Late Middle Ages Primary Source Questions

1. Read the Opposing Viewpoints documents on page 302 and answer this historical causation question. How could Boccaccio’s explanation lead to distrust of religious authorities? How much should a historian trust a confession extracted by torture?

2. Look at the map Spread of the Black Death on page 303. Is there a general pattern between distance from Sicily and the elapsed time before a region was infected with the plague?

3. Read The Cremation of the Strasbourg Jews on page 304 and answer this appropriate use of relevant historical evidence question. Why might someone believe von Königshofen’s assertion that the Jews were killed for their money?

4. Read A Revolt of French Peasants on page 307 and answer this historical causation question. What might have been the peasants’ complaints against their lords? How did the Black Death contribute to their unrest?

5. Read The Hundred Years’ War on page 310 and answer this appropriate use of relevant historical evidence question. How reliable is Froissart’s account? If French soldiers had sacked an English town, would the account have been different?
6. Look at the maps on page 311. What gains had the English made by 1429, and how do they correlate to proximity to England and the ocean?

7. Read *A Feminist Heroine: Christine de Pizan on Joan of Arc* on page 315 and answer this contextualization question. Why was it important for Christine de Pizan’s argument in the poem to emphasize that Joan of Arc was sent by God?

8. Read *Boniface VIII’s Defense of Papal Supremacy* on page 319 and answer this historical causation question. Why did Boniface VIII make these extreme assertions of papal authority? How would European politics have changed if his ideas had been accepted?

9. Read *Dante’s Vision of Hell* on page 323 and answer this contextualization question. According to Dante, why was the priest in hell? What was his implicit indictment of the clergy?

10. Read *A Liberated Woman in the Fourteenth Century* on page 326 and answer this appropriate use of relevant historical evidence question. Do you think Grazida answered her questions truthfully? What might have happened to Grazida after the Inquisition?