

How to Answer a 5 Mark DBQ (Document Based Question)

All DBQ's begin like this:

*“Using the **source** and your **knowledge** of history, **explain** (or **assess**, or **justify**, or **analyze**, etc....”*

Therefore there are **THREE** aspects to your response:

1. The **SOURCE** (quote, cartoon, photograph, poster, slogan, map, etc...)
2. Your **KNOWLEDGE** of history (a complete understanding of the people, places and circumstances surrounding the event)
3. An answer to the question (**THESIS**)

SOURCE: 2 MARKS

- Begin with a general statement giving background info (historical context)
- Answer the question in 1 or 2 sentences (your **THESIS**)
- Refer specifically to the source:
 - Identify the “literal meaning” of the source.
 - Paraphrase a “quote” (direct quote 1 – 6 words)
 - Identify specifics in picture (no metaphors – just the **FACTS**)

Next:

KNOWLEDGE: 3 MARKS

- Now connect the source to the historical event and answer the **QUESTION**
 - (this represents; this clearly indicates; this refers to; etc....)
 - Explain the event using specific details (names, dates, policies, places, terms, casualties, etc....)
 - Close by return (ex: re-state **THESIS**)

REMEMBER!!!!

- **PEE** – make a **POINT** and **EXPLAIN** it with **EVIDENCE!**
- Don't just throw in a quote. You must then **EXPLAIN** what the quote means and **RELATE IT TO YOUR ANSWER**
- **DO NOT RE-WRITE THE WHOLE QUOTE.** Use small excerpts (1-4 words) within your own sentences to prove your point.
- **NO REFERENCE TO SOURCE – AUTOMATIC LOSS OF 50%**
- **STICK TO THE QUESTION.** If it's about WWI do not go talking about Hitler.