

Part III

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

This question is based on the accompanying documents. The question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of these documents have been edited for the purposes of this question. As you analyze the documents, take into account the source of each document and any point of view that may be presented in the document.

**Historical Context:**

Throughout history, autocratic leaders have exercised authority over their countries and the lives of their people. The actions of autocratic leaders have both helped and hurt their countries and their peoples. Examples of such leaders include *Emperor Shi Huangdi*, *Czar Peter the Great*, and *King Louis XIV*.

**Task:** Using the information from the documents and your knowledge of global history, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay in which you will be asked to

Select *two* leaders mentioned in the historical context and for *each*

- Describe actions taken by the leader that show this individual was an autocrat
- Discuss the extent to which this leader's use of autocratic power helped *and/or* hurt his country or his people

In developing your answers to Part III, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

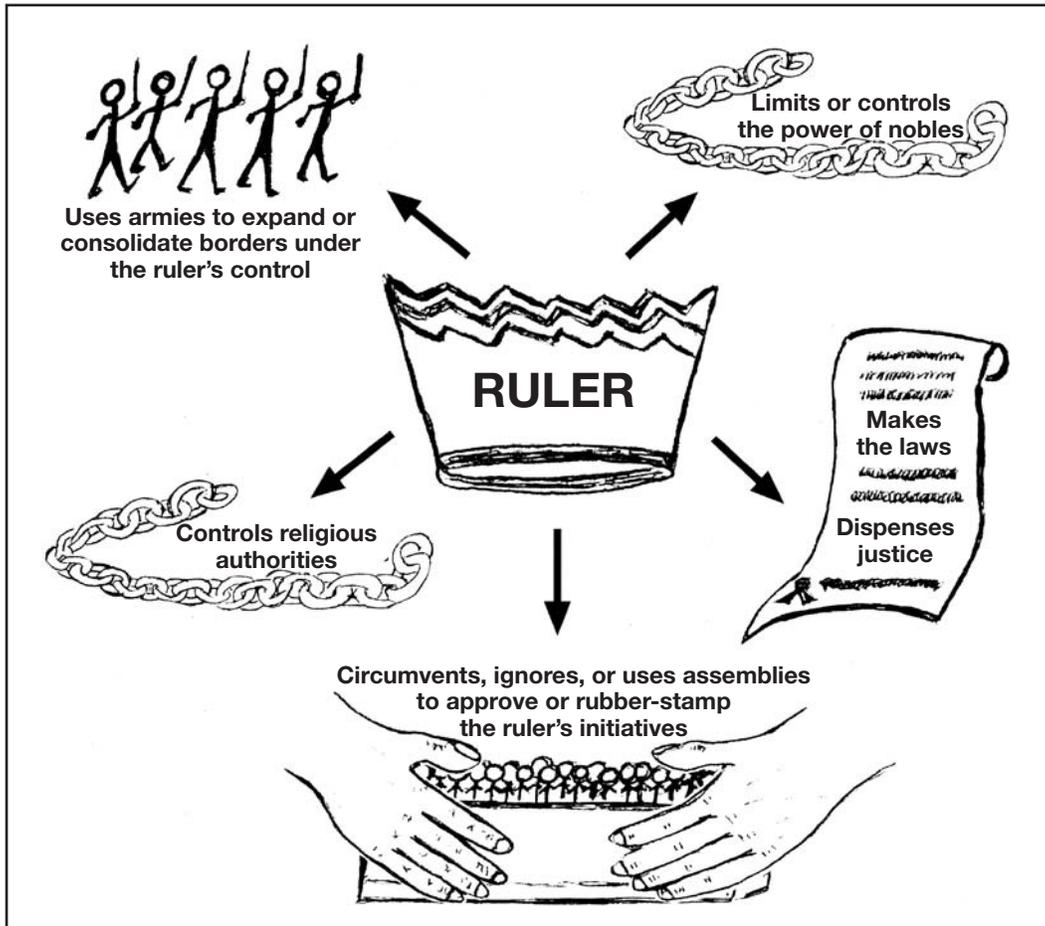
- (a) describe means "to illustrate something in words or tell about it"
- (b) discuss means "to make observations about something using facts, reasoning, and argument; to present in some detail"

**Part A**  
**Short-Answer Questions**

*Directions:* Analyze the documents and answer the short-answer questions that follow each document in the space provided.

**Document 1**

**Some Characteristics of an Autocrat**



1 Based on the characteristics shown in this document, what is the **overall** goal of an autocrat? [1]

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Score

## Document 2

Shi Huangdi, first emperor of the Qin dynasty, used warfare to weaken six of the seven warring states. His efforts to unify China led to the consolidation of his power.

