

World History
Ms. Figueroa

Part One Document Based Essay: Feudalism
Due Friday 1/19/2018

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that addresses the task and includes an introduction, several body paragraphs, and a conclusion.

Task: Using information from the documents and your knowledge of world history write an essay in which you:

- **What impact did feudalism have on Japan and Europe**
- **Explain the differences and similarities of Japanese and European feudalism**
- **Explain at least two positive and negative results.**

Be sure to include specific historical details. Your essay must also include additional information from your knowledge of world history.

Guidelines:

In your essay, be sure to:

- Address all aspects of the Task
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization
- Use at least 3 documents to support your statements

Document 1:

“Between 1000 and 1200, Japan developed a feudal system in which landowners assumed the roles of independent local rulers. Lesser lords pledged to fight for greater lords in exchange for protection. Each lord surrounded himself with a bodyguard of elite warriors called samurai who lived according to a harsh code called Bushido. A samurai’s honor was constantly on the line. He had to prove his absolute courage and loyalty in defense of his lord, who rewarded him with an allowance.

A samurai’s uniform was one of the most elaborate costumes ever worn. It consisted of leather shin guards and thigh guards, baggy pantaloons, a kimono, metal-cased shoulder guards, a chest protector, an iron collar and facemask, and a visored helmet. The samurai trained himself to get into this outfit within a minute. A samurai’s most essential weapon was his sword.”

~ McDougal Littell Inc.

Document 2:

“Every local lord had a force of knights ready to defend the land against foreign invaders and neighboring lords. For each of the knights, a lord could demand about 40 days of combat on horseback every year. The skillful use of weapons took training and practice and knights became specialists in war. In the early days of the Middle Ages, little was asked of a knight other than courage in battle and loyalty to his lord in return for land. Later, knights were expected to live up to a code of chivalry, a complex set of ideals.

The education of a knight began at age seven when his parents sent him off to the castle of another lord. There the young nobleman learned manners and how to fence and hunt. At age 14, he became a squire, helping the knight with his armor and weapons and practicing his skills with sword and lance on horseback. At age 21, he became a full-fledged knight.”

~ McDougal Littell Inc

Document 3



The unwritten Samurai code of conduct, known as Bushido, held that the true warrior must hold that loyalty, courage, veracity, compassion, and honor as important, above all else. An appreciation and respect of life was also imperative, as it added balance to the warrior character of the Samurai. He was often very stoic with a deep and strong philosophical passion. He could be deadly in combat and yet so gentle and compassionate with children and the weak.

