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 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.