

All

SEMINAR 5 – Answer Key

Women in History

Task 1

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|------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Nefertiti (14th Century B.C.) | e |
| 2. Cleopatra (69-30 B.C.) | g |
| 3. Joan of Arc (1412-1431) | a |
| 4. Catherine de Medici (1519-1589) | c |
| 5. Mbande Nzinga (1582-1663) | f (Angola) |
| 6. Catherine the Great (1729-1796) | l |
| 7. Tzu-hsi (1835-1908) | d (China) |
| 8. Liliuokalani (1838-1917) | b (Hawaii) |
| 9. Golda Meir (1898-1978) | h (Israel) |

Task 2 – Gap fill – Women of the Crusades⁷

Eleanor of Aquitaine was one of the most **powerful** and fascinating personalities of feudal Europe. At the age of 15, she married Louis VII, King of France, bringing into the union her **possessions** from the River Loire to the Pyrenees. At the age of 19, she offered thousands of her **vassals** for the Second Crusade to Bernard of Clairvaux. While the church may have been pleased to receive her thousand fighting vassals, they were less happy when they learned that Eleanor, with 300 of her ladies, also planned to help "tend the **injured**." The presence of Eleanor, her ladies, and wagons of female **servants** dressed in armour, was widely criticized.

Later Eleanor fell in love with her uncle Raymond, the prince of Antioch, who was only a few years older than her and more interesting than her husband, Louis. When Raymond and Louis **disagreed** on the next goals of the Crusade, Eleanor agreed with Raymond. Louis commanded Eleanor to **follow** him to Jerusalem, but she announced that their marriage was not **valid** in the eyes of God, for they were related through some family **connection** that was prohibited by the Church. Nevertheless, Louis still forced Eleanor to ride with him, but their expedition failed.

The defeated Eleanor and Louis were returning to France in separate ships when she learned that her uncle had been killed in **battle**. For the next Crusade, it was forbidden for any women to join in. All the Christian monarchs, **including** King Louis, agreed to this.

Her **relationship** with Louis was over and in 1152 their marriage was annulled; she then regained her estates. At the age of 30, she married 20-year-old Henry who two years later became king of England. Henry's infidelities caused her to establish her own court at Poitiers (in 1170), which became the scene of much artistic **activity**. She supported her sons in their **unsuccessful** revolt (1173) against Henry and was confined by him until 1185. In 1189 she helped Richard gain the throne. Later, her other son, John, became king of England.

Task 3

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|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Shagrat al-Durr was a slave, sultan's wife, sultan and Sultana. | T |
| 2. Shagrat killed her first husband in 1250 when he returned from Damascus. | F |
| 3. Shagrat fought against Turan, who defeated the Crusaders. | F (she defeated them) |
| 4. The Caliph of Baghdad did not agree with Shagrat ruling the country. | T (did not approve of) |
| 5. Shagrat resisted the Caliph's orders for two months. | F (she was Sultan for 2 mo.) |
| 6. Aibak and Shagrat were of the same origin. | T (Mamluks) |
| 7. Apparently, Aibak and Shagrat were a well-balanced couple. | F (she dominated him) |
| 8. Shagrat killed Aibak when he married another woman. | F (he only proposed) |
| 9. Aibak's former ¹³ family took revenge. | T (former wife & son) |
| 10. The army was always loyal to Shagrat; she was killed in the harem. | F (the army divided) |

Task 4

Oh, What a Circus

(Che:)

Oh what a circus, oh what a **show**
Argentina has gone to town
Over the death of an **actress** called Eva Peron
We've all gone crazy
Mourning all day and **mourning** all night
Falling over ourselves to get all of the **misery** right

Oh, what an exit, that's how to go
When they're ringing your **curtain** down
Demand to be **buried** like Eva Peron
It's quite a **sunset**
And good for the country in a roundabout way
We've made the **front page** of all the world's **papers** today

But who is this Santa Evita?
Why all this howling, hysterical **sorrow**?
What kind of **goddess** has lived among us?
How will we ever get by without her?

