

## How to Answer the Document Based Question (DBQ) Kienast

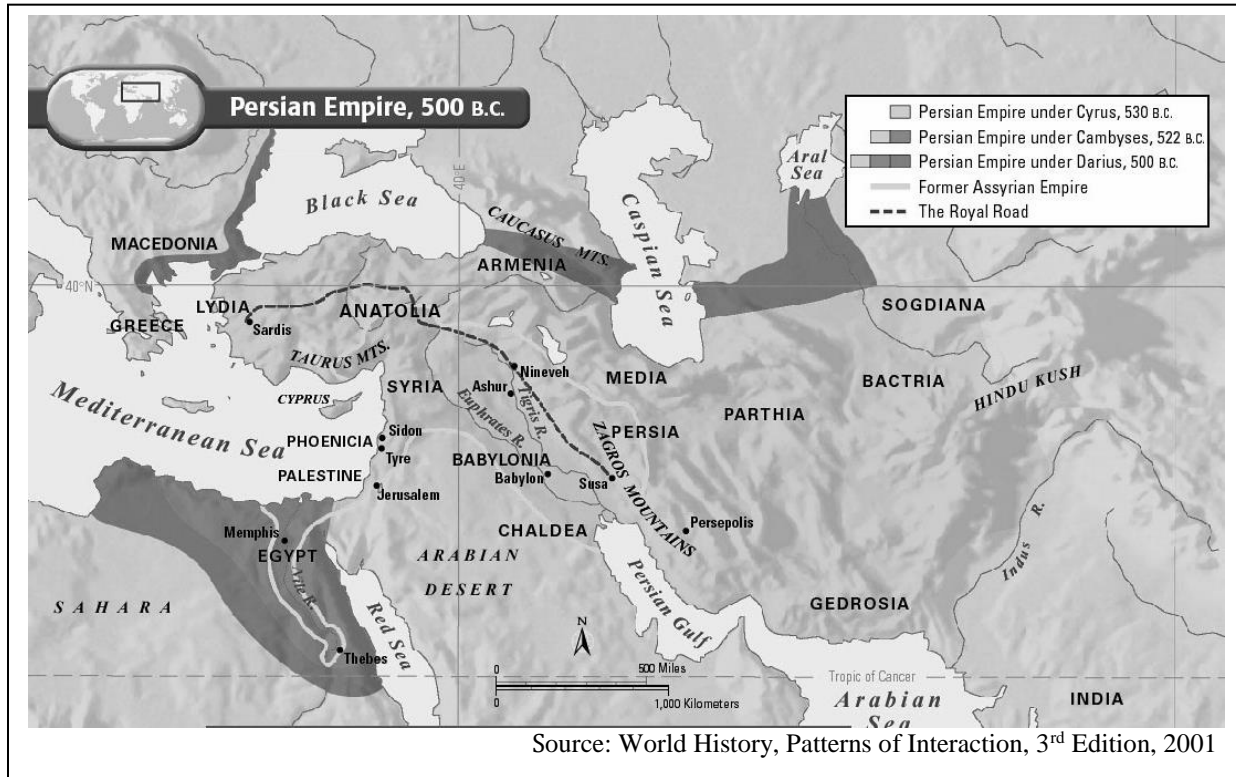
### DBQ Step-by-Step

1. **Read** the question.
2. Read each document carefully and write down how each document answers the question. Later you will need to specifically discuss how the evidence contained within each document answers the question.
3. After the analysis of a document, consider the point of view of the author. You need to always be thinking about how a person's view might be impacted by their time in history, their role in society, or what they hoped to accomplish by writing the document. You will need to analyze POV for a minimum of one documents. (Try for two)
4. Develop a thesis statement that answers the question.
5. Can you group some of the documents together? Try to group similar documents together.
6. The essay should be structured as follows:
  - Paragraph: Thesis statement
  - Paragraph: Identify group, then discuss first group documents, POV
  - Paragraph: Identify group, then discuss second group documents, POV
  - Paragraph: Identify group, then discuss third group documents, POV
  - Paragraph: Conclusion

So, let's look at a sample DBQ. What follows is a simplistic DBQ and a sample annotated essay. Let's say the question is:

**Question: Analyze imperial control techniques that were used in the period from 600 BCE to 600 CE.**

## Document 1



## Document 2

Source: Ashoka, leader of the Mauryan Empire from 268-232 BCE, from the *Ashokavadana*, a 2nd-century CE text translated into Chinese by Fa Hien in 300 CE.

May the partisans of all doctrines in all countries unite and live in a common fellowship. For all alike profess mastery to be attained over oneself and purity of the heart. The common doctrine is this: love your emperor as you would your father. Respect your father as you would all in authority. In this way, all will be united and in peace.

## Document 3

Source: Han official decree, 150 BCE

In order to honor and glorify the emperor, all citizens will contribute to state projects for one week per year. In this way, the labor of the people will show proper respect for authority.

