

DBQ 3: Byzantine Empire under Justinian

Big Idea | When Justinian became emperor in 527, he was determined to revive the ancient Roman Empire, to build a new Rome. He established Constantinople as the capital of the Byzantine or Eastern Roman Empire and preserved Roman heritage for more than a thousand years.

Task | Analyze the following primary sources and then respond to the following DBQ (Document-Based Question) in a 5 paragraph essay.

Writing Prompt | Evaluate the reign of Emperor Justinian. Did he revive the Roman Empire in the Byzantine Empire? What is his legacy?

Directions |

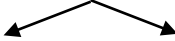
1. Carefully read the document-based question listed above.
2. Read each document carefully, underlining key phrases and words that address the document-based question. You may also use the margin to make brief notes. Answer the questions that follow each document before moving on to the next document. **As you answer the questions that follow, be sure to consider HOW the document relates to the question and include that connection in your response.**
3. Put the documents into the buckets listed below. EVERY document needs to be listed, and SOME documents can be used more than once.

Bucket 1	Bucket 2
Question: Did Justinian revive the Roman Empire in the Byzantine Empire?	Question: What is Justinian’s Legacy?
Circle: YES NO	Circle: YES NO
<i>List document #'s that support your response.</i>	<i>Develop 3 categories of his legacy, and list document #'s that support your response.</i>
	Category 1: _____ List Documents:
	Category 2: _____ List Documents:
	Category 3: _____ List Documents:

Writing Prompt | Evaluate the reign of Emperor Justinian. Did he revive the Roman Empire in the Byzantine Empire? What is his legacy?

After you have read the documents, **reread** the document-based question. Then, formulate a **thesis statement** that directly answers ALL parts of the question, based on your own knowledge and on the information in the documents.

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN FORMULATING YOUR THESIS STATEMENT



- Take a position on the question
- Set out categories for later discussion in the essay (see what you did on page 1 for help)
- Try to “argue” your thesis. *Could you take an “opposite” position?* If not, revise your thesis statement. The thesis must “take a stand.”

Thesis Statement: _____

4. Organize supportive and relevant information on the attached graphic organizer (pg. 6).
5. Write a well-organized essay that **proves** your thesis. The essay should be logically presented and should include information both from the documents and from your own knowledge outside the documents. *This step should be completed using loose-leaf paper. Please skip lines and write neatly!*
6. **A note on how to reference documents...**
 - a. When referencing the documents in your essay, NEVER begin with: “In document 3...” The document should be referenced by mentioning the author or type of document. *Here are some examples:*
 - Herodotus, in *The History* (doc. 1), said: “...”
 - The photograph of the Parthenon demonstrates... (doc. 2)
 - Phidias’ sculpture is an example of ... (doc. 3)
 - The Greek physician, Hippocrates, felt that... (doc. 4)
 - The map of Greek city-states illustrates that ... (doc. 5)
 - b. If you know something about the author, mention that in your introduction. In the example below, the parts added are in *italics*.
 - *The Babylonian King* Hammurabi, wrote ... (doc. 7)

Document 1 | This description of Justinian is from *Buildings* by Procopius, Justinian's official court historian.

Justinian created countless cities which did not exist before. And finding that the belief in God was ... straying into errors ... he brought it about that it stood on the firm foundation of a single faith. Moreover, finding the laws obscure because they had become far more numerous than they should be, and in obvious confusion because they disagreed with each other. He preserved them (in the Legal Code of Emperor Justinian, A.D. 529] ... by controlling their discrepancies with the greatest firmness.

Question 1: According to Procopius, what are three contributions of Justinian?

Document 2 | Justinian was described by Procopius in a different book, the *Secret History*, which was published after his death.

Justinian was ... crafty, hypocritical, secretive by temperament, two-faced: a clever fellow with marvelous ability to conceal his real opinion ... lying all the time ...

Question 1: Which characteristics of Justinian does Procopius stress in the *Secret History*?

Question 2: Why is this description so different from Document 1?

Document 3 | Justinian ruled like earlier Roman emperors. This is a description of him by a Byzantine official.

The emperor is equal to all men in the nature of his body, but in the authority of his rank he is similar to God, who rules all.

Question 1: How is Justinian's power explained?

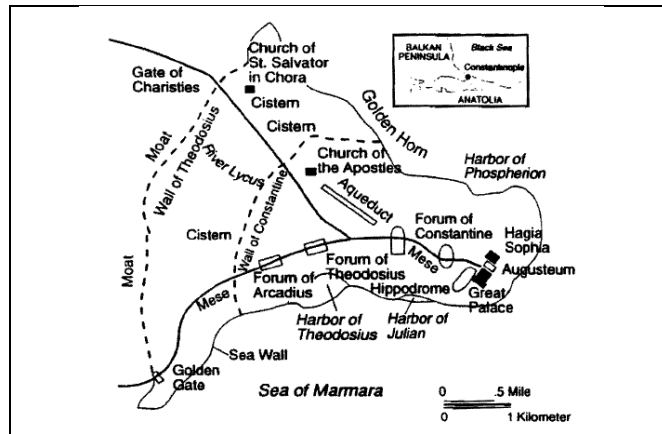
Document 4 | This excerpt, also written by Procopius, describes the Hagia Sophia upon its completion in 537.

