

## Formative Assessment: Evaluating Evidence



**Thinking historically means identifying the evidence related to a claim, assessing its validity, and corroborating it by comparing multiple sources' interpretations of events, developments, or processes.**

**Directions:** Read the following secondary source and then answer the questions on evaluating evidence that follow. The multiple choice questions for this formative assessment are Weighted Multiple Choice (WMC) questions. This means that there is only one *incorrect* answer, but the other 3 choices are weighted. The *best* answer is 3 points, the *second-best* answer is 2 points, and the *third-best* answer is 1 point. The *incorrect* answer is 0 points.

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Source: Bartholomew of Brescia (commentator) and Gratian (author), *Gratian's "Decretum" with Commentary by Bartholomew of Brescia*, 1300. [Library of Congress](#).

Note: Gratian's "Decretum" is the best-known text of medieval canon law used in 13th and 14th century European universities, which was compiled by the 12th century Bolognese jurist Gratianus. While it primarily covers canon, or church, law, since the church was embedded in all parts of medieval society, it also informed civil law.



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1. Select the detail from the above image that *best* supports the claim:  
**Medieval Europeans believed the Church played a central role in connecting divine law to earthly governance.**
  - A. Church figures and kings are shown gathered together beneath the divine figure, suggesting that medieval Europeans believed governing required both religious and secular leadership working together.
  - B. A glowing divine figure sits at the very top of the image surrounded by angels, suggesting that medieval Europeans saw God as the ultimate source of all law.
  - C. Church figures appear throughout the image, directly below God and standing alongside kings and nobles, suggesting the Church acted as the link between God's law and the laws of earthly rulers.
  - D. Kings and nobles are depicted at the highest layer of the image, suggesting that medieval Europeans believed earthly rulers held the highest authority over law.

2. Justify your choice in the space below.



## Formative Assessment: Evaluating Evidence

1. Select the detail from the above image that *best* supports the claim: **Medieval Europeans believed the Church played a central role in connecting divine law to earthly governance.**
  - A. Church figures and kings are shown gathered together beneath the divine figure, suggesting that medieval Europeans believed governing required both religious and secular leadership working together. **(2 points)**
  - B. A glowing divine figure sits at the very top of the image surrounded by angels, suggesting that medieval Europeans saw God as the ultimate source of all law. **(1 point)**
  - C. Church figures appear throughout the image, directly below God and standing alongside kings and nobles, suggesting the Church acted as the link between God's law and the laws of earthly rulers. **(3 points)**
  - D. Kings and nobles are depicted at the highest layer of the image, suggesting that medieval Europeans believed earthly rulers held the highest authority over law. **(0 points)**

2. Justify your choice in the space below.

**The image clearly shows Church figures appearing throughout multiple tiers of the hierarchy, directly beneath God and alongside kings and nobles, making Choice C worth 3 points. Choice A is also supported by the image, as clergy and kings are visibly gathered together beneath the divine figure, but it only captures one tier of the Church's role rather than its presence across the entire hierarchy, worth 2 points. Choice B is accurate in that God appears at the top of the image, but simply identifying the divine figure at the top does not demonstrate the Church's central connective role, worth 1 point. Choice D is directly contradicted by the image, as kings and nobles appear in the middle tier beneath both God and the ecclesiastical figures rather than at the highest position, worth 0 points.**



## 1. Weighted Multiple Choice

3 points (Choice C)	2 points (Choice A)	1 point (Choice B)	0 points (Choice D)
			<b>Subtotal: _____ / 3</b>

## 2. Short Answer: Justify Your Answer

3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points
Student thoroughly justifies their choice of the <i>best</i> piece of evidence—which is worth three points as shown on the teacher key—that supports the claim.	Student thoroughly justifies their choice of either the 1 or 2 point option from the WMC question. OR Student's justification of the 3 point option needs deeper analysis.	Student's justification of their choice (either the 1 or 2 point option) lacks deep analysis.	Student either makes no attempt to justify their choice OR try to justify the 0 point option.
			<b>Subtotal: _____ / 3</b>

**Total: \_\_\_\_\_ / 6**

