

AP EURO Required Summer Reading

For your Summer Reading, you are to read Niccolo Machiavelli's *The Prince* and complete the Study Guide questions below.

Machiavelli's *The Prince* - You can get a copy of the text at any bookstore.

STRONG SUGGESTION! ANSWER THE QUESTIONS AS YOU READ THE SECTIONS TO WHICH THE QUESTIONS APPLY!

WRITE COMPLETE THOUGHTS SUPPORTED BY SPECIFIC EVIDENCE FROM THE BOOK SECTION, AND USE COMPLETE SENTENCES.

IF YOU HANDWRITE YOUR ANSWERS, BE SURE YOUR WRITING IS LEGIBLE. IF YOU CHOOSE TO TYPE/WORDPROCESS THE RESPONSES, BE SURE TO SAVE YOUR FILE!

1. Describe the political situation that prompted Machiavelli to write *The Prince*. (Did you read the Book and historical background link I provided?)
2. Identify the basic themes of the book.
3. What is Machiavelli's opinion about humankind? Why does he feel that way?
4. What were the mistakes of Louis XII listed by Machiavelli in Chapter 3? Why does Machiavelli dwell upon their analysis? What rule could one draw from them?
5. Explain why Machiavelli, in Chapter 5, insists so much on destruction.
6. With reference to the subject of the innovations treated in Chapter 6, give an example of success and an example of failure.
7. In Chapters 6 and 7, which vices are considered useful and advisable? Why?
8. Describe Cesare Borgia as he is presented in Chapter 7. Why did Machiavelli dedicate almost the entire chapter to him?
9. What is the course a prince should follow when choosing his advisors? What is the infallible method of recognizing a good minister?
10. Explain Machiavelli's opinions about the common people and the nobles. How does he feel about the way that a prince should be viewed by his subjects?
11. What does Machiavelli say about the military duty of a prince?

12. What is the crux of the dilemma of the prince that Machiavelli presents in Chapter 17?

13. What is the significance of the myth of Chiron in Chapter 18? What are the qualities symbolized by the fox and the lion?

14. Discuss Machiavelli's ideas about religion.

15. Why can't a prince who is not wise himself be well advised?

16. What is the role of fortune (luck) in ruling?

17. What is Machiavelli's final call to the Prince?