

**AP<sup>®</sup> EUROPEAN HISTORY**  
**2006 SCORING GUIDELINES (Form B)**

**Question 5**

How and to what extent did the methods and ideals of Renaissance humanism contribute to the Protestant Reformation?

**9–6: Stronger**

These essays will illustrate the following qualities with varying degrees of effectiveness.

- Has a clear, well-developed thesis.
- Is well organized.
- Supports the thesis with specific evidence.
- May contain minor errors; even a 9 need not be flawless.

*Indicators of 9–8*

- Discusses BOTH methods and ideals of Renaissance humanism and clearly establishes their impact on the Protestant Reformation.
- Includes specific analytical examples that indicate a knowledge of both the methods and ideals of humanism.

*Indicators of 7–6*

- Discusses both methods and ideals but is less balanced in approach.
- Makes basic connections between humanism and the Reformation.

**5–4: Mixed**

- Contains a thesis, perhaps superficial or simplistic.
- Responds to the question unevenly: task(s), evidence, chronology.
- May contain errors, factual and/or interpretive.

*Indicators of 5–4*

- Mentions both methods and ideals of humanism but develops only one sufficiently.
- May conflate the terms, methods, and ideals.
- Offers fewer examples connecting the Renaissance to the Reformation.
- May be imprecise or very generalized with little analytical clarity.

**3–0: Weaker**

These essays demonstrate the following qualities to varying degrees.

- Thesis is confused, unfocused, or absent, or restates the question.
- Misconstrues the question, or omits major tasks.
- May contain major errors.

*Indicators of 3–2*

- Makes minimal connection between the Renaissance and the Reformation or humanism.
- Focuses almost solely on the Renaissance or the Reformation.

*Indicators of 0–1*

- May attempt to address the question but fails to do so.
- Is off task or may contain serious errors.
- Is lacking in connection between the two movements.

Humanism, a current of literary thought that originated with the Renaissance movement in Italy, in many ways can be called mother and father <sup>to</sup> of the Protestant Reformation. While direct ties are not readily apparent, the relationship becomes clearer once we examine the ~~examples~~ <sup>ideas of the humanists</sup> the ideals of humanism and the examples set forth that encouraged ~~the young~~ Martin Luther and contributed greatly to the Protestant movement.

First of all, humanists were, first and foremost, concerned with human beings. In their pursuit of ancient Latin texts, humanists such as Pico della Mirandola extolled the human being as something between "angels and beasts", created in God's own image and therefore destined to do great things. Arguably, this influenced the <sup>Protestant</sup> idea of man's special relationship with God sans intermediaries: every human being, possessing a soul, could communicate with the Creator directly. Luther's declaration that "all vocations have equal merit" (often attributed to Calvinism) could be inspired from the humanist belief that a human being was his own master, and should strive to attain in the secular world what he could. While borrowing from individualism, this particular note is also characteristic of humanism, especially in Italy.

Second of all, ~~since~~ <sup>since</sup> any movement is fueled by its participants, the writings of humanist scholars contributed much to the thought of the period. Lorenzo Valla, in his "False Donation of Constantine", proved an ancient document false and questioned the honesty of the church in its claims. Erasmus and More were both deeply dissatisfied by the degradation and

moral corruption of the Catholic Church, which Erasmus chastised in his "Praise of Folly"; Erasmus and Luther even enjoyed correspondence, agreeing on several issues but ultimately separating over the question of the future course of action. The infallibility of the Church was threatened, and Luther found cracks in the mighty mantle that he'd attack during his lifetime; the battle would begin at the Diet of Worms, 1521.

Thirdly, humanism was an international movement that possessed a ~~at~~ certain level of cohesion that helped ideas travel between countries. Specifically, humanism's focus on beautiful language, started by Petrarch, and its encouragement of education and reading, as exemplified by the ideas of Northern ("Christian") humanists created an audience receptive to Luther's pleas. The advent of the printing press and literacy was a monumental event that would ensure Lutheranism's rapid spread across the Holy Roman Empire. Many ministers, hired by local merchants and princes to administer high-quality sermons to the populace, were humanists themselves, sharing their disdain for the corruption in the Church and seeking reform. Luther's mastery of the German language pleased both the philosopher and the aesthete, and his message was transmitted to the people via the -humanist- ministers.