#### Document 4

Source: Zhongshu Dong, advisor to Han emperors, *Luxuriant Gems of the Spring and Autumn*, 120 BCE

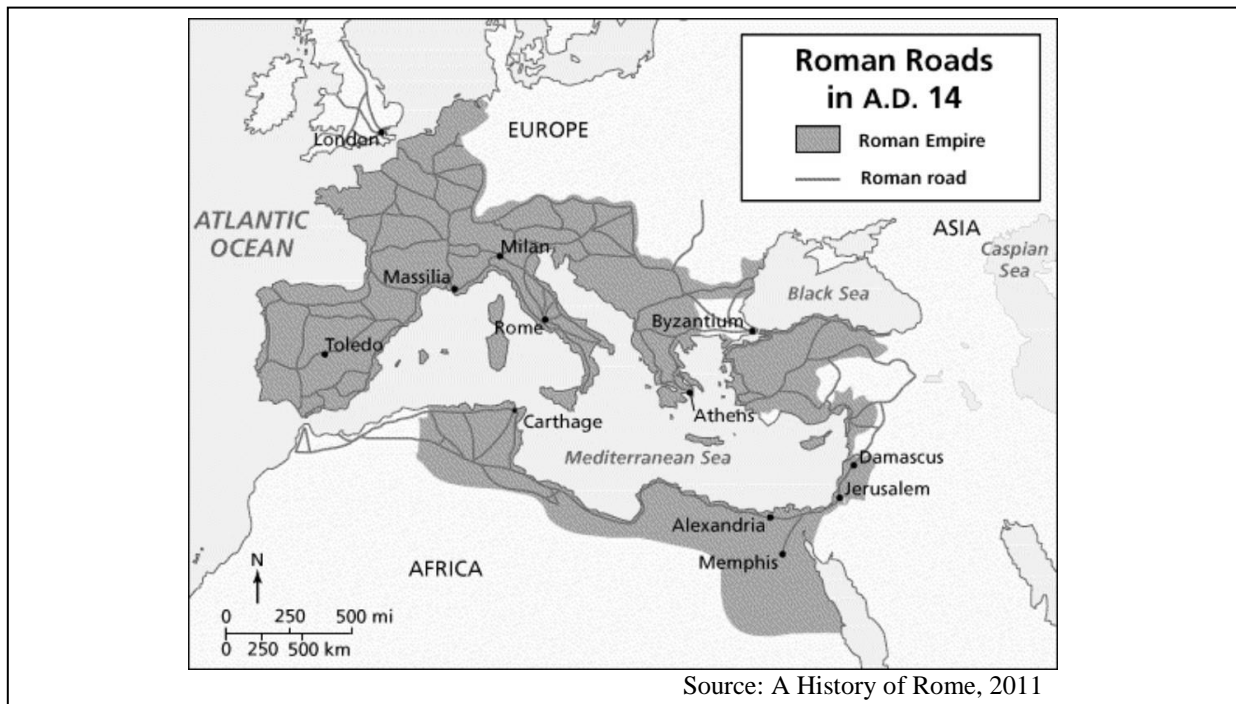
Heaven establishes kings not on behalf of rulers but on behalf of the people; if order is to be maintained, then the people must obey the decrees of their emperor as if they were listening to the wise sages of the past or their own wise fathers.

#### Document 5

Source: Emperor Augustus Caesar, decree in response to a rebellion in Egypt, 5 CE

The barbaric peoples of the empire must demonstrate their loyalty through tributes. Conquered peoples must understand that Rome is in charge in order for stability to be maintained. In the spirit of this effort, a percentage of conquered populations will be given as slaves and a percentage of land will be given to Romans as estates.

#### Document 6



## Document 7

Source: Apostle Paul, Roman citizen and early Christian missionary, *New Testament of the Holy Bible*, 1 Timothy 2:8-15, circa 100 CE

Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing. I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.

A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.

### Sample Essay (bracketed portions are notations and should *not* be included in your essay)

*Empires during the period from 600 BCE to 600 CE used roads, tribute, and male dominated governments to control their people. [Thesis]*

*One technique used to control populations was the building of roads by empires. [topic sentence to show grouping of documents] Persia built roads across the empire to promote trade, especially between India and the Middle East, and to control their populations in the event of rebellion. Roads allowed faster travel and allowed for soldiers to quickly move into areas of unrest (DOC 1). [evidence; note that you must cite the document that you used right after you present evidence. Note that the evidence answers the question and shows how roads specifically were used to control empires] Other empires such as Rome and Han China also used roads for the same purpose. Rome controlled all trade along the Mediterranean, but also controlled most of the land in Europe, leading to a need for road building (DOC 6). [evidence and analysis]*

*Tribute was also used to control empires during the period. [topic sentence to show grouping of documents] China under the rule of the Han Dynasty created a system of labor that required all citizens to serve the state through building projects. In this way, Chinese citizens demonstrated their loyalty to the emperor, showed that the emperor was their superior (DOC 3). [evidence and explanation showing how an imperial control technique functioned] Rome also used tribute to control their populations. Slaves and land were required as a form of tribute in Rome (DOC 5). [evidence] Again, this tribute was used as a way for conquered populations to show allegiance to Rome and prevent future rebellions. Augustus would have produced this decree in order to keep people in the empire from rebelling. [POV; shows purpose of document and why Augustus specifically had this view]*

*Most empires also managed their populations by creating patriarchal societies. [topic sentence to show grouping of documents] The Mauryan Empire had a male based society that was designed to create obedience. Mauryan leaders wanted to be worshipped like a father and so*

*demanded that obedience to one's father began in the home (DOC 2). [evidence and explanation] The Han emperors also believed that male-based society would create stability. The emperors demanded that they be respected like a father would be respected (DOC 4). [evidence and explanation] As an advisor to the emperor, Zhongshu Dong would write anything that would keep his emperor in power in order to maintain his own position. [POV] Lastly, the Romans also believed in male power as a way to maintain order. Christianity, the religion eventually adopted by the Roman Empire, reflects the Roman values of male power through demands for women to be obedient (DOC 7).*

*Roads, tributes and male power were all used as ways to control populations in empires that enveloped large numbers of people. [conclusion]*