



VCE History: Renaissance Italy 2013–2015

Written examination – November

Examination specifications

Overall conditions

The examination will be sat at a time and date to be set annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. VCAA examination rules will apply. Details of these rules are published annually in the *VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook*.

There will be 15 minutes reading time and 2 hours writing time.

The examination will be marked by a panel appointed by the VCAA.

The examination will contribute 50 per cent to the Study Score.

Content

The *VCE History Study Design 2005–2015* is the document for the development of the examination. All of the outcomes of Units 3 and 4 of the Renaissance Italy section of the *VCE History Study Design* will be examined. All of the key knowledge and key skills underpinning the outcomes are examinable.

Format

The examination will be in the form of a question and answer book. There will be a detachable insert with the representation for Section D.

The examination will consist of four sections, one for each of the four outcomes.

All questions in the examination will be compulsory. However, there will be choice of questions for Section C.

Section A will consist of two extended response questions derived from Unit 3, Outcome 1: The Italian peninsula and the Renaissance.

Section B will require students to analyse short documents, commentaries or interpretations derived from Unit 3, Outcome 2: Renaissance Florence. The number of questions in this section may vary from year to year.

Section C will consist of two essay tasks derived from Unit 4, Outcome 1: Social life in Renaissance Italy. One essay topic will be set on Florence and the other essay topic will be set on Venice. Students should attempt one of these essay tasks.

Section D will require an analysis of a written and/or visual representation derived from Unit 4, Outcome 2: Renaissance Venice. The number of questions in this section may vary from year to year. Images used in the examination may be presented in colour.

Each of the four outcomes will be weighted equally in the examination. Each section will be worth 20 marks.

The examination will be worth a total of 80 marks.

Approved materials and equipment

Students are permitted to bring into the examination room: pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers.

Advice

The examination criteria were published in the *VCE History Assessment Handbook 2005–2015*. Examinations will set and assessed according to the following criteria.

- understanding and appropriate use of historical terms, concepts, commentaries and interpretations
- application of relevant evidence to support arguments and conclusions
- knowledge of the political and economic institutions, social life and culture of Renaissance Italy
- analysis of social life in Florence or Venice
- evaluation of changes and continuities in the political institutions and values of Renaissance Florence
- evaluation of the function and validity of the Myth of Venice

During 2013–2015, the History: Renaissance Italy examinations will be prepared according to the examination specifications above. Each examination will conform to these specifications and will test a representative sample of the key knowledge and key skills.

The following sample examination provides an indication of the type of questions teachers and students can expect on the History: Renaissance Italy examinations.

The following documents should be referred to in relation to the 2013–2015 History: Renaissance Italy examinations.

- *VCE History Study Design 2005–2015*
- *VCE History Assessment Handbook 2005–2015*
- *VCAA Bulletin VCE, VCAL and VET*



Victorian Certificate of Education 2005

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

STUDENT NUMBER

Letter

Figures

Words

HISTORY: Renaissance Italy

Written examination

Day Date 2005**Reading time:** *.* to *.* (15 minutes)**Writing time:** *.* to *.* (2 hours)**QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK****Structure of book**

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number of questions</i>	<i>Number of questions to be answered</i>	<i>Number of marks</i>
A	2	2	20
B	4	4	20
C	2	1	20
D	3	3	20
			Total 80

- Students are permitted to bring into the examination room: pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers.
- Students are NOT permitted to bring into the examination room: blank sheets of paper and/or white out liquid/tape.
- No calculator is allowed in this examination.

Materials supplied

- Question and answer book of 17 pages. There is a detachable insert for Section D in the centrefold.
- A script book is available from the supervisor if required.

Instructions

- Detach the insert from the centre of this book during reading time.
- Write your **student number** in the space provided above on this page, and on the front cover of any script book used.
- All written responses must be in English.

At the end of the examination

- If a script book is used, place it inside the front cover of this question and answer book.

Students are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any other electronic communication devices into the examination room.

SECTION A

Instructions for Section A

Answer **both** questions in the spaces provided. The following questions focus on Unit 3, Outcome 1: The Italian Peninsula and the Renaissance.

Question 1

Political structures of city-states differed across the Italian peninsula. Examine the political structures of two different types of city-states and explain how they differed.

[illegible]

10 marks

Question 2

Use five main points to explain why the humanists were so interested in adapting ideas from classical Greece and Rome.

[illegible]

10 marks

Total 20 marks

END OF SECTION A
TURN OVER

SECTION B**Instructions for Section B**

Answer the following **four** questions in response to the written representation. All questions focus on Unit 3 Outcome 2: Renaissance Florence.

Alamanno Rinuccini: ‘Dialogue on Liberty’ 1479

I do not think that there is any State in the whole of Italy that has defended liberty so strenuously and for so long as Florence has, or where such ample and undefiled liberty has flourished . . . But you are so ignobly and so carelessly letting slip out of your hands this noble, magnificent gift of liberty preserved by your ancestors with so much effort and expense, and handed down from father to son . . . The truly magnanimous and wholly noble Jacopo and Francesco de’ Pazzi and leading men of the same family . . . undertook a deed full of glory . . . in order to restore to themselves and their native country the liberty that had been taken away from them . . . The magnitude of Lorenzo’s cruelty towards citizens, his shamelessness and his insolence can be adequately realized from the facts: the citizens of Florence were . . . ruined by unremitting payment of taxes for many years when there was peace from external enemies, and then he involved them in a very burdensome, dangerous and ruinous war which was undertaken by Lorenzo de’ Medici, the tyrant of Florence, for the liberty of the people . . . Lorenzo has probably exasperated the most powerful princes in Italy by his insolence, temerity and ingratitude, and has involved the State in a burdensome and disastrous war, which, those who started it avow, was undertaken not against the Florentine people but for the purpose of freeing the people from the savage tyranny of Lorenzo.

