

To what extent did the Renaissance revolutionize European art and thought?

INTRO WITH THESIS STATEMENT

The Renaissance was a period stretching from the 14th through to the 17th centuries in Europe which was focused on the Italian city-states in general and Florence in particular. It heralded a rebirth or renewal of interest in the ideas of antiquity as exemplified by Ancient Athens and Rome. This involved an emphasis on worldly or human concerns, the learning of Latin and study of the humanities. This essay argues that the Renaissance witnessed fundamental and indeed revolutionary changes to European art and thought, including science, architecture and learning, through the work of Renaissance men such as Leonardo da Vinci, Brunelleschi, Gutenberg and Copernicus.

ESSAY PLAN

- **Development paragraph 1:** context – define the Renaissance (and demonstrate the ranges of subjects it included) plus explain how and why it was focused on Italy and one city in particular.
- **Development paragraph 2:** chart how the Renaissance fundamentally changed painting and sculptures, citing examples.
- **Development paragraph 3:** analyze the impact of the Renaissance on architecture and/or science – again with reference to clear examples.
- **Development paragraph 4:** show how the concept of ‘renaissance man’ made a virtue of learning and explain why the printing press was so important a development.
- **Conclusion:** sum up what you have demonstrated in your essay, return to and answer the question in the title.