brittany, Galicia, Gascony, France, Flanders, Lorraine, and from other Christian peoples, whose names I no longer retain. It was truly an army of "crusaders," for they bore the sign of the cross on their garments as a reminder that they should mortify {severely discipline} the flesh, and in the hope that they would in this way triumph over the enemies of the cross of Christ, as it had once come to pass in the case of the great Constantine. Thus, through the marvelous and unexampled working of divine dispensation {release}, all these members of Christ, so different in speech, origin, and nationality, were suddenly brought together as one body through their love of Christ.

Student Analysis

What was the response all over Europe to the speech by Pope Urban II?

Document 3

Source: Unknown Source

The Crusades failed in their chief goal: the conquest of the Holy Land. They also left a bitter legacy of religious hatred behind them. In the Middle East, both Christians and Muslims committed appalling atrocities in the name of religion. In Europe, crusaders sometimes turned their fury against Jews, massacring entire communities.

Student Analysis

Why does this document call the legacy of the crusades a bitter one?

Document 4

Source: Chronicles of Fulcher of Chartres, late 11c.

Consider, I pray, and reflect how in our time God has transferred the West into the East, For we who were Occidentals now have been made Orientals. He who was a Roman or a Frank is now a Galilaean, or an inhabitant of Palestine. One who was a citizen of Rheims or of Chartres now has been made a citizen of Tyre or of Antioch. We have already forgotten the places of our birth; already they have become unknown to many of us, or, at least, are unmentioned. Some already possess here homes and servants which they have received through inheritance. Some have taken wives not merely of their own people, but Syrians, or Armenians, or even Saracens who have received the grace of baptism....Our parents and relatives from day to day come to join us, abandoning, even though reluctantly, all that they possess. For those who were poor there, here God makes rich. Those who had few coins, here possess countless besants {an ornament} ; and those who had not had a villa, here, by the gift of God, already possess a city. Therefore why should one who has found the East so favorable return to the West? God does not wish those to suffer who, carrying their crosses, have vowed to follow Him, nay even unto the end....

Student Analysis

What are the financial benefits of fighting as a Crusader?

Document 5

Source: "Legacy of the Crusades," Aramco World.

. . . Then, just as the Crusaders had been inspired at least in part by commercial motives, those 200 years of constant coming and going between East and West obviously gave trade a tremendous boost. Merchants, studying the itineraries [routes] of the cross-bearers [crusaders] who paved the way, discovered the most direct routes between eastern Mediterranean ports and the heart of Europe. Venice was a particularly active port of entry for goods imported from the Middle East and India. From there the goods traveled a well established route through the Brenner Pass, up the Rhine to Brussels and then north to the Baltic Sea. Many a town which lies along this course owes its existence to a brisk demand for exotic wares from the East by medieval Europeans. . . .

Student Analysis

What is one economic change brought about by the Crusades during the medieval period?

Document 6

Source: trans. Oliver J. Thatcher, and Edgar Holmes McNeal

"Now we hope that none of you will be slain, but we wish you to know that the kingdom of heaven will be given as a reward to those who shall be killed in this war. For the Omnipotent knows that they lost their lives fighting for the truth of the faith, for the preservation of their country, and the defense of Christians. And therefore God will give them, the reward which we have named." - Migne, Patrologia Latina

Student Analysis

What does the document suggest how European Christians felt about fighting in the Crusades?

Document 7

Source: Chronicles of Fulcher of Chartres, 1127.

"...[W]e who were Occidentals (Westerners) now have been made Orientals (Easterners). He who was a Roman or a Frank is now a Galilean or a Palestinian. One who was a citizen of Rheims or of Chartres (in France) now has been made a citizen of Tyre or of Antioch (in the Levant). We have already forgotten the places of our birth... Some already possess here homes and servants which they have received through inheritance. Some have taken wives not merely of their own people, but Syrians, or Armenians, or even Saracens who have received the grace of baptism... For those who were poor [in Europe], here God makes rich. Those who had few coins, here possess countless [coins]; and those who had not had a villa, here, by the gift of God, already possess a city. Therefore why should one who has found the East so favorable return to the West?"

