**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Band: \_\_\_\_\_**

**What led to the Renaissance?**

**DIRECTIONS: Actively read the documents below. Label where you see the following enduring issues this best associates with is (check all that apply):**

* **CHANGE (CH)**
* **CONFLICT (CON)**
* **POWER (P)**
* **TECHNOLOGY (T)**

**Then list and explain *THREE HISTORICAL CIRSCUMSTANCES* that led to the Renaissance.**

**Historic Context:**

The Black Death epidemic change Europe dramatically. The rapid spread of disease killed 1/3 of the population (about 24 million people). In Europe, the plague brought terror and confusion, as people had no way to stop the disease. The Roman Catholic Church, which controlled all the spiritual and secular life of people during the Medieval Ages, could not provide answers as to why the Black Death killed so many people. It brought spiritual crisis, scandal, and division to the Roman Catholic Church. Many priests and monks died during the plague and their replacement faced challenging questions from survivors of the Black Death who asked, “Why did God spare some and kill others?” Also, kings and other leaders could not protect people against the Black Death. Many witnessed their close friends, family, and neighbors die painful deaths. As a result, people in Europe began to question their leaders. Because the church and feudal leaders could not provide the answers, the church and leaders were no longer looked up to. Those who survived wanted to celebrate life and the human spirit. People began looking for their own answers to questions, such as “Why God had allowed the plague?” or “Why God made Europe become such a chaotic place in the world”? Thinkers and educated elitists (rich) began to search for answers for their own thinking that was outside of approved church doctrine (guidelines/rules). The inability of the church to control entire education, thinking, and published works began to weaken the power and control the Church had over European society.

**DOCUMENT 1:**

*The plague had large scale social and economic effects...People abandoned their friends and family, fled cities, and shut themselves off from the world. Funeral rites became perfunctory [useless] or stopped altogether, and work ceased [stopped] being done. Some felt that the wrath [anger] of God was descending upon man, and so fought the plague with prayer. Some felt that they should obey the maxim [saying], “Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow you may die.” The society experienced an upheaval [mayhem/disturbance] to an extent usually only seen in controlled circumstances such as carnival [festival]. Faith in religion decreased after the plague, both because of the death of so many of the clergy and because of the failure of prayer to prevent sickness and death…* -:“Plague,” Decameron Web, Brown University (adapted)

**DOCUMENT 2:**

*When the Black Death swept over Europe and wiped out a third of its population, it also dismantled [destroyed] Feudalism. Serfs were free to leave the lands of the lords to seek higher wages with the vast labour shortages. The land that had usually been the primary source of wealth was now worthless. Entire estates were deserted as families fell to the plague and died, or fled in a vain attempt to escape its fury, were there for the taking. As Europe evolved away from relying on land as the main source of prosperity, a rising middle-class claimed more and more wealth and prestige, as the once-noble began to quickly lose both. –The Black Death (part 2): History and how it affected Feudalism, Christina Vunguyen,* 2011

**DOCUMENT 3:**

*“In addition to the feudal states that the crusaders set up along the Syrian and Palestinian coasts, which managed to survive for about two centuries before the Muslims reconquered them, the crusaders left in the Middle East a legacy that continue to resonate… European merchants, primarily Italians, had established communities in the crusader states. After those kingdoms collapsed, Muslim rulers still encouraged trade with European businessmen. Commerce with the West benefited both Muslims and Europeans, and it continued to flourish.”*

**The Renaissance begins:**

Due to these events, in Europe, people began to reject the values of society in the Medieval Ages and a new period began. This period was called the ***Renaissance***, meaning “rebirth.” This time in Europe was the “rebirth” of learning and rediscovery of old ideas of the Greeks and Romans which were left behind or forgotten in the Medieval Ages. The Renaissance was a time when Europeans began to question old values and explore the world around them. It was an age of adventure and curiosity. The Renaissance produced new attitudes towards culture and learning. Unlike medieval scholars, who were more likely to focus on life after death, Renaissance thinkers explored the richness and variety of human experience in the here and now (present time). The Renaissance was reentrance into the *secular* world instead of the religion. People began to inquire (ask questions) and become self-reliant. The Renaissance also emphasized individual achievement—The Renaissance ideal was the person with talent in many fields.

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Band: \_\_\_\_\_**

**What led to the Renaissance?**

**DIRECTIONS: After reading the information and documents, explain *THREE HISTORICAL CIRSCUMSTANCES* that led to the Renaissance. Then choose the enduring issue(s) that best associate with this reading.**

There were several historical circumstances that led to the Renaissance. One historical circumstance that took place during the medieval era that led to this new time period of the Renaissance was **(STATE and EXPLAIN a cause that led to the Renaissance) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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A second historical circumstance that took place during the medieval era that led to this new time period of the Renaissance was **(STATE and EXPLAIN a cause that led to the Renaissance) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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A third historical circumstance that took place during the medieval era that led to this new time period of the Renaissance was **(STATE and EXPLAIN a cause that led to the Renaissance) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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As a result, the Renaissance emerged, which was a time period that **(define the time period of the Renaissance)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**The enduring issue this best associates with is (check all that apply):**

* **CHANGE**
* **CONFLICT**
* **POWER**
* **TECHNOLOGY**