

**Directions:** The following question is based on the accompanying documents 1 – 7. (The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.)

This question is designed to test your ability to work with and understand historical documents. Write an essay that:

- Has a relevant thesis and supports that thesis with evidence from the documents.
- Uses all of the documents.
- Analyzes the documents by grouping them in as many appropriate ways as possible. **Does not simply summarize the documents individually.**
- Takes into account both the sources of the documents and the authors' points of view.

You may refer to relevant historical information not mentioned in the documents. Vocabulary help can be found in the footnotes.

Question: Using the documents below, discuss and analyze attitudes towards coffee in the 17<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> centuries C.E. What additional document(s) could help you assess attitudes towards this commodity?

#### Document 1

Source: English Minister of Parliament, 1661

'Tis extolled for drying up the crudities of the stomach and for expelling fumes out of the head. Excellent Berry! which can cleanse the English-man's stomach of phlegm, and expel giddiness out of his head.<sup>1</sup>

#### Document 2

Source: English pamphlet, anonymous, "Women's Petition Against Coffee," 1674

...the excessive use of that newfangled, abominable, heathenish liquor called coffee has made eunuchs of our husbands, and crippled our more kind lovers that they are become as impotent as old age.<sup>2</sup>

#### Document 3

Source: Charles II, King of England, 1675

"... call for the suppression of all coffeehouses in London as being places where the disaffected met, and spread scandalous reports concerning the conduct of His Majesty and his Ministers"<sup>3</sup>

#### Document 4

Source: John Houghton, English coffee dealer, 1699

"Coffee has greatly increased the Trade of Tobacco and Pipes, Earthen Dishes, Tin wares, News-Papers, Coals, Candles, Sugar, Tea, Chocolate and what not".

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<sup>1</sup> Extol: to praise; crudities: undigested matter; phlegm: thick mucus excreted by the respiratory tract

<sup>2</sup> Newfangled: a new and often outrageous fad or fashion; impotent: unable to perform sexually

<sup>3</sup> Disaffected: rebellious and resentful, especially against authority; scandalous: disgraceful, harmful of someone's reputation

### Document 5

Source: *Coffeehouses and Science*, PortCities.com, (Information and history of famous English port cities such as London, Liverpool, etc.), accessed December 2008

Another way in which science played an active part in the life of coffee houses in the 17th and 18th centuries was through the regular lectures that would take place inside them. Interest in learning about science, and astronomy and mathematics in particular, grew enormously after the death of Isaac Newton. Lots of people wanted to be able to understand his work. Out of this interest came the lecturers. These included people like James Ferguson, who put on spectacular shows explaining scientific principles and techniques to a lay audience. They often used apparatus they had built themselves, which could then be bought or commissioned from them by members of the audience. Coffee houses were often called the Penny Universities because of the cheap education they provided. For an entrance fee of one penny visitors could read the newspapers, listen to lecturers and engage in discussion on any manner of disparate topics.

### Document 6

Source: Frederick the Great, king of Prussia, 1777 (Prussia in the late 1700s is the largest of the German states)

"It is disgusting to notice the increase in the quantity of coffee used by my subjects, and the like amount of money that goes out of the country in consequence. My people must drink beer. His Majesty was brought up on beer, and so were his ancestors."

### Document 7

Source: Ottoman Empire (Islamic) government publication, "Storyteller at a coffeehouse," 1800s

