

2019 AP Euro DBQ Sample Response

The Catholic Church and the Scientific Revolution



Evaluate whether or not the Catholic Church in the 1600s was opposed to new ideas in science.

SAMPLE RESPONSE B (4/7)

Opposition to the Bible	Opposition to Catholic Teaching
Doc 4 - Galileo OE - Martin Luther Doc 2 - Bellarmine	OE- Empiricism Doc 7 - Clermont College Doc 6 - Jesuits with Telescopes

<p>The Catholic Church opposed new ideas in science because these new ideas conflicted with the Bible and with traditional Catholic teaching.</p>	<p>A THESIS is present that is responsive to the prompt and makes a historically defensible statement followed by a line of reasoning.</p>
<p>The Catholic Church condemned Galileo and his discoveries because his ideas conflicted with the Bible. In a letter explaining the reasons why he was condemned, Galileo mentioned that the Bible has passages where the sun stands still, which implies that the sun moves around the earth (Doc 4). When Martin Luther began the Protestant Reformation, he said that all doctrine should come from the Bible – something he called <i>sola scriptura</i> – and the Catholic Church was on the defensive at this time. If the Catholic Church endorsed things that were against what the Bible said, then it would prove Luther was right when he said that Protestantism is more biblical than Catholicism. Cardinal Bellarmine wrote that the new scientific discoveries would be harmful to the Catholic faith because believing them would mean that the Bible contains falsehoods (Doc 2). Because Cardinal Bellarmine was a cardinal, he occupied a leadership position in the Catholic Church and was able to say with authority what the Catholic Church’s position was.</p>	<p>A TOPIC SENTENCE makes it clear that this paragraph will address the Catholic Church’s opposition to scientific discoveries based on the Bible.</p> <p>DOC 4 is accurately described and used as evidence to support the claim in the topic sentence.</p> <p>The explanation of Martin Luther’s beliefs could be counted as OUTSIDE EVIDENCE but it can also be counted as HISTORICAL SITUATION/CONTEXT for Doc 4. Because of the discussion of empiricism in the next paragraph, I will count it as the latter here so three docs will be analyzed.</p> <p>DOC 2 is accurately described and used as evidence to support the claim in the topic sentence.</p> <p>The discussion of Bellarmine’s position in the Church presents valid POINT OF VIEW (POV+) analysis for DOC 2.</p>
<p>The Catholic Church also opposed scientific advancements because these discoveries threatened traditional Catholic doctrines, which were not based on science. Part of the scientific revolution was a belief in empiricism, which says that knowledge should be based on what can be observed by the senses. Catholic teachings were rooted in religious faith. The Jesuits of Clermont College condemned Descartes and his philosophy because they said that according to Descartes’ philosophy, the bread and wine could not change into the Body and Blood of Christ – a very important Catholic doctrine (Doc</p>	<p>A TOPIC SENTENCE makes it clear that this paragraph will focus on scientific discoveries threatening Catholic doctrine.</p> <p>The discussion of empiricism can be counted as OUTSIDE EVIDENCE.</p> <p>DOC 7 is accurately described and used as evidence to support the claim in the topic sentence.</p>

<p>7). The purpose of the Jesuits was to defend Catholic teaching against all threats and heresy, so this explains why the Jesuits were so upset by Descartes and went after him with such harsh language. Even though some Jesuits were involved in scientific inquiries and used telescopes to look at the sun (Doc 6), the Jesuit Order made clear that it would not accept any scientific discoveries that contradicted the teachings of the Catholic Church.</p>	<p>The explanation of the Jesuits' mission presents valid POINT OF VIEW (POV+) analysis for DOC 7.</p> <p>DOC 6 is accurately described and used as evidence to support the claim in the topic sentence.</p>
<p>In the 1600s, the Catholic Church opposed scientific discoveries for two reasons: they contradicted the Bible and traditional Catholic Church teaching.</p>	<p>THESIS RESTATED without looking back at the original thesis.</p>

SCORING SUMMARY SAMPLE RESPONSE B (4/7)

Contextualization	0	Not attempted
Thesis	1	The thesis included a defensible claim supported by a line of reasoning and clear preview of points.
Accurately Described (3+)	1	Four documents are accurately described.
Supporting Evidence (6+)	0	Only four documents are used.
POV+ (3+)	1	This essay includes two examples of POV and also one explanation of a document's Historical Situation/Context
Outside Evidence	1	The explanation of empiricism provides outside evidence.
Complex Understanding	0	This essay is adequate but by no means complex.
TOTAL	4	

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