... The Qin [under Shi Huangdi] made many changes that were meant to unify China and aid in administrative tasks. First, the Qin implemented a Legalist form of government, which was how the former Qin territory had been governed. The area was divided up in 36 commanderies which were then subdivided into counties. These commanderies had a civil governor, a military commander, and an imperial inspector. The leaders of the commanderies had to report to the Emperor in writing. The Legalist form of government involved rewards and punishments to keep order. Also, the state had absolute control over the people, and the former nobility lost all of their power. The nobility were also transplanted from their homes to the capital. Groups were formed of units of five to ten families, which then had a group responsibility for the wrongdoings of any individual within the group. ...

Source: "Qin Dynasty," EMuseum, Minnesota State University at Mankato

2 Based on this EMuseum document, what were **two** ways the Qin under Shi Huangdi attempted to control China? [2]

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

Score

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

Score

### Document 3a

... His [Shi Huangdi's] most significant reforms were to standardise Chinese script [writing], weights and measures and even the length of cart axles so that every cart could run smoothly in the ruts. An extensive new network of roads and canals improved trade and the movement of troops between provinces....

Source: "The Emperor with an ego big enough for all time," *Timesonline*

3a Based on this document, what was **one** way Shi Huangdi's actions helped China? [1]

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Score

### Document 3b

Li Si was a strong supporter of legalism and served as the Grand Counselor to Emperor Shi Huangdi. In this passage, Li Si is responding to a scholar who has challenged the Emperor's movement away from traditional values.

... "I humbly propose that all historical records but those of Chin [Qin] be burned. If anyone who is not a court scholar dares to keep the ancient songs, historical records or writings of the hundred schools, these should be confiscated and burned by the provincial governor and army commander. Those who in conversation dare to quote the old songs and records should be publicly executed; those who use old precedents [examples] to oppose the new order should have their families wiped out; and officers who know of such cases but fail to report them should be punished in the same way.

"If thirty days after the issuing of this order the owners of these books have still not had them destroyed, they should have their faces tattooed and be condemned to hard labour at the Great Wall. The only books which need not be destroyed are those dealing with medicine, divination and agriculture. Those who want to study the law can learn it from the officers." The emperor sanctioned this proposal....

Source: Szuma Chien, *Records of the Historian*, The Commercial Press

3b According to Li Si's proposal, what was **one** way Shi Huangdi could control the people of China? [1]

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Score

## Document 4

... On August 8, 1700, Peter made his historic decision to declare war on Sweden, in order to open a road\* from Russia to the West by the conquest of the Baltic littoral [coastal region]. He had secured the collaboration of Poland and Denmark, but his alliance with these two rivals of Sweden was to prove ineffectual. With nothing to rely on but his own forces, Peter was defeated at Narva by the valiant Swedish King, Charles XII. Refusing to be discouraged by this defeat, Peter raised and equipped new armies; he put immense effort into creating a good artillery; he worked with his own hands on the construction of the frigates [ships] that were to give him mastery of the Baltic. Then his disciplined and well-trained regiments seized the mouth of the Neva [River] and entrenched themselves along the coveted [desired] littoral. On June 27, 1709, in a battle at Poltava, he put his great adversary, Charles XII, to flight...

Source: Constantine de Grunwald, "A Window on the West," in Christopher Hibbert, ed., *The Pen and the Sword*, Newsweek Books (adapted)

\*road: a place less enclosed than a harbor where ships may ride at anchor

4a According to Constantine de Grunwald, what was Peter the Great hoping to accomplish with his war on Sweden? [1]

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Score

b According to Constantine de Grunwald, what was **one** action taken by Peter the Great to overcome his defeat at Narva? [1]

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Score

## Document 5

... In 1722 the establishment of the Table of Ranks brought to its logical conclusion a process that had been evolving for three centuries. It imposed obligatory lifelong state service on all ranks of the nobility. It established fourteen equivalent grades in the military, naval, and civil service and required that even princes of the most exalted families should begin at the lowest grade and work their way up the ladder. The Table of Ranks offered the privileges of nobility to anyone who performed state service and made service to the state the principal basis for privilege....

Source: Peter Brock Putnam, *Peter, The Revolutionary Tsar*, Harper & Row, Publishers

- 5 According to Peter Brock Putnam, in what way did the introduction of the Table of Ranks attempt to reduce the influence of the old aristocracy? [1]

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Score

## Document 6

... How great an effect did Peter have upon Russia? When he came to the throne, Russia was an insignificant state. He made it into a great power feared by all. At his accession [assumption of the throne] Russia had no armed forces except for the inefficient and untrustworthy Streltsy [hereditary military units]. When he died, there was a professional army of 210,000 men. He created a navy out of nothing, leaving behind him a fleet of forty-eight ships-of-the-line and many smaller vessels...

