

# World History One DBQ: The Reformers



Martin Luther on trial at the Diet of Worms

The Following task is based on the accompanying documents 1-8. Some documents have been edited for this exercise. The task is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the sources of the documents and the purpose of the document and the author's point of view.

## Directions:

1. Read the Historical Context & Answer the corresponding worksheet questions
2. Read the Documents & Answer the corresponding worksheet questions
3. Create a Thesis to answer the question presented in the “Task”
4. Write an Essay to answer the question (**The essay requires an outline, Introduction paragraph, 3 supporting body paragraphs and a Conclusion**)

-or-

Create a project which will present an answer to the question – (**The Project must still integrate a thesis & three items supporting the thesis & a Conclusion**)

**Task:** Analyze the goals and actions of the “Reformers”, such as Martin Luther, during the Reformation.

### **Historical Context:** The Reformation

The reformation of the church in the sixteenth century was rooted in demands for spiritual renewal and institutional change. These pressures began as early as the late 14<sup>th</sup> century and came from many sources.

The pope and traditional Catholic theology were challenged by English theologian John Wycliffe and Czech theologian John Huss. Both attacked the Church's involvement in politics and urged a return to the simple practices of the early apostolic church. Both claimed that the Bible-not the church- was the highest authority for Christians. Both emphasized the study of the Holy Scriptures by the people on their own and sermons in the common language of the people.

By that time there was a widespread popular yearning for a more genuine spirituality.

The reformation of the Western Christian church in the sixteenth century was precipitated by Martin Luther (1483-1546). A pious German Augustinian monk and theologian, Luther had no intention of founding a new church or overthrowing the political and religious order of late medieval Europe. Luther sought a reform of morals and an end to abusive practices within the church. But a visit to the papal court in Rome in 1510 left him profoundly shocked at its worldliness and disillusioned with the papacy's role in the church's governance.

To pay for the rebuilding of St Peter's church in Rome, in 1515 the papacy offered indulgence to those who gave alms for this pious work. An indulgence was a mitigation or remission of the austere penance imposed by a priest in absolving a penitent who confessed a sin and indicated remorse.

Indulgences were granted by papal decrees for those who agreed to perform some act of charity, almsgiving, prayer, pilgrimage, or other pious work. Some preachers of this particular papal indulgence deceived people into believing that a “purchase” of this indulgence would win them, or even the dead, a secure place in heaven.

In 1517, Luther denounced the abuses connected with the preaching of papal indulgences. The quarrel led quickly to other and more profound theological issues. His opponents defended the use of indulgence on the basis of papal authority, shifting the debate to questions about the nature of papal power within the church. Luther responded with a vigorous attack on the whole system of papal governance.

Perry, Peden and Von Laue. *Sources of the Western Tradition*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1999

#### Document #1 A Hoblien the Younger's Sale of Indulgences 1529



## Document 2: A Sermon made by Johann Tetzel 1515

Listen now, God and Peter call you. You priest, you noble, you merchant, you virgin, you matron, you youth, you old man, consider the salvation of your souls and those of your loved ones departed. Have you considered that you do not know whether you can reach heaven? Consider that those who are apologetic and have confessed and made contribution will receive complete forgiveness of all their sins. Listen to the voices of your dear dead relatives and friends beseeching you and saying, "We are in horrible torture from which you can save us for a small cost." Are you so cruel and hard that now you are not willing for so little to set us free? Will you let us lie here in the flames?"

Remember that you are able to release them, for *as soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs.* Will you not then for a quarter of a florin receive these letters of indulgence through which you are able to lead a divine and mortal soul into the fatherland of paradise?

## Document #3 Martin Luther – select phrases from the 95 Theses, 1517

21. Thus those preachers of indulgences are in error who say that by the indulgences of the Pope a man is freed and saved from all punishment.
32. Those who believe that, through letters of pardon, they are made sure of their own salvation will be eternally damned along with their teachers.
43. Christians should be taught that he who gives to a poor man, or lends to a needy man, does better than if he bought pardons....

Document #4 the *Passion of Christ and Anti-Christ* Luther contrasts the actions of Christ vs. those of the Pope (Jesus washing feet / Pope's feet being kissed)



<http://communication.ucsd.edu/bjones/Books/luther.html>

Document #5 Myconlus speaking of Martin Luther's 95 Theses 1517

Within two weeks these theses made on the printing presses were circulating throughout all Germany, and in a month throughout Christendom, as if the angels themselves were serving as messengers to bring them to the attention of all men.

Document #6 Martin Luther responding to being accused of heresy

Like an insidious devil you pervert the Scriptures. You say that the Church consists virtually in the pope. What abominations will you not have to regard as the deeds of the Church? Look at the ghastly shedding of blood by Julius II. Look at the outrageous tyranny of Boniface VIII. You make the pope into an emperor and the Germans will not tolerate this.

## Document #7 *An Abomination of Peace* (1525), Martin Luther

We have no one on earth to thank for this mischievous rebellion, except you lords and princes, especially you blind bishops and mad priests and monks....In your government you do nothing but flay and rob your subjects in order that you may lead a life of splendor and pride, until the poor common folk can bear it no longer.

## Document #8 Timeline of the Reformation

October 31, 1517	Martin Luther's 95 Theses was posted in Wittenberg "starting" the "Reformation".
Jan 27 - May 25, 1521	Martin Luther summoned to the Diet of Worms in 1521. The Pope's ambassador put Luther on trial to see if he was a heretic. He was declared guilty and banned.
May 25, 1521	The Edict of Worms declared Martin Luther a heretic. It also said that all Luther's books were to be burned.
January 29, 1523	Ulrich Zwingli presented his 67 Theses. Suggested letting the clergy marry, & mass be a celebration not a sacrifice.
1526	William Tyndale published an English Bible
1534	Martin Luther publishes a Bible written in the German language (vernacular).
September 25, 1555	The Peace of Augsburg was an edict of toleration for Lutheranism. The outcome became known as ' <i>cuius regio, eius religio</i> '. This meant each Prince could choose the religion for his area. Lutheranism was formally recognized, but the other Reformation movements weren't.