On the pre-test (my additions in bold)
The difficulties and dangers of reducing Renaissance humanism to some single**, unitary** formula have become**, in recent years,** increasingly apparent. Renaissance humanism contained many **different** schools of thought, and it is clear that the differences and changes within humanism must be examined **by scholars** both in themselves and in their relation to particular historical situations **in the past** in order to gain a true **and valid** appreciation of the humanist movement.

The most concise version produced by the class (added words in bold)
The difficulties of reducing Renaissance humanism to **a** single formula have become apparent. It contained many schools of thought, and the differences within humanism must be examined in themselves and in relation to historical situations to gain a true appreciation of the movement.

The most concise version (your omissions in brackets)
The difficulties [and dangers] of reducing Renaissance humanism to **a** [some] single [unitary] formula have become [in recent years] [increasingly] apparent. It [Renaissance humanism] contained many schools of thought, and [it is clear that] the differences [and changes] within humanism must be examined in themselves and in [their] relation to [particular] historical situations [in the past] [in order] to gain a true [and valid] appreciation of the [humanist] movement.

Your collective wisdom (entire passage in brackets was omitted by one person)

The difficulties (2) and dangers (5) of reducing Renaissance humanism to some (3) single (5), unitary (5)

formula have become, in recent years (10), increasingly (2) apparent. Renaissance (2) humanism (1)

contained many (2) different (1) schools of thought, and it is clear that (1) the differences (4) and changes (4)

within humanism must be examined [by scholars (1) both (5) in themselves (1) and in their (1) relation to

particular (2) historical situations in the past (4) in order (2)] to gain a true (5) and valid (7) appreciation of the

humanist (2) movement.