

**Part 3: Essay** (50 points)

**Directions:** Answer the following prompt in a well-reasoned response, using examples as necessary.

What cultural factors (both political and religious) affected the development of Baroque architecture? Explain shared and distinct aspects of Baroque architecture (for example, comparing/contrasting artistic qualities, main patrons and the monuments they built) in a discussion of **two** of the following countries: England, France, and Italy.

*Good responses from two of your colleagues [with my additions]:*

I.

Baroque architecture grew out of the Counter Reformation in Italy after Martin Luther protested against the Catholic Church. Therefore, the church began to try to bring people back to the church. For example, the pinnacles at St. Peter's reached out like the arms of the church to bring people back. Also, San Andrea al Quirinale was amplified ornamental décor for the glory of the church. [The architects infused their work with sculpture and paintings that helped evoke emotional responses in worshippers, which was an aim of the Counter-Reformation.]

In France, everything was about the absolutism of the king. King Louis XIV showed his power through the glory of art and architecture. An example is taking Fouquet's architect, landscaper, and designer after he felt this power was being mocked. The King took them to Versailles to create a monument solely of his power. [As in Italy, using architecture, sculpture, and painting to communicate the power and glory of the patron.]

II.

Baroque in France and Italy had similar characteristics but were distinguished in their purpose and patrons. In Italy, the patrons were mostly for the church, more specifically the Catholic church. We see a few instances where large wealthy families were patrons for chapels. All the ornament and artistic qualities were meant to glorify God and the saints. Dramatic lighting and sculpture was used to bring emotion to the narratives, like in the Cornaro Chapel. [This is a calculated effort by the Church as part of the Counter-Reformation.] This is completely different in France, where Baroque architecture was patronized by most always by the royal court, the king. All parts of a design were meant to praise and show the power of the king. This is seen evidently in the Chateau at Versailles, all designs were outrageously grand and were meant to show King's power. [especially this king's *absolute* power] Plans were different Royalty was seen as challenging the religious churches in France, and the architecture reflected that.