Chapter 10
RENAISSANCE AND DISCOVERY

Multiple-Choice
1. This entire period of the late Middle Ages is considered a period of
   (a) creative breaking up.
   (b) decline and harvest.
   (c) unprecedented difficulty
   (d) all of the above

2. For Europe the late fifteenth and sixteenth centuries were a period that saw
   (a) the collapse of the Atlantic slave trade.
   (b) unprecedented territorial growth and ideological experimentation.
   (c) successful curtailing of ideas by the Church.
   (d) a continued weakening of the European trade system.

3. Which of the following was not written by Francesco Petrarch?
   (a) Letters to the Ancient Dead
   (b) Vita Nuova
   (c) Africa
   (d) Lives of Illustrious Men.

4. The Renaissance center for Platonist and Neoplatonist thought was the city of
   (a) Florence.
   (b) Rome.
   (c) Paris.
   (d) Venice.

5. The Renaissance gave a new perspective to life which is probably best evidenced in
   (a) warfare.
   (b) music and literature.
   (c) painting and sculpture.
   (d) education and philosophy.

6. Renaissance paintings appeared three-dimensional as a result of
   (a) adjustments to the size of the figures portrayed.
   (b) the use of shading.
   (c) the use of oil paints.
   (d) all of the above
7. ____________ is considered the most corrupt Pope of all times.
   (a) Julius II
   (b) Innocent III
   (c) John XXIII
   (d) Alexander VI

8. Which of the following figures would be considered the least responsible for the fall of the Italian city-states during this period?
   (a) Machiavelli
   (b) Ferdinand of Aragon
   (c) Ludovico il Moro
   (d) Charles VIII.

9. Machiavelli’s The Prince was dedicated to
   (a) Holy Roman Emperor Charles V.
   (b) Lorenzo de’ Medici.
   (c) Lorenzo the Magnificent.
   (d) Pope Clement VII.

10. The creation of an electoral college for the Holy Roman Empire can be found in the
    (a) Imperial Council of Regency.
    (b) Golden Bull of 1356.
    (c) Assembly at Worms.
    (d) none of the above

True-False
_____1. Within the divisions of Florentine society in the Renaissance era, the popolo minuto were viewed as the highest.

_____2. “We call those studies liberal which are worthy of a free man; those studies by which we attain and practice virtue and wisdom,” is a statement in support of liberal education.

_____3. The father of Renaissance painting was Giotto.

_____4. Surprisingly, Michelangelo’s famous statue of David is only eight feet high.

_____5. The gabelle, the alcabala, and the taille were forms of taxation levied by feudal monarchs.

_____6. In the fifteenth century, the imperial diet was a ceremonial meal taken by several German princes publicly in the Reichstag.

_____7. Johann Reuchlin invented the printing press.
8. Study of original versions of early Christian literature, a call for simple piety, and a disciplined study of the Bible are virtues said to have been encouraged by Desiderius Erasmus.

9. The 1516 work Utopia by Thomas More suggested a distinct division of social classes and personal property would make for an ideal society.

10. The Aztecs believed that the gods must literally be fed with human bodies to guarantee continuing sunshine and soil fertility.

Completion
1. The text notes _______________ as one of the most authoritative writers on the concept of Humanism during the Renaissance era.

2. The works of _______________ and _______________ are said to form the basis of the Italian vernacular language.

3. _______________ was an influential book which stressed the importance of integrating knowledge of language and history with other skills while calling for good manners and high moral character.

4. The Donation of Constantine was a fraudulent document that had supported Church claims to vast territories in Italy, but was exposed in the fifteenth century by the humanist scholar _______________ .

5. _______________ was a fresco portraying the great minds of Western philosophy.

6. The English Parliament, the Spanish Cortes, and the French _______________ are all considered evolving representative assemblies.

7. The unification of Spain was effected by the marriage in 1469 of Isabella of _______________ to Ferdinand of _______________ .

8. The greatest Christian Humanist of this era was _______________ .

9. _______________ was Europe’s foremost authority on Jewish learning before his death in 1522.

10. Though not fully matured, there is growing evidence that the economic foundation of Western European life today in the form of _______________ , was a significant factor as early as the twelfth century.
Short Answer

1. Give a complete definition of humanism. Describe key humanistic ideas within the context of the Renaissance. What is the debate over Jacob Burckhart’s nineteenth century description of this era?

2. How did the humanist experience develop within Renaissance politics? Additionally, discuss the influence of the humanistic spirit on the medieval concepts of education. Give specific examples.

3. Why did Italy attract the European rulers at the end of the fifteenth century? How was it that the great Italian city-states could not stand against the northern invaders? What new rivalries were created by these invasions?

4. Discuss this early phase in the rise of national monarchies from the perspective of administrative bureaucracies, standing armies, and taxation.

5. Mindful of this quincentenary era (1492–1992) of Columbus’ landing in the Americas, described the initial contact between the Europeans and the Amer-Indians they encountered. Is there a pattern to these encounters? Over the centuries since that time, what has been the historic view of Europe’s discovery of the “New World?”