**Effects of the Black Plague on Europe**

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**I. Introduction**

The Black Death was one of the worst epidemics in human history. In the 14th century, at least 75 million people on three continents died due to the painful, highly contagious disease. In Europe’s cities, hundreds died daily and their bodies were usually thrown into mass graves. The plague devastated towns, rural communities, families, and religious institutions.

**DIRECTIONS: Read the following information and highlight or underline the effects the Black Death had on Europe. Also circle words that you do not understand. Then complete the essay template with the information that you have.**

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| **1. Social Effects (effects on the people of Europe):**In Europe, about one third (1/3 or 33%) of the population died. About 25 million people died in Europe from 1347 to 1351 (just 4 years!) Some areas suffered a lot, while others suffered very little. For example, in Florence (a city in Italy), up to 75% of people in that city died in only one year. However, the population of large cities recovered (became bigger again) very quickly.  |

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| **2. Political Effects (effects on government)**Many people in Europe stopped trusting their leaders. Before the Plague, the people of Europe believed that their leaders were so powerful that they could make the Plague stop. The people of Europe were losing their faith in the kings, lords and local leaders of Europe. In cities and towns, governments were completely wiped out. Whole families of government officials died and as a result, daily government activities completely stopped. |

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| **3. Economic Effects (effects on money)**At first, the price of everything was cheap. Very few people cared about money at that time because they were more worried about catching the plague and dying. A man could buy a horse or a cow for half the price they paid before the plague hit Europe. Nobody ate the food that was growing in the fields – there was uneaten, rotting food everywhere. Nobody could find peasants to work on the fields. Before the plague, the peasants would do their work for very little without complaining. After the plague, they could complain about their very low wages (salaries) and charge more money for their labor. |

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| **4. Religious Effects (effect on the church)**During the Bubonic Plague, people turned to the Roman Catholic Church to help them from the horrors of the terrible disease. Since the Roman Catholic Church couldn’t do anything to stop the plague, people started losing faith, and the Church’s power began to decrease. |

 The effects of the plague lasted for many years. The economic, social, and political effects of the plague were enormous. The plague was responsible for wiping out at least one-third of the population of Europe as well as millions in Asia. The Black Death was a natural disaster that had **positive/negative (circle one)** effects on the people of Europe.

 The Black Death had many **positive/negative (circle one)** on Europe. One effect of the plague was **(state effect)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This effect was **positive/negative (circle one)** on Europe because **(explain the effect in** **detail 2-3 sentences)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This effect was **positive/negative (circle one)** because **(explain the effect)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **EXCELLENT*** Argues a side accurately using relevant information in the written statement that demonstrates a clear and detailed understanding of the effects of the Black Death.
* Accurately and clearly gives details counter arguing the effects of the Black Death..
* Uses key words accurately.
* Product is creative, accurate, and complete.
 |  **GOOD*** Argues a side using relevant information in the written statement that demonstrates an understanding of the effects of the Black Death.
* Has a counter argument about the effects of the Black Death.
* Uses key words in which most are accurately used.
* Product is complete and creative
 | **SATISFACTORY*** Argues a side
* Uses supporting details that are relevant, but limited, general, or inconsistent in the written statement about the effects of the Black Death.
* Counter argument about the effects of the Black Death is unclear.
* Does not use key words and/or does not display a clear understanding of the definition.
* Product is complete.
 | **UNSATISFACTORY** * Does not argue a side and or does not argue a side accurately.
* There are minimal details and/or details given are not accurate about the effects of the Black Death.
* Does not accurately present a counter argument.
* Key words are not used or inaccurate.
* Product is incomplete
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