

Document Analysis

Name _____

Date _____

Part 1. Investigate your document

Document title and shelfmark: _____

Observe What kind of document is it? What is it written on? What do you notice about its size, handwriting, decoration, or damage?	
Source Who created it, and for whom? When and where? Why was it written?	
Contextualize What was happening in Fustat or the wider world at the time? Use Appendix A.	
Reveal What does it tell us about daily life, family, economy, education, religion, or relations with neighbors?	
Question What does it leave unanswered? What would you want to know next?	

Part 2. Life in medieval Fustat

Record evidence from every group

Theme	Evidence (document number and detail)
Daily life	
Family	
Economy and trade	
Education	
Religion and law	
Relations with neighbors	

Part 3. Plan your paragraph

What does the Cairo Genizah reveal about Jewish life in the medieval Islamic world?

1 Claim. My answer in one sentence:

2 Evidence. Three documents (title and shelfmark) and the detail from each that supports my claim:

3 Explanation. How the evidence supports the claim:

4 Limit. One thing the Genizah cannot tell us, or one voice that is missing:
