**Western Civilization- Is the Best?**



***Task 1A: Read the Introduction of Niall Ferguson’s study of Western Civilization. Be prepared to discuss the following***:

1. Refutes the idea that all civilizations are equal.

b) Supports the idea that Western civilization is the

template for the world.

c) Illustrates the idea that human beings are becoming

more like "us".

d) Refutes the thesis that imperialism explains Western

dominance.

e) Deals with other theories explaining Western

dominance: geography, genetics, culture.

f) Explains what distinguished the West from the rest of the world.

Niall Ferguson is a very highly touted academic. He is Great Britain’s most acclaimed historian and is the author of many massively read works. His influence on the ‘working man’ and politicians is very powerful. However, he has some enemies. Bernard Porter is one of them. Below is his critique of *Civilization: The West and the Rest:*

*...he must know that his is only one way of looking at modern world history ... far to the right of the political spectrum, and consequently highly unsuited to be taught to children... It reads like propaganda.*

***Task 1B: Write a one paragraph response to Bernard Porter's comment on Ferguson's book. State whether you agree or disagree with this statement. You must include a direct thesis (argument/belief) and include details from the Ferguson reading in your paragraph. See the paragraph guide on the next page for help in writing your paragraph.***

**HOW TO WRITE A PARAGRAPH**

The format of a well written historical paragraph:

**The Topic Sentence+**

* It is the first sentence in the paragraph.
* It states the main idea or main point of the paragraph. What are you going to prove?
* Every other sentence in the paragraph should relate to the topic sentence.
* If you are responding to a prompt or question, the topic sentence will restate part of that wording in order to clarify.
* The first line of this first sentence should be slightly indented.

**The Supporting Sentences**

* These support the idea presented in the topic sentence. They are evidence to backup your first “big idea” statement.
* They should provide *specific* reasons, examples, and details to provide the arguments to support the main idea of the paragraph.
* Each reason or statement should include specific details or examples (names, dates, key terms, events, facts, quotes) to illustrate the point.
* Use transition words (*first, second, furthermore, in addition, therefore*) to connect the ideas in the paragraph together.
* Details should be stated in a logical order.
  + Order of importance
  + Chronological order

**The Concluding Sentence**

* + - It points out the significance of the overall idea of the paragraph.
    - Think of it as answering the question “So what?” Why does this matter?

***Style***

* ***No*** *first or second person (I, me, my, us, we, our, you, your)*
* ***No*** *contractions (isn’t, weren’t, we’ll, they’re)*
* ***No*** *casual language or slang*
* ***No*** *fragments or run-ons; use correct grammar and spelling*



**\*this does not mean that the paragraph should only be 5 sentences. Use as many sentences as you need to get your point across.**