

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Document Based Question:

Using the Documents, analyze the reasons for the collapse of Brad Pitt's relationships.

**Historical Background:** Brad Pitt is an Oscar Award winning actor and has starred in films such as *Mission: Impossible* and *Risky Business*. He is the most visible member of the Church of Scientology. He has been married twice and divorced once. He is currently married to Angelina Jolie. With Jolie, he has adopted numerous children from foreign countries and has two biological children.

#### Document 1

Source: *People Magazine*, June 30, 1997, Vol. 47, No. 25 – *People Magazine* is one of the most trusted and subscribed-to human-interest magazines in the US. Customers either subscribe to have the magazine delivered to their homes or buy the magazines from newsstands or racks in checkout lanes at supermarkets.

Article Title: Paltrow and Pitt are No More

Only yesterday, it seems, Gwyneth Paltrow was madly, passionately, head-over-her-Prada-heels in love with her fiancé, Brad Pitt. Honoring their policy never to be apart for more than two weeks, the 24-year-old actress, based in London while filming *Sliding Doors*, a whimsical comedy-drama due this November, beamed with her betrothed at local clubs. But today, we can report that the two have called it quits.

The reason, says Pitt's friend, John Guagenti, is because the decision was, in fact, more one-sided. "Brad called it off," the source insists. "He changed his mind about a month ago. He got caught up in the frenzy of getting married, but he really didn't want to. He hasn't had a second to think about what's going on."

"He's commitment-shy," surmises another Pitt acquaintance. "He needs to figure out what he wants."

Whatever derailed the momentum toward that all-important walk, everyone interviewed by PEOPLE agreed on one point: There is virtually no possibility that Pitt was putting his charms to work on another. "Brad is not a womanizer," says one friend, "and he doesn't cheat. He always has one girlfriend." At worst he has a tendency to fall in love—one at a time—with his leading ladies.

#### Document 2

Source: *TMZ.com*, Friday January 07, 2005 – *TMZ* is America's most popular celebrity gossip website. It's funding comes from advertisements on its website. Often, *TMZ.com* gets "clicks" to its websites by posting headlines on other websites.

Article Title: "Aniston/Pitt: Split"

Hollywood power-couple, Jennifer Aniston and Brad Pitt have decided to separate, *TMZ* reports exclusively.

"We would like to announce that after seven years together we have decided to formally separate. For those who follow these sorts of things, we would like to explain that our separation is not the result of any of the speculation reported by the tabloid media. We simply have been spending too much time away from each other because of our careers and have grown apart" said Aniston.

In 2002, Aniston told PEOPLE that she and Pitt were looking forward to starting a family: "Absolutely it will happen but probably not for a while. Probably *Friends* will end, close that chapter, and see where we go."

#### Comment [HB1]: Breakup with Paltrow

Trusted, popular magazine

From in love to break up quickly  
In a movie together  
Brad changed his mind  
Didn't wanna get married  
Commitment shy  
Hasn't had time to think about relationship (job)  
Everyone says he doesn't cheat  
Tends to fall in love with costars

#### Comment [HB2]: Breakup with Aniston

TMZ, not that reliable, for clicks, but from Aniston herself

Power-couple  
Broke up because of time apart with careers  
Seven years, not about what the media is reporting  
She thought they'd have kids

**Document 3**

Source: *Wikipedia*, "Brangelina" <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brangelina> Saturday, July 16, 2016 - Wikipedia is an online encyclopedia that can be edited by its members.

Pitt and Jolie met on the set of the 2005 film *Mr. & Mrs. Smith* and their association became subject of a much-publicized Hollywood scandal. It was alleged that the couple had started an affair while Pitt was still married to Jennifer Aniston. Pitt and Jolie have separately denied this on several occasions, but admitted that they "fell in love" on the set. In an interview in 2005, Jolie explained, "To be intimate with a married man, when my own father cheated on my mother, is not something I could forgive. I could not look at myself in the morning if I did that. I wouldn't be attracted to a man who would cheat on his wife."

**Comment [HB3]:** Met Jolie while married to Aniston

Wiki – can be edited, can be for trolling

Fell in love on set but didn't cheat on Aniston said Jolie

**Document 4**

Source: *TheImproper.com*, Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 – *TheImproper.com* is a celebrity gossip site like *TMZ*.

Article Title: "The Weekly Hollywood Rumor Mill"

Perhaps most damaging among the rumors was a report that Brad had secretly slipped away and visited ex-wife Jennifer Aniston while she was filming her movie. The two were said also to be texting each other. But reps for both camps denied the rumor, saying simply it never happened.

**Comment [HB4]:** Cheated on Jolie with Aniston like he probably did vice versa

Site like *TMZ*, not reliable

Both camps denied it

**Document 5**

Source: *US Magazine*, Wednesday May 16, 2007 - *Us Magazine* is one of the most trusted and subscribed-to human-interest magazines in the US. Customers either subscribe to have the magazine delivered to their homes or buy the magazines from newsstands or racks in checkout lanes at supermarkets.

