

The Prince: by Niccolo Machiavelli

Directions for extra-credit for AP European History 1st marking period

Answers need to be in complete sentences and typed (12 font)

Due Date: Any time *before* the first test.

This is a two-part assignment. The first part will focus on synthesizing the material covered in the reading. The second part will ask for your thoughtful analysis of the work.

Part 1:

Complete the following questions in a complete and detailed format:

1. Describe the political situation that prompted Machiavelli to write *The Prince*.
2. Name two recurring themes of the book.
3. What is Machiavelli's opinion about humankind? Why does he feel that way?
4. What were the mistakes of Louis XII listed by Machiavelli in Chapter 3? Why does Machiavelli dwell upon their analysis? What rule could one draw from them?
5. Explain why Machiavelli, in Chapter 5, insists so much on destruction.
6. With reference to the subject of the innovations treated in Chapter 6, give an example of success and an example of failure.
7. In Chapters 6 and 7, which vices are considered useful and advisable? Why?
8. Describe Cesare Borgia as he is presented in Chapter 7. Why did Machiavelli dedicate almost the entire chapter to him?
9. What is the course a prince should follow when choosing his advisors? What is the infallible method of recognizing a good minister?
10. Explain Machiavelli's opinions about the common people and the nobles. How does he feel about the way that a prince should be viewed by his subjects?
11. What does Machiavelli say about the military duty of a prince?
12. What is the crux of the dilemma of the prince that Machiavelli presents in Chapter 17?
13. Chapter 18 -What are the qualities symbolized by the fox and the lion?
14. Discuss Machiavelli's ideas about religion.
15. Why can't a prince who is not wise himself be well advised?

Part II

1. What was your opinion of the book, & why?
2. How effectively and in what way does the theme of the book or argument of the author reflect what you already know?
3. Does the author seem fair and accurate? Is there any distortion, exaggeration, or diminishing of material? Is the overall interpretation biased, subjective, slanted, objective, etc?
4. Is the book interesting or boring, and why?
5. Is there enough information in the book? Is the subject treated thoroughly or summarily?
6. Did you feel satisfied, disappointed, or puzzled by the book, & why?