

Area of study: Medieval Society

Enquiry question: Was Medieval society all ‘muck, disease and misery’? – James Simpson, The Historical Association

Political	Religious	Social & Cultural	Military	Economic
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Substantive Knowledge : content for emphasis , to be secured in the long term memory

Students know:

Whether Medieval Society was entirely ‘muck, disease and misery’:

- Religion and the role of the Church:
 - That the Monasteries had a significantly influence on the day to day lives of most people and acted as a place of worship, education and health.
 - That Church structure was different to that of the King with their own laws, benefit of clergy and church courts dealt with crime and punishment for church members.
 - That they kept their own finances through the use of tithes + indulgences to fund the Papacy in Rome
 - That doom paintings reflected people’s beliefs/morality
- Crusades
 - That people had multiple reasons for going on the Crusades from peasants to Kings: religion, second sons searching for land, prestige for monarchs, adventure, legacy.
 - That the 3rd Crusade was fought by Richard the Lionheart and Saladin and the events and outcomes of this, they did not recover the holy land.
 - The impact, consequences and legacy of the Crusades on England.
- Living conditions – towns and countryside
 - What life and work in the countryside was like; strip farming, lifestyle, living conditions, serfdom
 - What life and work in towns was like; living conditions, work, laws to make improvements.
- Black Death
 - The causes of the Black Death – rats and fleas
 - What people thought caused the Black Death; miasma, four humours, astrology and God
 - What the symptoms of the Black Death were, buboes, vomiting, fever, black skin patches
 - How people tried to cure the Black Death, flagellation, superstition and medieval remedies
 - The impact, consequences and legacy of the B.D., economic and social changes (links to Peasants’ Revolt)
- Peasants’ Revolt
 - The causes of the Peasants’ Revolt, the role of John of Gaunt, Simon Sudbury, taxation
 - The events of the Peasants’ Revolt, Wat Tyler’s meeting with the King, John Ball and his murder in the Tower of London, events in Kent and Essex leading to rebellion (local history opportunity)
 - The consequences of the Peasants’ Revolt, Richard II’s reaction, long term socio-economic impact including concessions such as long-term heightened wages
- Crime and Punishment
 - That the legal system was run by Trial by combat, ordeal and Jury
 - That ordinary people pursued criminals by hue and cry
 - That punishments were designed to fit the crime. They were extreme and designed to humiliate

Substantive concepts	Tier 3 language	Links to prior and future learning
Society Religion Medicine Government Rebellion Beliefs Crime and Punishment	Trial Common law Clergy Pilgrimage Crusades Doom Paintings Saracens Justice/injustice Finances urbanisation	Tithes Cottage industry Serfs Papacy Finances Divine judgement Parish Ordeal Serfs Monastery
Future learning – collapse of the feudal system, reactions to pandemics, growth of towns and urbanisation, changes to the Church (conflict with Church and monarchy) Prior learning – role of the monarchs, role of the Church, changes to society and ordinary people		

Disciplinary knowledge	Misconceptions
	Misconceptions - plague and Black Death being confused, Church and monarch being separate entities, only nobility went on crusades, the life of a peasant was all negative

Cross curricular / Professional Skills	Scholarship
	Ian Mortimer – Time Traveller’s Guide to Medieval England Dan Jones – Crusades John Hatcher – Black Death

Local links