May 16, 2007 Cover:

**Comment [HB5]:** Jolie planned to get pregnant while Pitt was still married to Aniston

*US Magazine*. Trusted like *People*

Proof that he cheated while married



#### Document 6

Source: "ibtimes.com" *The International Business Times*, Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016 – The International Business Times is an online news magazine focused on business, but also publishes human-interest stories and current events headlines such as this one under their "Media and Culture" page.

Article Title: Proof Angelina Jolie Will Divorce Brad Pitt? Cheating, Flirting, Weight Loss And More

[Excerpt from article]

**1. Jolie's weight supposedly dropped to 80 pounds.** This story comes by way of the National Enquirer, which means there's a good chance it's false. Even though she may not be 80 pounds, there are other articles claiming Jolie has lost a significant amount of weight because of her stressful marriage to Pitt. Jolie is "pale, gaunt and exhausted" and is "like a shell of her former self ... She's under 100 pounds — just skin and bones." The 40-year-old actress is "pushing herself to the absolute limit," a source told In Touch Weekly Wednesday.

**2. They are living separate lives.** With active careers and six children between them, Pitt and Jolie are having a hard time making their marriage work. "Dedicating their lives to film work, human rights and their children left them little time for each other," an insider told In Touch Weekly in January.

**3. Pitt is flirting with much-younger women, such as actresses Cara Delevingne and Selena Gomez, both 23.** "Brad thinks Cara's talents haven't been explored properly, and he wants to take her under his wing," a source told Radar Online Sunday. "He's hoping she might sign an ongoing deal with his company." As for Gomez, rumors Pitt cheated on Jolie began after he worked with the former Disney star in his film, "The Big Short." Although they're probably not true, "all the rumors about Brad and Selena made [Angie] insane with jealousy," an insider told Star Magazine.

#### Comment [HB6]: Reasons Jolie will divorce

IBTimes – kinda reliable, more real journalism, but media and culture section

Weight dropped – Jolie – under 100 lbs  
Too much time working, not at home  
Pitt flirting with younger women. Jolie is 40  
When he is with girls on the set  
Rumors make Jolie jealous

#### Document 7

Source: "eHarmony.com's Relationship Advice Page" Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> 2016- *eHarmony.com* is a paid online dating app and website. Its "Relationship Advice Page" is free for both paying members and non-members of eHarmony.

Article Title: Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie: eHarmony Advice Looks at a Celebrity Relationship

[Excerpt from article]

*Previous Marriages:*

With a six-month engagement to Gwyneth Paltrow and a five-year marriage to Jennifer Aniston ending in divorce, Brad has had his share of failed long-term relationships. Angelina shares an unfortunate marriage history as she was previously married to Jonny Lee Miller and most recently Billy Bob [Thomton](#) for three years.

With unsuccessful relationships in the past, it's no wonder why you may be gun-shy about the weight of another wedlock or the possibility of another failure. It can prove challenging to keep your experiences separate and have another "at bat" at traditional commitment. However, previous missteps can just make future successes more likely, as now you are wiser and more mature.

#### Comment [HB7]: Cut off engagement to paltrow

Eharmony – dating app

6 month engagement to paltrow called off  
5 year marriage to Aniston  
Jolie 2 failed marriages

Can make you gun-shy

### DBQ Guatemala Paper – Brad Pitt

- ❖ Read the prompt. What is the question asking you? Circle the key words and write them on the line below.

Analyze, reasons, collapse, relationships

- ❖ Also, write the SPICE (Social, Political, Interaction with Environment, Cultural, Economic) theme(s) that the question is asking you.

SPICE Theme: Social

- ❖ Read the documents and **annotate (write on) them. (THIS SHOULD TAKE THE MAJORITY OF YOUR PLANNING TIME!)** Look for patterns amongst the documents that relate to the prompt. Organize them below.

Group #	1	2	3
Similarity	Cheats	Commitment shy	Work gets in the way
Doc #s	3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 7,	2, 3, 6,

- ❖ **Paragraph 1 Part 1 – Contextualization (set the stage)**

Give some background information that would help the reader situate your argument within the **broader historical event/developments** of the prompt. In other words, how would you set up contextualization for the beginning of your essay?

Pitt is very famous, very attractive, very rich. Lots of failed marriages. Most marriages in America end in divorce (fail). American society is independent, focused on self-success.

- ❖ **Paragraph 1 Part 2 – Thesis Statement**

Your thesis is placed at the end of the intro paragraph in one sentence after you have set up the context and it must:

- Completely address the prompt (answer the question) **in three different ways.**

Way 1 Answer: Cheats

Way 1 Docs #s: 4, 5

Way 2 Answer: Commitment shy

Way 2 Docs #s: 1, 7

Way 3 Answer: Work gets in the way

Way 3 Docs #s: 2, 3, 6

Put your thesis statement in sentence form: Brad Pitt's relationships fail because of his pattern of infidelity as shown in documents four and five, because of his fear of

commitment as shown in documents one and seven, and because his career often gets in the way.

