

Integrated Task

Give yourself 3 minutes to read the passage. Then listen to the lecture on the CD. The lecture will take about 2 minutes. Don't forget to take notes as you listen and read. You should begin thinking about your planning as you do this. Then write an essay in response to the question within 20 minutes. Use the space on the following pages.

Divide your writing time like this:

Step 1	PLAN	3 minutes
Step 2	WRITE	14 minutes
Step 3	REVISE	3 minutes



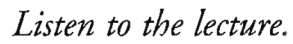
Read the passage for three minutes.

The bubonic plague, also known as the Black Plague or the Black Death, swept through the world during the Middle Ages. Originating in China, it left behind a lasting legacy.

The worst outbreak of the plague occurred in the mid-1300s. The deadly disease appeared in China in the early 1330s. Since China was a busy trading nation, the plague was soon carried from its ports to the rest of the world. The disease was transmitted to people by fleas. Rats, which infested trading ships, were the means of transporting the disease-ridden fleas throughout the world.

In 1347, several Italian trading ships returned from the Black Sea and docked in Sicily. Unbeknownst to the crew, the cargo they carried included plague-carrying rats, and a number of the sailors were dying, or already dead, from the disease. The plague spread quickly from the port to the surrounding countryside, and then throughout Italy. By the following year it had reached northern Europe. During the cold season, the plague seemed to recede, but it returned each spring with renewed vigor when fleas awakened from their winter dormancy.

It is estimated that 75 million people worldwide fell victim to the disease within the next five years. In Europe, 25 million people—one third of the continent's population—died. The widespread death led to breakdowns in the existing social order. Among other effects, the authority of the church weakened and there were peasant uprisings. There continued to be recurrences of the plague every generation or so for the next several centuries, though none as terrible as the outbreak of the 1300s. The plague finally disappeared in the 17th century.



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.