Fall of Rome DBQ

**Background Essay**

1. What was the Pax Romana?
2. In what way did the form of Roman government change around the time of Julius Caesar?
3. Beginning in the 3rd century, Rome was developing a “soft belly.” What does this mean?
4. What is the effect of a city being sacked?

**Document 1**

1. What is a common theme in the change in leadership of the Roman Empire from 235-285 CE?
2. What message might this have sent to people of the Roman Empire?
3. What message might this have sent to outsiders about the Roman Empire?
4. How does this document help explain the fall of the Roman Empire?

**Document 2**

1. How does this document help explain a reason for the decline and fall of Rome?

**Document 3**

1. Who was Ammianus Marcellinus?
2. Why might Ammianus Marcellinus want to compare the Huns to “unthinking animals?”
3. How does this document help explain the fall of the Roman Empire?
4. How do document 2 and 3 relate to each other?

**Document 4**

1. According to the Gibbon passage, what natural disaster struck the Roman Empire in 366 CE?
2. In the Stearns passage, what deadly illness arrived from Southern Asia?
3. Describe one specific was that the two disasters detailed in the document contributed to the decline of the Roman Empire.