Angelo Poliziano: ‘Memoirs of the Pazzi Conspiracy’

I am resolved to describe briefly the Pazzi Conspiracy, a crime most worthy of record . . . While all the good people were on the side of the brothers Lorenzo and Giuliano and the rest of the Medici family, a branch of the Pazzi family and some of the Salviati began, first in secret and then even openly, to oppose the existing government. They envied the power of the Medici family in public affairs and its brilliance in private ones, and they sought to destroy it as much as they could . . . Citizens and common people alike hated the Pazzi family. Moreover, they were all extremely greedy, and none could stand their outrageous and insolent nature. (The plot to overthrow the Medici failed, although Giuliano de’ Medici was murdered. The Pazzi and their supporters were rounded up.)

I remember that I came then into the piazza, where I saw many corpses strewn about, foully mangled and greatly mocked and scorned by the people, for the House of Medici had earned the gratitude of the people for many reasons. Everyone abhorred the death of Giuliano . . . Moreover, they had even sought to kill Lorenzo, in whom all the well-being of the whole Florentine Republic lay, that very Lorenzo in whom the hope and power of the people were placed . . . Groups of citizens, with their children and followers, offered him their support and wealth, affirming that their safety, both public and private, depended upon his life.

Question 1

How do Rinuccini and Poliziano disagree on the nature of Lorenzo's rule?

4 marks

Question 2

How do Rinuccini and Poliziano use the concept of liberty?

4 marks

Question 3

The Pazzi Conspiracy was not the first challenge to the authority of the ruling group. Identify one other challenge to the ruling group and assess its outcome.

4 marks

Question 4

How valid was Rinuccini's description of Lorenzo as a 'despot'? Draw on other evidence both primary and secondary sources.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

8 marks

Total 20 marks

SECTION C**Instructions for Section C**

Choose **one** of the following essay topics which focus on Unit 4 Outcome 1: Social Life in Renaissance Italy.

Question 1

The Florentine patrician Giovanni Rucellai advised his sons ‘I have always remained on good terms with my relatives and neighbours and other residents of the district . . . ’

Why was it so important for a Florentine patrician to maintain a range of social relationships?

OR

Question 2

The Venetian diarist Girolamo Priuli boasted that ‘Venice was open to foreigners, and all could come and go without any obstacle’.

To what extent were foreigners included in Venice’s city life?

Total 20 marks

Either Question 1 or Question 2

[illegible]

[illegible]

This image shows a single page from a notebook or ledger. It features a series of evenly spaced horizontal lines across its entire width, providing a template for writing. The lines are thin and dark against a light background. There are no margins, headers, footers, or other markings present on the page.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

[illegible]

END OF SECTION C

Question 2

What components of the Myth of Venice does Benedetto Dei question?

5 marks

Question 3

It has been argued that as the influence of Venice declined, the power of the Myth of Venice increased.

Do you agree?

[illegible]

10 marks

Total 20 marks

A script book is available from the supervisor if you need extra paper to complete your answer. Please ensure you write your **student number** in the space provided on the front cover of the script book. At the end of the examination, place the script book inside the front cover of this question and answer book.

END OF QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

Instructions for Section D

Please remove from the centre of this book during reading time.



Paolo Veronese (c. 1530–1588): *Juno lavishing her treasures on Venice*, 1553–1554. Ceiling painting in the hall of the council of ten, Ducal Palace.

Juno was a Roman goddess, both the sister and wife of Jupiter. She was worshipped as the protectress of women.

Benedetto Dei, extract *Invective against Venice*, c. 1472. Dei lived for twelve years in Venice

... Florence is more beautiful than your city of Venice, and more ancient by 540 years. Furthermore we spring from three honourable ancestries: Roman, French and Fiesolan. Just compare your own descent, likewise from three stems: Slavs, Paduans and fishermen from Malamocco and Chioggia. We are the disciples of St John, not of your St Mark, and there is the same difference as between French wool and the wool stuffed into rough mattresses. And in another respect the Florentines are richer and greater than you are: in their 30,000 landed estates belonging to gentlemen, merchants, ordinary citizens and artisans... We are a lot more powerful than you in commerce, because your Signoria has no major trading-post other than Alexandria, for spices, cotton and wax, which commodities we Florentines get at a better price by the routes through Bursia [an important trading post in Asia Minor], and in exchange we sell cloth, whereas you pay in gold ducats... the city of Venice has undergone more revolutions and innovations and bloodshed than have the four most violent and warlike cities in Italy...whose joint tally would not equal a quarter of that of the city of Venice...

[cited in Chambers, D., Pullen, B. & Fletcher, J., *Venice – A Documentary Study*, Blackwell, Oxford, 1992 pp. 68–69]