She had her moments, she had **some** style
The best show in town was the **crowd**
Outside the Casa Rosada **crying**, "Eva Peron"
But that's all gone now
As soon as the **smoke** from the funeral clears
We're all gonna see and how, she did **nothing** for years

(Chorus)

(Che:)

You **let down** your people, Evita
You were supposed to have been **immortal**
That's all they wanted, **not much** to ask for
But in the end you could not deliver

Sing you fools, but you got it wrong
Enjoy your prayers because you haven't got long
Your **queen** is dead, your **king** is through
And she's not coming back to you

Show business kept us all alive
Since seventeen October **1945**
But the star has gone, the glamour's worn thin
That's a pretty bad state for a state to be in

Instead of government we had a stage
Instead of ideas, a primadonna's rage
Instead of help we were given a crowd
She didn't say much, but she said it **loud**

Sing you fools, but you got it wrong
Enjoy your prayers because you haven't got long
Your **queen** is dead, your **king** is through
She's not coming back to you

(Crowd:)

Repeat chorus

(Eva:)

Don't cry for me Argentina
For I am ordinary, **unimportant**
And **undeserving** of such attention
Unless we all are, I think we all are
So share my **glory**, so share my coffin
So share my **glory**, so share my coffin

(Che:)

It's our funeral too

Grammar – Focus on Verbs

Task 5

Murasaki Shikibu, the best-known writer to emerge¹⁵ from Japan's glorious Heian period, was born into the Fujiwara family. Her father **was** the governor of a province and a well-known scholar, who **allowed** Shikibu to study with her brother. He even **let** her learn some Chinese classics, which was considered improper for females at the time.

Lady Murasaki **married** her distant relative, and **bore** him their only daughter in 999 A.D. Her husband **died** in 1001 A.D. The imperial family **knew** of her writing talent and her brilliant mind, and **brought** Lady Murasaki to court.

At court, Lady Murasaki **began** a diary she **kept** up for two years. She **gave** a vivid account of court life. She also **went** to great pains to hide her knowledge of Chinese. She **feared** the criticism of those who **felt** it to be unladylike to be happy reading this unknown language. Shikibu **wrote** the novel *The Tale of the Genji* at the court. She **based** it loosely on her years as lady-in-waiting to the Empress Akiko. The very long novel **described** complications in the life of a fictitious prince called Genji. The tales of Prince Genji, known as "the Shining Prince," **became** popular from the moment of its release. Little is known about Lady Murasaki's later life. Perhaps, she **retired** from court and **sought** seclusion in a convent.

Task 6

1. She **must have received** an excellent education.
2. She **may/could have expected** that at her father's death she would take his place as head of an empire which stretched from Italy to Armenia.
3. Her mother **may/could have encouraged** her to try and seize the imperial throne for him.
4. The attempt failed, and she **had** to retire from court life.
5. It **must have been** in the monastery, where 55-year-old Anna began serious work on *Alexiad*, a 15 volume history of her family, the Comneni.
6. He **must have wanted** to stop the Turkish attacks which had left the southern and eastern borders of the Byzantine Empire virtually defenceless.
7. To Anna, they **must have appeared** as uneducated barbarians, with manners far beneath those of the wealthy and cosmopolitan Byzantines.

Task 7

1. Five-year-old Mary, who **had become** Queen of Scotland already six days after birth, **left** home to live in France.
2. She **married** King Francis II in the French court, where the French **had brought** her up.
3. Mary **returned** to Scotland as a widow, because her husband **had died** one year after their wedding.
4. She **had been** in Scotland for four years when she **married** her second husband, Lord Darnley.
5. One year later she **fell** in love with Bothwell, who **had been** consistently loyal to her.
6. Darnley, meanwhile, **had succeeded** in making himself even more unpopular, and all the royal counsellors **urged** Mary to get rid of him.
7. Bothwell **married** Mary when he **had divorced** his wife and Mary's husband **had been found** strangled.
8. Protestants **led** a revolt against her because she **had had** a series of politically unwise love affairs.
9. She **had to** escape to England for more safety, but faced the fears of Queen Elizabeth I, who **had** always **seen** her as a rival to her throne.
10. Finally, Elizabeth **allowed** the execution of Mary, who **had been kept** under a form of imprisonment for 19 years.