In height it rises to the very heavens ... A spherical shaped dome ... makes it exceedingly beautiful: from the lightness of the building it does not appear to rest upon a solid foundation, but to ... be suspended from heaven by the fabled golden chain... The entire ceiling is covered with pure gold, which adds glory to the beauty, though the rays of light reflected upon the gold from the marble surpass it in beauty ... And whenever anyone enters this church to pray, he understands at once that it is not by any human strength or skill, but by the influence of God, that this work has been perfected. And so his mind is lifted up toward God.... Moreover, it is impossible to describe the treasure of gold and silver plate and gems, which the Emperor Justinian has presented to it...

Question 1: What are the distinctive characteristics of the Hagia Sophia?

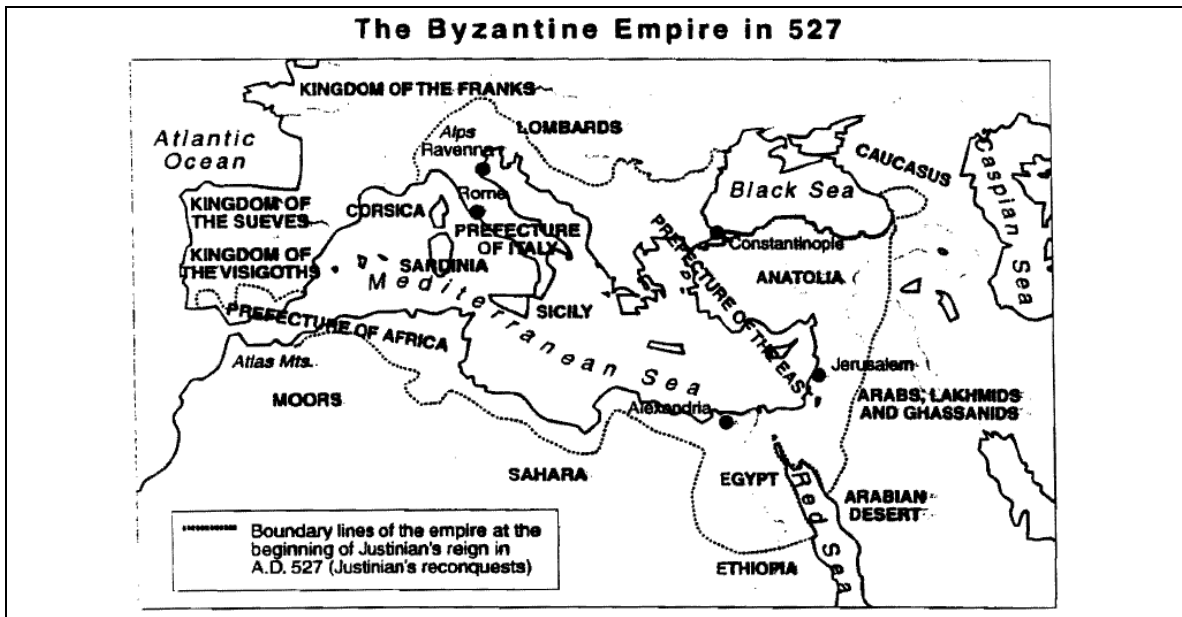
Question 2: What impact does the church have on a visitor?

Document 5 | Justinian was a great builder. This is evident from the fortifications and buildings he constructed in Constantinople, shown on the map below.



Question: Study this map of Constantinople and describe the building projects that made it the center of power. In addition, discuss Constantinople's strategic location for trade and defense.

Document 6 | The Byzantine Empire reached its greatest size under Justinian. From 565 until its collapse in 1453, several invaders took sections of the empire.



Question: Describe the areas that were included in the Byzantine Empire.

*Remember, we are writing the essay in class on _____.

This will be the written portion of your assessment on SOL 7 (Byzantine, Mongols, and Russia). **You are expected to come to class on test day with all document questions answered, your thesis statement written, and the graphic organizer on the following page completed.** THESE ARE THE ONLY RESOURCES YOU MAY USE TO ASSIST IN WRITING YOUR DBQ.

Preparation for Writing DBQ 3: Byzantine Empire under Justinian

Essay Question: Evaluate the reign of Emperor Justinian.
Did he revive the Roman Empire in the Byzantine Empire? What is his legacy?

Background information about the topic		
Preview of arguments to be used to support your response		
Thesis Statement		
Introduction		
Body Paragraph 1	Body Paragraph 2	Body Paragraph 3
1 st argument to support your position	2 nd argument to support your position	3 rd argument to support your position
Evidence supporting argument	Evidence supporting argument	Evidence supporting argument
Which documents support this argument?	Which documents support this argument?	Which documents support this argument?
Evidence supporting argument	Evidence supporting argument	Evidence supporting argument
Which documents support this argument?	Which documents support this argument?	Which documents support this argument?
Conclusion: summarizes arguments, restates thesis, and leaves the reader believing in your position.		