Medieval Europe Review: Lessons 33-47

A 1. The Middle Ages began when the Western Roman Empire fell in 476. 2. The collapse of the empire was brought about by invading Germanic, Slavic, and Celtic tribes. 3. The invaders had no written language or complex political structure.

B 4. During the first 500 years of the Middle Ages, these illiterate and pagan peoples dominated Europe. 5. Chaos reigned. 6. However, one institution from the Western Roman Empire survived to influence Europe and the world: the Christian Church, centered in Rome. 7. Christian missionaries converted Europe’s leaders, and the leaders encouraged, or forced, their people to be baptized. 8. Their faith led many Europeans to adopt Roman culture. 9. Europe’s leaders and the Christian churches encouraged the founding of Europe’s first universities. 10. In the eleventh century, a division of the church, called the Great Schism, occurred. 11. Instead of one church, it became two: the Roman Catholic Church in the west, and the Eastern Orthodox Church in the east.

C 12. Historians call the Middle Ages in Western Europe the “Age of Faith,” because religion played such a large role in daily life. 13. During the violence of medieval life, the Roman Catholic Church—the leader of Western European Christians—provided hope, education, medicine, and even a place of refuge. 14. The Church and the Crown cooperated closely for most of the Middle Ages, until the later years when kings and popes clashed over who was strongest. 15. In the 1200s, the Roman Catholic Church set up an inquisition (court) which tried and tortured those they suspected of being evil or unfaithful to the Catholic Church. 16. Jews faced scrutiny from both Christians and Muslims and were banished from many countries by the end of the Middle Ages.

D 17. The Crusades were a series of religious wars Western European Christians (Roman Catholics) fought against Muslims. 18. Christians wanted to visit the Holy Land where Jesus had lived and to win the land back from the Muslims. 19. The result was a mixture: Christians did not win any land but were allowed to travel safely to the Holy Land. 20. Europeans were introduced to foreign cultures and goods because of the Crusades. 21. This led to new ideas and an expansion of the trading industry.

E 22. To provide order and security in a chaotic and violent world, medieval Europeans adopted feudalism. 23. This was a hierarchical system, where the leaders promised their subjects land in return for service. 24. The king granted land to nobility, who provided fighters (knights) for the king. 25. The nobility gave land to knights, who promised to fight. 26. The knights promised protection and care for the serfs, who were allowed to work on the land. 27. Every person had a set place in society, and there was no social mobility.

F 28. Toward the end of the Middle Ages feudalism began, over time, to decline. 29. Growing trade made kings and nobles wealthier, allowing them to pay their armed men with money instead of land. 30. An economy based on trade, rather than land, offered everyone greater opportunities to earn money. 31. A banking system based on letters of credit emerged. 32. A new class of people, the merchants, began to have more power and money than many nobles. 33. The Hundred Years’ War and the bubonic plague killed more than one third of the population. 34. With so few people left, labor costs rose and peasants demanded wages for their work.
The medieval kingdom of England was the world’s leader in the development of individual freedom. The Magna Carta established the idea that the king should have limited power, and that all free people were guaranteed rights. The United States used these practices to set up a new government.

Questions

1. In the feudal system, what was the economy based on?
   a. credit
   b. international trade
   c. war
   d. land

   Which sentence best supports the answer?
   _____

2. What was a major cause for the end of feudalism?
   a. Kings refused to pay for knights.
   b. Merchants demanded land.
   c. Soldiers were paid with money instead of land.
   d. Queens stopped giving orders.

   Which sentence best supports the answer?
   _____

3. The Middle Ages are sometimes called the “Age of Faith” because:
   a. The Crusaders had faith they would defeat the Muslims.
   b. Religion was very important to people in their everyday lives.
   c. Kings were forced to place their faith in the knights who would fight for them.
   d. Pagan nations were forced to give up their religions.

   Which sentence best supports the answer?
   _____

4. Before 1215, a king’s power probably was:
   a. very limited.
   b. nearly unlimited.
   c. limited to royal subjects.
   d. dependent on his serfs.

   Which sentence best supports the answer?
   _____

5. Identify two things that Christianity brought to Europe.
   a. Europeans gave up many Roman traditions.
   b. Universities were built.
   c. Kings had absolute authority.
   d. Many Europeans became heavily influenced by Roman culture.

   Which sentences best support the answer?
   _____, _____

6. A person in Medieval Europe who gave speeches against the teachings of the Catholic Church may have:
   a. become a hero.
   b. been rewarded with land.
   c. been tortured after an inquisition.
   d. been encouraged to speak his or her mind.

   Which sentence best supports the answer?
   _____
7. The purpose of the Crusades was:
   a. to reclaim the Holy Land from the Muslims.
   b. to create new trade routes.
   c. to recruit knights for the king’s army.
   d. to stop peasant rebellions.

   Which sentence best supports the answer?
   ____

8. Feudalism:
   a. converted polytheists to Christianity.
   b. enslaved the peasant class.
   c. encouraged new farming methods.
   d. ensured a system of protection for the king.

   Which sentence best supports the answer?
   ____

9. Number the events in chronological order.
   a. _____ Magna Carta is signed.
   b. _____ The Great Schism occurs.
   c. _____ The Middle Ages begin.
   d. _____ The Hundred Year’s War is fought.

Written Response Question
10. Name two events described in the lesson that brought about the merchant class.

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Medieval Europe Review: Lessons 33-47 Answers

1. d, sentence 23
2. c, sentence 29
3. b, sentence 12
4. b, sentence 36
5. b, d, sentences 8, 9
6. c, sentence 15
7. a, sentence 18
8. d, sentence 22
9. a. 3  
   b. 2  
   c. 1  
   d. 4
10. Key points:

   1. An increase in trade meant kings and nobles could pay knights with money rather than land.
   2. Trade, increased profits, and a new banking system also led to the creation of a powerful middle class.
   3. The plague left fewer people available to work, causing the cost of labor to rise.