Student Analysis

What is happening to those Europeans who come to fight in the Middle East?

Document 8

Source: Krey, August C. *The First Crusade: The Accounts of Eyewitnesses and Participants*. Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1921.

At the beginning of summer in the same year in which Peter, and Gottschalk, after collecting an army, had set out, there assembled a large [number] of Christians from diverse kingdoms and lands. . . . They rose in a spirit of cruelty against the Jewish people and slaughtered them without mercy; they destroyed the houses and synagogues of the Jews and divided among themselves a very large amount of money. -Albert of Aix

Student Analysis

What was the impact of Crusader occupation of the Holy Land?

Document 9

Source: The Islamic leader Saladin's speech urging his people to retake Jerusalem, 1187.

"If God blesses us by enabling us to drive His enemies out of Jerusalem, how fortunate and happy we would be! For Jerusalem has been controlled by the enemy for ninety-one years, during which time God has received nothing from us here in the way of adoration. At the same time, the zeal {devotion} of the Muslim rulers to deliver it languished {weakened}. Time passed, and so did many indifferent generations, while the Franks succeeded in rooting themselves strongly there. Now God has reserved the merit of its recovery for one house, the house of the sons of Ayyub [Saladin's family], in order to unite all hearts in appreciation of its members."

Student Analysis

What reasons did Saladin give for retaking Jerusalem?

Document 10

Source: The Perfect History by Ibn Al-Athir (Arab Muslim Historian), 1200s.

"The population was put to the sword by the Franks, who pillaged (raided) the area for a week... In Masjid alAqsa [mosque next to the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount] the Franks slaughtered more than 70,000 people, among them a large number of Imams and Muslim scholars... The Franks stripped the Dome of the Rock of more than forty silver candelabra... and a great silver lamp weighing forty-four Syrian pounds, as well as a hundred and fifty smaller silver candelabra and more than twenty gold ones, and a great deal more booty."

Student Analysis

What are the financial benefits of fighting as a Crusader?

**Generic Core-Scoring Guide for AP World History
Document-Based Question**

Basic Core: Competence	Points	Historical Thinking Skills Assessed
1. Has acceptable thesis.	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Argumentation ➤ Depending on the topic of the question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Causation • Comparison • Patterns of Continuity and Change Over Time
2. Addresses all of the documents and demonstrates understanding of all or all but one.	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Use of Historical Evidence
3. Supports thesis with appropriate evidence from all or all but one document. [Supports thesis with appropriate evidence from all but two documents.]	2 (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Argumentation ➤ Depending on the topic of the question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Causation • Comparison • Patterns of Continuity and Change Over Time
4. Analyzes point of view in at least two documents.	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Use of Historical Evidence
5. Analyzes documents by grouping them in two or three ways, depending on the question.	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Argumentation ➤ Use of Historical Evidence ➤ Depending on the topic of the question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Causation • Comparison • Patterns of Continuity and Change Over Time
6. Identifies and explains the need for one type of appropriate additional document or source.	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Argumentation ➤ Use of Historical Evidence
Subtotal	7	Essay as a whole: Synthesis
Expanded Core: Excellence	Points	Historical Thinking Skills Assessed
Expands beyond basic core of 1–7 points. A student must earn 7 points in the basic core area before earning points in the expanded core area. Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Has a clear, analytical, and comprehensive thesis. ➤ Shows careful and insightful analysis of the documents. ➤ Uses documents persuasively as evidence. ➤ Analyzes point of view in most or all documents. ➤ Analyzes the documents in additional ways — groupings, comparisons, syntheses. ➤ Brings in relevant “outside” historical content. ➤ Explains why additional types of document(s) or sources are needed. 	0–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Same skills as noted in basic core ➤ Other historical thinking skills may be demonstrated depending on the question and the documents
Subtotal	2	
TOTAL	9	

TOTAL POINTS BASIC CORE	
TOTAL POINTS EXPANDED CORE	
TOTAL POINTS EARNED	
FINAL GRADE	

RUBRIC	PERCENT	POINTS
9	100	50
8	95	48
7	90	45
6	85	43
5	80	40
4	75	38
3	70	35
2	65	33
1	60	30
0	0	0

Comments: