History Y7 CET Assessment Revision

This document contains the key information that you will need for your Creative Education Trust Assessment.

Some strategies to help maximise how you use this pack:

- Use your exercise book and summarise information to help you learn
- Use the Knowledge Organiser for a summary of events
- Create a mind map
- Test yourself on information
- Familiarise yourself with key words
- Practise the 'Describe' and 'Consequence' question

Some additional tasks that could help you:

- Do things that take you out of your comfort zone. (Answer questions in class, offer to read out)
- Use BBC Bitesize and complete their activities to support you https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z4crd2p

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Revision List

- Feudal system
- Types of Castles
- Black Death
- Thomas Beckett
- Lives of Peasants

1. Medieval Life

- Even in the later Middle Ages, the medieval peasant's life was hard and the work back-breaking. It followed the seasons – ploughing in autumn, sowing in spring, harvesting in August. Work began at dawn, preparing the animals, and it finished at dusk, cleaning them down and putting them back into the stalls.
- A peasant's hut was made of wattle and daub, with a thatch roof but no windows.
- Inside the hut, a third of the area was penned off for the animals, which lived in the hut with the family. A fire burned in a hearth in the centre of the hut, so the air was permanently eye-wateringly smoky. Furniture was maybe a couple of stools, a trunk for bedding, and a few cooking pots.
- Many peasants' huts included a simple loom, which is a device used to weave cloth. The daughter would spin wool using spinng tools known as a distaff and spindle, and the wife would weave it into rough cloth.
- Peasant food was mainly vegetables, plus anything that could be gathered – nuts, berries, nettles. The usual drink was weak, home-brewed beer. Honey provided a sweetener. If he ate bread, the peasant did not eat white wheat bread, but black rye bread.

2. Black death

The disastrous mortal disease known as the Black Death spread across Europe in the years 1346-53. The frightening name, however, only came several centuries after its visitation (and was probably a mistranslation of the Latin word 'atra' meaning both 'terrible' and 'black)'. Chronicles and letters from the time describe the terror wrought by the illness. In Florence, the great Renaissance poet Petrarch was sure that they would not be believed: 'O happy posterity, who will not experience such abysmal woe and will look upon our testimony as a fable.' A Florentine chronicler relates that,

The Black Death was an epidemic of bubonic plague, a disease caused by the bacterium Yersinia pestis that circulates among wild rodents where they live in great numbers and density. Such an area is called a 'plague focus' or a 'plague reservoir'. Plague among humans arises when rodents in human habitation, normally black rats, become infected

3. Medieval Medicine

Middle Ages was a grim time to be poorly. In the 1350s, the average life expectancy was perhaps 30-35. Infant mortality was extremely high where 1 in 5 children died before their first birthday and many women died in childbirth.

People died from simple injuries, diseases such as leprosy (a disease affecting parts of the body and the nervous system) and smallpox (a viral disease with fever and sores) and various fevers. Nearly a thousand years after the fall of Rome, medicine in Europe had regressed and returned to a more primitive outlook. Treatments continued to be a mixture of herbal remedies, bleeding and purging, and supernatural ideas.

4. Role of the Church

Most people in the Middle Ages lived their lives fully believing in the reality of a spiritual realm all around them and in heaven or hell when they died. At this time, the people of the British Isles were Roman Catholic and the majority of people strongly believed in this religion and its values.

In the Middle Ages, the Church provided for the religious aspects of people's lives – baptism of babies, marriages, confession, the last rites for the dying and burying the dead.

But the Church did much more than this:
- Monasteries and nunneries looked after the old and sick, provided somewhere for travellers to stay, gave alms to the poor and sometimes looked after people's money for them.
- Monks could often read and write when many other people could not, so they copied books and documents and taught children.

The Church played a big part in government:
- Bishops sat in the House of Lords.
- They could raise an army for the king in times of war.
- It was a mistake for a king to fall out with the Church – King John was excommunicated, and King Henry II was whipped after the death of Thomas Becket.

5. Peasants Revolt

The Peasants' Revolt started in Essex on 30 May 1381, when a tax collector tried, for the third time in four years, to levy a poll tax. Richard II's war against France was going badly, the government's reputation was damaged, and the tax was 'the last straw'.

The peasants were not just protesting against the government. Since the Black Death, poor people had become increasingly angry that they were still serfs, usually farming the land and serving their king. Whipped up by the preaching of radical priest John Ball, they were demanding that all men should be free and equal; for less harsh laws; and a fairer distribution of wealth.

On 15 June, the 14-year-old king, Richard II, met the rebels' leader Wat Tyler. William Walworth, the Lord Mayor of London, attacked and killed Tyler. Before the rebel army could retaliate, Richard stepped forward and promised to abolish serfdom. The peasants went home, but later government troops toured the villages hanging men who had taken part in the Revolt.

6. Law and Order

historylearningsite.co.uk. The History Learning Site, 5 Mar 2015. 18 Dec 2019.
Law and order was very harsh in Medieval England. Those in charge of law and order believed that people would only learn how to behave properly if they feared what would happen to them if they broke the law. Even the 'smallest' offences had serious punishments. The authorities feared the poor simply because there were many more poor than rich and any revolt could be potentially damaging – as the Peasants Revolt of 1381 proved.

By the time of Henry II, the system of law in England had been improved because Henry sent out his own judges from London to listen to cases throughout all England's counties. Each accused person had to go through an ordeal. There were three ordeals:

1. Motte and Bailey Castles

- When William the Conqueror became King of England in 1066 he quickly set about trying to protect himself.

- The reason was simple – he knew he had nowhere near enough men to run England.

- So William built castles at important places – hills, rivers, towns – so that if the English tried to control the country they'd be forced to attack a castle.

- William built castles to try and control areas where he faced resistance. The map shows the castles that William built

2. Developing Castles

SHELL KEEP:

- Replaced the wooden fence around the Bailey with stone
- Stronger and safer – it wouldn't burn or rot away
- Houses inside could still be hit by rocks being thrown over the walls

STONE KEEP

- Provided a place to shelter from attack that had a roof
- Living space and defences were combined in one building
- Keeps were a strong last line of defence when in retreat
- They were still not completely safe – it was only one building

STONE KEEP CASTLES

- This castle was made of stone rather than wood.
- The walls of a square keep castle were often up to 5 metres thick.
- To make the main entrance safe, it was usually on the first floor, reached by a ramp or staircase and protected by a forebuilding.

3. Attacking a Castle

Fire - Fire was the best way to attack the early Motte and Bailey castles since they were made entirely of wood.

Battering Ram - The thick stone walls of the Stone Keep castles were difficult for men to knock down. The battering ram was particularly useful since the weight of several men would be put behind it. This would make it a considerable force that could seriously weaken and possibly destroy doors or walls.

Ladders - Ladders were used by those attacking a castle to climb over the walls and fight the castle inhabitants within the castle walls. However, ladders had the disadvantage of leaving the man climbing the ladder subject to attack by arrow, boiling water or oil, or by being thrown to the ground if the ladder was pushed away from the wall.

Belfry - The Belfry was a large structure on wheels that could be pushed up to the castle walls. Ladders inside the Belfry allowed attackers to climb to the top under cover and get into the castle.
catapult

Catapult -A variety of catapults or siege engines were developed during the Middle Ages to fire stones, fireballs or other objects such as dead sheep, cattle, or plague victims, at the castle walls or into the castle itself. This type of catapult works by twisting rope as tightly as possible so that it acts like elastic when the arm is released

4. Defending a castle

- Moats - Attackers were easy to shoot whilst swimming or rowing across the moats filled with water.

- Ramparts were steep banks of earth or rubble. Attackers had to climb over them to get closer to the castle.

- High walls - The walls of the castles were very high making it hard for attackers to climb over.

- Curtain walls - Tall thick curtain walls surrounded the castle buildings like a strong shield. There were few doors in the wall thus limiting access to the castle.
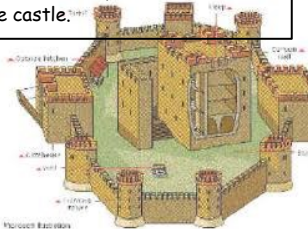
5. Knights

There were three main types of soldiers during the Middle Ages: foot soldiers, archers, and knights. The knights were heavily armoured soldiers who rode on horseback. Only the wealthiest nobles could afford to be a knight. They needed very expensive Armor, weapons, and a powerful war horse.

The first Knights -
The first knights of the Middle Ages fought for Charlemagne, the King of the Franks, in the 700s. In order to fight battles across his large empire, Charlemagne began to use soldiers on horseback. These soldiers became a very important part of his army.

Charlemagne began to award his best knights with land called "benefices". In return for the land, the knights agreed to fight for the king whenever he called. This practice caught on through much of Europe and became standard practice for many kings for the next 700 years. If you were a son born into the family of a knight, you generally became a knight as well.

6. How did Castles affect the English?

Castles were a very good way for the Normans to expand their grip on the English people. The English population greatly outnumbered the Normans and the Normans had to create an atmosphere in which they were feared by the English, therefore, minimising the possibility of an uprising by the English

Castles were a sign of Norman power and might. They could be easily seen and as such acted as a deterrent. The castles warned the English that Norman soldiers lived in these castles and that any attempts to rise up against them would be met with force. The castles also gave the Norman soldiers a safe place to live

Medieval Life
Revision activities

The feudal system - William's control of England - KS3 History - homework help for year 7, 8 and 9. - BBC Bitesize
- The Feudal system
- Medieval Society
- Consequences of the Feudal system
- Quiz

Castles - BBC Bitesize
- Early Castles
- How they were built
- Sieges
- Quiz

Causes and effects of the Black Death - Medieval medicine - KS3 History - homework help for year 7, 8 and 9. - BBC Bitesize
- Causes and effects of the Black Death
- Types of Plague
- Treatments
- Consequences of the Black death.
- Quiz

Medieval Life
Keywords / Definitions

Feudal System	Feudalism was a system in which people were given land and protection by people of higher rank, and worked and fought for them in return
Motte and Bailey	A castle consisting of a fort on a motte surrounded by a bailey.
Plague	An epidemic disease that causes high mortality
Peasant	A poor smallholder or agricultural labourer of low social status
Catholic	Roman Catholicism is the largest of the three major branches of Christianity
Pilgrimage	A pilgrimage is a journey to a holy place, which can lead to a personal transformation