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

**Renaissance Men & Renaissance Women—The Perfect Courtier**



**DIRECTIONS: Actively read quotes from *The Courtier*, which addresses the expectations of a “Renaissance man” and “Renaissance women”. 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)**

***Baldasare Castiglione****, was an Italian courtier, diplomat, soldier and a very prominent Renaissance author. In 1528, the year before his death, Baldassare was inspired to write* the Book of the Courtier *by his experiences as a courtier. Thanks to the printing press, it was the most widely distributed books of the 16th century, with editions printed in six languages and in twenty European centers. It describes the ideal court and courtier. The renaissance court consisted of a ruler’s servants, advisors, nobles and foreign dignitaries. Court life revolved around the monarch or prince it served, and for Renaissance nobles the best way to advance in their career was to gain the ruler’s favourable attention.* ***The Book of the Courtier*** *defined the ideal Renaissance gentleman and a perfect lady. In the Middle Ages, the perfect gentleman was a chivalrous knight who distinguished himself by his prowess on the battlefield. They also focused on mastering only one subject. Castiglione's book changed that; now the perfect gentleman had to be educated in the classics as well. During the Renaissance,* The *Book of the Courtier* was *the ultimate “How To be a Perfect Renaissance Man for Dummies” handbook, and To this day, The Book of the Courtier remains the definitive account of Renaissance court life. Because of this, it may possibly be considered one of the most important of Renaissance works.*

1. **What was the *purpose* of *The Book of the Courtier*?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. **What similarities or differences were there in men from the Middle Ages to those of men from the Renaissance? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**Excerpt from *The Book of the Courtier*:**

…To come, therefore, to the quality of the man, I say he is well if he be neither of the least nor of the greatest size… And therefore will have him to be of a good shape, and well-proportioned in his limbs, and to show strength, lightness, and quickness, and to have understanding in all exercises of the body that belong to a man of war. And herein I think the chief point is to handle well all kind of weapon both for man and horseman, and to know the vantages in it…

…And of them me think {I think} hunting is one of the chiefest (most important), for it hath{has} a certain likeness with war, and truly a pastime for great men, and fit for one living in court… it is meet {fitting} for him also to have the art of swimming, to leap, to run, to cast the stone; for besides the benefit that he may receive of this in the wars, it also gives to him many opportunities to prove to himself how successful he is in such things, whereby he getteth him {earns himself} a good reputation among the other nobles… Also it is a noble exercise and fitting for one living in court to play at tennis, where the disposition (use) of the body, the quickness and nimbleness of every limb can be seen….

1. **What was Castiglione’s purpose in this excerpt (inform, persuade, entertain) EXPLAIN ?**

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1. **Why did Castiglione feel that a courtier should engage in such activities as hunting and swimming ?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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The Renaissance Woman, according to *The Courtier*, upper-class women also should know the classics and be charming.

*Excerpt from The Courtier on the Renaissance Woman:*

“…To be well born and of a good house. To flee affectation (not be showy) or curiosity. To have all good grace in all her doings. To be of good conditions and well brought up…Not to be haughty (proud), envious, ill tongue, light, contentious (argumentative)….not to mingle with sad matters…to have the understanding being married, how to order her husband’s substance, her house and children, and to play to good housewife…to be learned…to draw and paint…to dance…”

1. **What is Castiglione’s *perspective* on how a Renaissance woman should behave?**

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

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