Questions for “Peter the Great and the Rise of Russia” Documents

1. In the Bishop Burnet excerpt how does Burnet characterize Peter, based on his visit to England? To what extent and do these characterizations depict Peter as an absolutist?

2. Explain why the Burnet document may be valuable for a historian and why there may be some limitations in its value to a historical reader.

3. In Van Korb’s Diary, how did he characterize Peter’s response to the Streltsi uprising? To what extent do these characterizations depict Peter as an absolutist?

4. Based on the Gordon document, to what extent and in what ways did Peter’s personality contribute to his ability to be a strong absolutist?
5. What do you think are some economic and social implications for Russia that may come about from the building of St. Petersburg? You SHOULD use the Mckay section about Peter the Great to help you answer this question!

6. Based on the de Missy document, what were some of the changes in Russian customs and fashion that Peter demanded and WHY would he choose to enforce these changes? In what ways does this reflect the principles of absolutism?

7. To what extent was Peter the Great the original Chuck Norris? (you don't really need to answer this question...unless you really want to.)