



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

A Level History A

Unit Y305

The Renaissance c.1400–c.1600

Sample Question Paper

Version 0.14

Date – Morning/Afternoon

Time allowed: 2 hour 30 minutes



OCR supplied materials:

- 12 page Answer Booklet

Other materials required:

- None



First name										
Last name										
Centre number						Candidate number				

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Complete the boxes above with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer Question 1 in Section A and any 2 questions in Section B.
- Write your answer to each question on the Answer Booklet.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **80**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- Quality of extended responses will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document consists of **4** pages.

SECTION A

Read the two passages and then answer question 1.

- 1** Evaluate the interpretations in both of the two passages and explain which you think is more convincing about Savonarola's attitude to the Renaissance.

[30]

Passage A

Savonarola wanted Florence to become a true Christian republic. To this end, he attacked the idea of Humanists who wanted to celebrate pre-Christian societies and wanted to destroy works of art which he considered immoral in the way they portrayed people's behaviour. To achieve this, Florence was to make a great sacrifice. Obscene literature, pornographic pictures and paintings, marble statues as well as articles to cause lust were to be collected in the middle of the Piazza and destroyed. The response from many in the city was favourable and members of disciplined youth squads went from house to house collecting offensive articles. Long before the day appointed for the burnings the bonfire looked so impressive and valuable that the Venetian ambassador offered Savonarola 20,000 ducats for the works of art. The burning of the Vanities caused incalculable damage to art. In that pile were works by Lorenzo di Credi and Sandro Botticelli. It is the same with the books of Petrarch and Boccaccio; quite a few copies of the Decameron and Laura were fed to the flames.

Adapted from: R. Hole, *Renaissance in Italy (Access to History)*, published in 1998

Passage B

Savonarola was most notorious for the bonfire of the vanities he encouraged, but he did not invent them; they were already a common way of showing public contrition. The burning was not some philistine attack on books and paintings; his opposition to the Renaissance was more complex. He had no objection to art and learning provided it was used to serve Christian purposes by encouraging devotion and meditation. His friary at San Marco had been rebuilt by Cosimo de' Medici and endowed with a rich store of books, including many Greek and Latin manuscripts. When the Medici fell from power in 1494 Savonarola ensured that the Medici library was saved from pillage by incorporating it into the library at San Marco. When Savonarola was dominant in the city, leading humanist scholars became friars of San Marco, as did Michelangelo's brother.

Adapted from: P. van Paassen, *A Crown of Fire: the Life and Times of Girolamo Savonarola*, published in 1961

SECTION B

Answer **TWO** of the following three questions.

- 2*** 'Classical influences were the most important factor in the development of the Renaissance throughout the period from 1400 to 1600.' How far do you agree?

[25]

- 3*** How important was the Church in the development of the Renaissance from 1400 to 1600?

[25]

- 4*** 'Renaissance Man' was just an ideal in the period from 1400 to 1600. Assess this view.

[25]

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Passage B: Adapted from: van Paassen, P. (1961), A Crown of Fire: the Life and Times of Girolamo Savonarola, Hutchinson, an imprint of Random House Group, UK,

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