Document D

This document is based on two images. The image descriptions are in the notes.

Source: A woodcut called "Zodiac Man" from a book by German astronomer Johann Regiomontanus, 1512, and a woodcut from the anatomy book on the Makeup of the Human Body by Belgian physician Andreas Vesalius, 1543.

Note: The image on the left reflects the Middle Ages belief that each sign of the zodiac\* governed a certain part of the body. For example, the constellation of stars called Aries the Ram controlled the head. The illustration on the right was based on the research done by Andreas Vesalius, who dissected human corpses to better explain the human body. A significant difference between these two images is, the “zodiac man” diagram is suggesting that lobsters, scorpions, goats, and other zodiac symbols influence how a human body functions. The other image from the anatomy book of the Makeup of the Human Body shows muscles, tissue, and bones and suggest that these things influence body function.

Document Analysis

1. Which of the drawings is more realistic? Explain.

2. During medieval times, what was widely believed to control the health and well being of different parts of the body? Give an example.

3. What do you suppose Vesalius thought of the zodiac theory of anatomy?

4. How did Vesalius get his information about the makeup of the human body?

5. In summary, how does this document reveal how the Renaissance changed man's view of the world?