❖ **Paragraph 2 – Way 1 (need at least two docs in this group)**

Topic sentence/restatement of way 1: As shown in documents five and four, one major reason that Pitt's relationships fail is because he is a cheater.

Doc 5 How does it support your thesis? Cheated on his wife, Aniston and intended to get Jolie pregnant

while still married to Aniston.

Analysis of SOURCING of the doc – circle one (Historical context, Intended audience, Purpose, POV)

Example of analysis: Purpose may have been to sell magazines because it was the cover. Covers

are what sell magazines. Shown by the two back to back and Pitt in middle. May be true because Jolie is the source.

Doc 4 How does it support your thesis? Cheated on Jolie with Aniston after cheating on Aniston with

Jolie. Shows that he is a serial cheater. Has no respect for his partners.

Analysis of SOURCING of the doc – circle one (Historical context, Intended audience, Purpose, POV)

Example of analysis: TMZ uses click-bait. Often just gossip that doesn't have good sources. The

intended audience may not check sources and that could lead TMZ to just put rumors to get clicks.

❖ **Paragraph 3 – Way 2 (need at least two docs in this group)**

Topic sentence/restatement of way 2: As shown in documents seven and one, it is clear that another reason Pitt's relationships fail is due to his fear of commitment.

Doc 7 How does it support your thesis? Proposed to Paltrow and broke it off in six months. Advice

column says past relationship failures can cause one to become gun shy.

Analysis of SOURCING of the doc – circle one (Historical context, Intended audience, Purpose, POV)

Example of analysis: Being the author of a relationship advice column, the writer is attempting to

use Pitt's experience to help others. This shows the how a fear of commitment is a common problem for long-term relationships and may be one of the reasons Pitt's fail.

Doc 1 How does it support your thesis? Friend said he changed his mind with Paltrow. Said he is commitment shy. Goes from very hot to very cold. "needs to figure out what he wants".

Analysis of doc – circle one (POV, Author's Purpose, Context, Intended Audience)  
Example of analysis: 1995 he was nominated for an Oscar for 12 Monkeys. Also, named People Magazine's Sexiest Man Alive in 1997. These awards can lead Pitt to be more of a bachelor.

❖ **Paragraph 4 – Way 3 (need at least two docs in this group)**

Topic sentence/restatement of way 3: Pitt is one of the most famous and arguably most important actors on the planet, and it seems, as shown in documents two, three, and six, that when relationships conflict with his career, he tends to choose the latter over the former.

Doc 2 How does it support your thesis? Aniston said it was because time apart with careers. Had been together for seven years.  
Analysis of SOURCING of the doc – circle one (Historical context, Intended audience, Purpose, POV)  
Example of analysis: Purpose could be for getting clicks, click-bait. But, from Aniston, not an unnamed source. Purpose may be to give info to public, clear up misconceptions. More reliable than others.

Doc 3 How does it support your thesis? Publicized scandal when he was with Jolie on Smith movie. Said they fell in love on the set, but didn't cheat. Shows that his career put him in a position to cheat.

Analysis of SOURCING of the doc – circle one (Historical context, Intended audience, Purpose, POV)  
Example of analysis: Since it is Wikipedia, don't know the author. Don't know the purpose. Its anonymous. Can be edited any time.

Doc 6 How does it support your thesis? Jolie and Pitt are living separate lives. Little time for each other.

Both working on films, human rights an insider says. Could be repeating the same mistakes from before.

Analysis of SOURCING of the doc – circle one (Historical context, Intended audience, Purpose, POV)

Example of analysis: Historical context is that the site was published after failed relationships with

Paltrow and Aniston and amid rumors of problems with Jolie. Very recently published article.

Shows that he may currently have the same problems and not learning from his mistakes.

❖ **Paragraph 5 – Conclusion/Outside Info**

**Conclusion:** Restate thesis in a new way: Pitt's relationships have come to an end for a number of reasons whether it

was because of his over-commitment to his career or his under-commitment to his partners or simply because

he is a cheater.

**Outside Info:** Provide an example or additional piece of specific evidence *beyond* those found in the documents to support or qualify the argument. Must have something to do with the prompt.

Evidence: Pitt is among a shortlist of Hollywood heartthrobs that seem to be predestined to have failed marriages. Perhaps the nature of his social status among American celebrities or his immense fame are just as responsible for his failed relationships than the reasons provided in the documents. Tom Cruise has had three divorces, Johnny Depp has had two, and Billy Bob Thornton has had five.

How it relates to the prompt: Shows another aspect of Pitt's behavior that could lead to the failure of his relationships. Explicit example with Holmes.