and ruled the city themselves, from the later 13th century they kept that style of institution, but it was increasingly important aristocratic families who dominated

- In the early 15th Century, the Medici family came to power, taking over the city and remained in power for most of the century
- Caused slight tensions between republican ideals, with Florence calling itself a republic
- Medici family’s reign ends in the 16th Century when the Duke of Florence created from the Medici called the Duke of the Republic of Florence (slight misnomer) where a hereditary family rule is recognised
- A combination of urban and economic growth, civic pride and differentiation of other Italian cities, the self-representation of mercantile organisation like guilds and charitable organisations, as well as self-representation of aristocratic families, ultimately the Medici court made Florence an important centre for the patronage of art and architecture and a crucible for their development; therefore, economic growth and social organisation was vital in terms of the patronage of art
- This was also an important context for humanism, that took on a particular form in urban contexts
- Florence could trace its roots to the classical past, a crucial part of the city’s self-definition, claimed to have a few buildings from antiquity, including its baptistery was a classical temple
- Interest in looking to the classical past to legitimise the ruling of the city
- There was also useful knowledge to be gained from the kind of texts they were finding on how you might rule the city, oratory texts were useful, the Medici family were important patrons and practitioners of Humanism
- Both the arts and Humanism are being given importance

Rome:

- Has more visible traces of antiquity, yet is late to join to forefront of the Italian Renaissance
- This is also impacted by the way in which the city is governed
- From at least the 8th/9th Centuries Rome had been ruled by the Bishop of Rome, aka the Pope
- In the early 14th Century the Pope had move the papacy to Southern France, Avignon, removing from Rome, a very important source of patronage, both for learning of any kind but more specifically learning of humanism, as well as for art and architecture, therefore people commissioning translations and commissioning works of art had absented themselves from the peninsula
- This created a consciousness that a gap between Rome’s glories of the classical past and to a certain extent the middle ages as well, and the present situation - a sitting with the ruler absent
- The Florentine Humanist, mainly people form the North, coming down to visit Rome in this period
- Petrarch visited the city around 1340 and wrote a letter to a Roman nobleman which has been celebrated for the attention it pays to Rome’s classical sites and monuments