

AP European History Chapter/Section Notetaking Guidelines
Mr. Gipson: 2021-2022 School Year

Directions: In preparation for your work in the AP European History course for the upcoming school-year, you will be assigned to read chapters one and two of our textbook, *The Western Heritage Since 1300* by Donald Kagan, 12th edition during the summer. Along with the assigned reading, students are required to complete **handwritten** notes for each section of the chapters. One to two **detailed** pages of notes per section are highly recommended. Students may use the note-taking format/method of their choice (e.g. Cornell, outline, etc.) so long as they follow the specifications above and include the essential elements discussed below. In addition to the assigned readings, **students are required to answer at least three (3) of the essay questions of their choice (see below).** Essay question responses must be 8-10 sentences in length, cite supporting historical evidence from the text, and observe formal writing expectations using proper punctuation, grammar, spelling, etc. Chapters one and two readings, student notes and selected short essay responses are due **Wednesday August 25, 2021** and will constitute approximately **5-10%** of the student's overall grade in the course for the Fall semester. Students may expect a substantial open-note reading quiz over the summer material during the first week of classes next year.

General Guidelines for Notetaking in Historical Studies:

- Identify major persons and be able to explain their achievements to the time and culture in which they lived.
- Identify major philosophical, religious, and other intellectual concepts which developed in a given historical period and discuss how they influenced the way people of that time and place lived.
- Discuss key historical events which resulted in significant changes to or transitions in human society (Examples: new discoveries (scientific, technological, geographic, etc.); warfare, disasters (climate events, famine, disease outbreak, etc.)
- Politics and Government: How was government power distributed in a historic society? Was there a system of hierarchy? What kind of government structures operated in a given place and time (examples: feudalism, absolute monarchy, democracy).
- Economics: What systems of currency, trade, and commerce existed in this historical period?
- Creativity and Culture: What were the famous works of art (paintings, sculpture, etc.), musical compositions, works of literature (e.g. poetry), essays, treatises, books, etc. that were produced?
- Chronology: Essential to the study of any historical period is an accurate understanding of what happened when, where, how and why and to whom. Make sure your notes are organized in the appropriate historical order of events and developments with specific dating included.
- Source Materials: Be sure to identify, list and briefly describe important historical documents (aka primary sources), works of art, literature, music, etc.

Assigned Chapters for Summer Reading: (see links for pdf from *Western Heritage* by Kagan)

Chapter 1: Review and Survey of Medieval Europe (c. 1300-1450 CE)

Chapter 2: Renaissance and Discovery (c. 1375-1527 CE)

Selected Essay Question Choices:

Chapter 1: Medieval Europe (Answer at least 1)

- 1.) *What were the political, social and economic consequences of the Black Death?*
- 2.) *How did the Hundred Years' War contribute to a growing sense of national identity in France and England?*
- 3.) *How did secular rulers challenge papal authority in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries?*

Chapter 2: Renaissance and Discovery (Answer at least 2)

- 1.) *How did humanism affect culture and the arts in fourteenth and fifteenth century Italy? Include at least two specific examples.*
- 2.) *How were the powerful monarchies of northern Europe different from their predecessors?*
- 3.) *What were the motives for European voyages of discovery and what were their consequences?*