SSWH9: ANALYZE CHANGE AND CONTINUITY IN THE RENAISSANCE AND REFORMATION

ELEMENT A: EXPLAIN THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL CHANGES THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE RISE OF FLORENCE.
Students will be expected to explain the cultural, intellectual, economic, and political changes that occurred during the European Renaissance and Reformation.

Attention should be placed on how these changes contributed to the development of the modern culture of Europe and America.

- Students should also note that some elements of European culture did not change despite the intellectual flowering and religious upheaval of the era.
RISE OF FLORENCE’S POLITICS

- Several factors combined to spur the growth of towns in Northern Italy.
  - First the Crusades and later the growth of the Mongol Empire fostered long-distance trade and outbreak of plague drove up wages and created a demand for labor.
  - Florence benefitted from these developments growing into an important center for the manufacture of wool cloth in the 1300s.
- During this period, Florence was an independent city-state with a republican form of government.
  - The republic was controlled by wealthy merchants and artisans making it an ideal place to do business.
RISE OF FLORENCE’S ECONOMICS

- Guilds regulated trade and manufacturing to ensure economic benefit and limited risk for members.
  - Political independence and guild regulation fostered continued growth resulting in Florence becoming a major financial center in the 1400s.
- The development of the financial institutions of Florence was orchestrated by the Medici family who established a bank in Florence with branches in Flanders, London and other cities of Italy.
  - The Medici bank made major advances in financial services including checking accounts and lending.
  - Florence also saw the development of shareholding companies in this period.
  - All of these factors contributed to the accumulation of vast wealth by many of the citizens of Florence.
RISE OF FLORENCE’S ECONOMICS

- The wealthiest of all was Cosimo de Medici who used his wealth and control of the banking industry to take control of the government.
  - While Cosimo de Medici maintained the appearance of a republic he ruled Florence as a dictator.
  - This continued under his son Lorenzo de Medici.
  - Under Medici leadership, Florence continued to thrive as a center of commerce.
    - The vast wealth held by the residents of Florence funded major cultural developments in art and architecture.
ELEMENT B: IDENTIFY ARTISTIC AND SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE RENAISSANCE.
During the Medieval period sculpture and painting were considered the work of tradesman.
- Most of the work was commissioned by the church and was limited to the depiction of scenes from the bible.
- The techniques used were generally very rudimentary leading to the production of painting and sculptures that were fairly simple and relied heavily on symbolism to convey their meaning.

This pattern changed with the Renaissance which started in Italy and later spread to Northern Europe.
- Wealthy patrons in Italy willing to pay for high quality works inspired a new approach to the arts.
  - Artist like Botticelli, Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci found inspiration in the Greek and Roman use of realism and approached the visual arts as an intellectual pursuit.
  - This new approach led to major advances in techniques like the use of perspective and shading.
    - Highly realistic paintings like da Vinci’s *Mona Lisa* and Raphael’s *School of Athens* conveyed human emotion, movement, and space in a way that had never been done before.
    - In sculpture, Michelangelo’s *David* depicted muscle tone, bone structure and emotion in marble.
LITERARY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE RENAISSANCE

- Literature also took a turn to the realistic.
  - Authors like Boccaccio, Petrarch, and Shakespeare wrote stories steeped in human emotion.
  - Authors began to move away from the tradition of writing in Latin and instead chose the much more accessible vernacular of their homes.
This period also saw advances in other intellectual pursuits.

- In the eleventh century, Greek manuscripts were reintroduced to Europe.
- Much of this work had been lost in Europe after the fall of Rome but it was preserved and built upon in the Arab world.
- When this work was reintroduced to Europe and translated into Latin it inspired European intellectuals to pursue studies in mathematics, medicine, geography and science.

A renewed interest in scientific inquiry led to the growth of colleges in the 1200s and the development of modern universities in the 1300s.
ELEMENT C: EXPLAIN THE MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF HUMANISM.
HUMANISM

- Medieval European intellectual life was dominated by the study of the bible and the pursuit of salvation.

- While intellectuals of the Renaissance remained devotedly Catholic a new intellectual movement encouraged individuals to also pursue secular concerns.

- The Humanist argued that the faithful could live an enjoyable life full of worldly pleasures without offending God.
  - Humanism was inspired by the Greek classics and focused on the study of history, literature, and philosophy (called the Humanities).
  - The movement idealized intellectual curiosity and versatility and celebrated human potential and achievement.

HUMANISM in a nutshell

1. Putting human beings and other living things at the centre of your moral outlook

2. Seeing the world as a natural place and looking to science and reason to make sense of it

3. Promoting and supporting human flourishing across all frontiers, and championing human rights for everyone