Lastly, humanism's focus on reading and understanding the original texts, as opposed to second-hand accounts that dominated medieval scholasticism, paved way for the greatest and most radical ideas of Protestantism: the idea that the sole religious authority lay in the Scriptures, and that the Pope was an unnecessary intermediary standing between man and God. This Luther borrowed from humanism; he also borrowed <sup>Northern</sup> humanism's love

# 5

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

5-A3

for the vernacular and the idea that the Bible should be translated for the common people: by reading the scriptures and not their interpretation in a language they could understand, people could discover and reaffirm their inner faith.

In both example and in principle, the Protestant Reformation borrowed heavily from the humanist movement. Without <sup>the</sup> humanists' dissatisfaction with the state of the contemporary Catholic institutions, Luther would not have found many <sup>educated</sup> supporters: the common people were living a highly religious life, after all, and the nobility benefited from the state of the church. The Protestant Reformation drew many ideas and was encouraged by the example set forth by both Northern and Italian humanists.

#5

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

5-B1

With the introduction of new thought during the seventeenth century directly led to the Protestant Reformation. A ~~focus~~ focus of other aspects of the world led to the questioning of old ideas and introduced new thought throughout Europe. Skepticism began as Renaissance thinkers began to doubt the teachings of the church and their importance to various people.

Humanism called for people to recognize the various accomplishments of the world and to revert to previous scholars such as Greek and Latin for answers about civilization. People began to question the purpose of the churches teachings and the validity of the interpretation of scripture. The focus was strayed away from the Catholic faith as people began to focus more about worldly aspects. Humanists such as Machiavelli glorified the creation of a unified nation through reform and conquering. Means of reform began to spread and were applied to the Catholic faith.

As skepticism began to flow throughout Europe, Martin Luther created the revolutionary Protestant religion. His teachings on the basis of Protestantism went against the Catholic church as a means of creating reform. Corruption within the church led to the cause of a new religion that did not create

strict rules to enter heaven. Humanism started as a flow of new ideals and began to spread to the various aspects of society. Martin Luther's Protestant Reformation created the flow of new ideas and caused Luther to look to the scriptures for guidance ~~is~~ just as the Humanists did for the ancient philosophers. Luther went against the traditional values of the church to create a religion based upon the teachings of the scriptures.

Both Humanism and the Protestant Reformation were reactions against the tradition values established by the church. Going against the traditions due to skepticism allowed new concepts to be established which glorified change and demanded the introduction of the vernacular. Humanism and the Protestant Reformation swept across seventeenth century Europe, creating the basis for new ideas to be established that would dramatically effect the continent.

## Question 5

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

5-C1

The ideals of Renaissance humanism contributed to the Protestant Reformation based on its efficiency, on the importance of the basics of religion.

Humanism ~~took~~ started a great change in the church because it was one of the first movements questioning the validity of the papacy. Humanism believed in the importance of referring to historical religious text and not the lower ranks of the church. Humanism was the start of the Protestant Reformation because it embodied most of reforms that started the Reformation.

The famous Humanist Desiderius Erasmus wrote about the other views of humanism such as the equality of women. But the major role humanism played to the Protestant Reformation was the idea of returning to the basics of religion, such as the Bible instead of all the other parts like the buying of indulgences. Humanism believed in education based on historical teachings. Humanism caused many people to think about the ways of the Church.

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

Question 5/C2

and this ultimately lead to the reformation of the church.

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**2006 SCORING COMMENTARY (Form B)**

**Question 5**

**Sample: 5A**

**Score: 8**

The thesis is in the conclusion of the essay and is supported by a myriad of factual evidence. Each paragraph uses specifics to clarify ideals and/or methods of Renaissance Humanism and then specifically links these facts to Reformation developments. Multitudes of factual support are provided.

**Sample: 5B**

**Score: 4**

A good thesis is in the concluding paragraph, but there is no differentiation between ideals and methods. Skepticism is the only concept that is linked to Protestantism.

**Sample: 5C**

**Score: 2**

The last sentence here is the closest the essay comes to having a thesis and providing correct connections between Humanism and the Reformation. Other statements are very broad, unconnected, or incorrect.