Peter signally [noticeably] failed to create the large, thriving middle class that Russia needed. In spite of the most strenuous efforts, Russia's commerce and industry remained dependent upon the Tsar, so that when he died, there were not enough wealthy, far-sighted traders and industrialists to develop what he had begun. This lack of private initiative and enterprise was to remain one of Russia's greatest social weaknesses until the Communist Revolution of 1917...

Source: Michael Gibson, *Peter the Great*, Wayland Publishers

6 According to Michael Gibson, what were **two** effects Peter the Great's rule had on Russia? [2]

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Score

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Score

## Document 7

### How Louis Kept the Nobles in Order

...That it might be amusing for the nobles to obey the king, Louis built a splendid new royal residence at Versailles, near Paris, where he established the most brilliant court ever known in Europe. The most influential nobles were encouraged, and even commanded, to leave their castles in the country, where life at best was dull, and to come and live with the king at Versailles. Here the king provided amusements for them, and here he could keep his eye on them. The nobles could not well be discourteous or disobedient to the king while they lived in his house and ate at his table. Almost without knowing it, Louis's noble guests fell into the habit of trying to please him. The king's manners were imitated, his words repeated. All smiled when the king smiled, all were sad when the king was sad, "all were devout when the king was devout, and all were sorry not to be ill when the king was ill." If a noble at court displeased the king, he was sent back to the country to live in his own house, in which case everyone felt—and he did too—that he was in deep disgrace....

Source: Carl L. Becker, *Modern History*, Silver, Burdett and Company

7 According to Carl Becker, what was **one** way that Louis XIV attempted to control the nobility? [1]

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Score

## Document 8

... More and more Louis tried to impose uniformity in religious affairs. In the 1680s he intensified persecution of Protestants; his actions made the edict [of Nantes] nothing but a scrap of paper. Finally in 1685 he declared that the majority of French Protestants had been converted to Catholicism and that therefore there was no need for the edict. It was revoked.

Now Louis launched a reign of terror. He refused to allow French Protestants to leave the country. He promised that those who remained could worship privately, free of persecution, but never kept the promise. Their churches were torn down, their gatherings forbidden, their children made to attend mass. The Waldensians in Savoy were massacred, and six hundred Protestants “caught making assemblies” were executed. Perhaps two hundred and fifty thousand fled abroad to escape persecution....

Source: Milton Meltzer, *Ten Kings and the Worlds They Ruled*, Orchard Books

- 8 According to Milton Meltzer, what was **one** action Louis XIV took in an attempt to control the Protestants in France? [1]

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Score

## Document 9

In this excerpt, Barbara Tuchman is commenting on the effects of Louis XIV's policy toward the Huguenots.

... Recent [1960s and 1970s scholarly] studies have concluded that the economic damage done to France by the Huguenot [French Protestants] emigration has been overrated, it being only one element in the larger damage caused by the wars. Of the political damage, however, there is no question. The flood of anti-French pamphlets and satires issued by Huguenot printers and their friends in all the cities where they settled aroused antagonism to France to new heat. The Protestant coalition against France was strengthened when Brandenburg entered into alliance with Holland, and the smaller German principalities joined. In France itself the Protestant faith was reinvigorated by persecution and the feud with Catholics revived. A prolonged revolt of the Camisard Huguenots in the Cévennes, a mountainous region of the south, brought on a cruel war of repression, weakening the state. Here and among other Huguenot communities which remained in France, a receptive base was created for the Revolution to come....

Source: Barbara W. Tuchman, *The March of Folly: From Troy to Vietnam*, Alfred A. Knopf, 1984

9 According to Barbara Tuchman, what was **one** political consequence of Louis XIV's policy toward the Huguenots? [1]

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Score

## Part B

### Essay

*Directions:* Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs, and a conclusion. Use evidence from *at least four* documents in your essay. Support your response with relevant facts, examples, and details. Include additional outside information.

#### Historical Context:

Throughout history, autocratic leaders have exercised authority over their countries and the lives of their people. The actions of autocratic leaders have both helped and hurt their countries and their peoples. Examples of such leaders include *Emperor Shi Huangdi*, *Czar Peter the Great*, and *King Louis XIV*.

**Task:** Using the information from the documents and your knowledge of global history, write an essay in which you

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- Describe actions taken by the leader that show this individual was an autocrat
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#### Guidelines:

**In your essay, be sure to**

- Develop all aspects of the task
- Incorporate information from *at least four* documents
- Incorporate relevant outside information
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization, including an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme