

THE THREE ORDERS

Multiple Choice Type Questions

1. Monks who moved from one place to another, preaching to the people and living on charity. These monks were known as _____
(a) Manor
(b) Friars
(c) Tithe
(d) Serfs
2. We see the rise of absolute monarchy in Europe in the
(a) 15th & 16th centuries
(b) 13th & 14th centuries
(c) 12th & 13th centuries
(d) 16th & 17th centuries
3. There was a growing uncertainty about the value and purpose of monasticism by the
(a) thirteenth century
(b) fourteenth century
(c) fifteenth century
(d) sixteenth-century
4. What were Cathedral towns?
(a) Towns developed around plains
(b) Towns developed around Churches
(c) Towns developed around industries
(d) Towns developed around Capital
5. The land granted by the lord to the knights was called:
(a) Fief
(b) Feud
(c) Seigneur
(d) Manor

Answer

1. (b) 2. (a) 3. (b) 4. (b) 5. (a)

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the categories of cultivators under feudalism during the medieval age in Europe.
Answer: There were two categories of cultivators in the feudal system, during the age in Europe. They were free peasants and serfs.
(a) Free Peasants: They held their farms as tenants of the lord. This category of peasants did not work for their lords.

(b) Serfs: Serfs were the lowest category of peasants. They were just like slaves of their masters. They had not only to work on the fields of their lords and gave them a part of their produce but also to perform such petty jobs as building or repairing their houses, roads, etc. They received no wages. They were not allowed to leave the state without the permission of their lord.

2. What was the position of Pope in the medieval Europe?

Answer:

The Pope enjoyed a respectable position in the society during the medieval period in Europe. He was considered to be the spiritual representative of Jesus Christ. He interfered into the internal affairs of the Christian kings and their subjects. Nobody could dare to challenge the authority of Pope.

3. What is the political importance of the feudal system?

Answer: Political importance of the feudal system:

- Nobles provided protection to their people.
- They also maintained peace and harmony in their regions.
- The feeling of mutual understanding and co-operation among the people was also created.
- Through manorial system, the feudal lords provided economic provision.

4. Describe the merits and demerits of feudal system.

Answer: Merits of the feudal system:

- Common people were provided security of life and property.
- Law and order was maintained in their territories.
- Demerits of the feudal system:
- There were mutual conflicts among feudal lords to expand their own states. That is why peace and order in the society got disturbed.
- The feudal system proved to be an obstacle in the growth of political unity.

5. How did plague affect trade and cities?

Answer:

- With the expansion of trade in the 13th and 14th centuries, ships carrying goods from distant countries had started arriving in European ports. Rats came along with ships carrying away the infection of bubonic plague. After the outbreak of plague, cities became the hardest hit. In enclosed communities like monasteries, when one individual contracted the plague none survived.
- The plague took its worst toll among infants, the young and the elderly.
- As the horrible impact of plague the population of Europe, 73 millions in 1300, stood reduced to 45 millions in 1400.
- Depopulation caused a shortage of labour. Imbalance was created between agriculturalists and manufacturers

LONG ANSWER QUESTION

1. Why do you think the people of new towns were considered of fourth order? Explain.

Answer: The people of new towns were considered of fourth order because of the following:

- These newly flourished towns were developed with the fair and small market centers, as a result of expansion of trade.
- The social and the political conditions of the people were totally different from the people who belonged to the former three orders.
- There were banks and lawyers in these towns. There was a distinct economic organization in the form of guild. Each trade and craft industry was organized into a guild.
- Craftsmen found it easier to settle in the towns as goods could be produced and traded for food.
- The rich traders and merchants developed better than the nobility. They were generous to the people and engaged in trade related activities.
- Later on cathedral towns began to develop, which belonged to monastery and rich merchants.

2. Which causes were responsible for the rise of middle class?

Answer: The causes responsible for the rise of the middle class were :

- In the crusade, a lot of feudal lords had been killed.
- The growth of commerce and trade made the trading class quite rich and prosperous. They, in turn, sought the favor of king and helped him, whenever needed.
- The wealthy merchants and rich traders got many towns and cities freed from the clutches of feudal control.
- The new cities soon grew into centers of trade, commerce and education and consequently gave rise to the new classes.
- New classes of the rich merchants patronized art, science, literature and education.

3. How did technological changes affect agriculture during 11th century?

Answer: Technological changes affected agriculture in many ways:

- Wooden ploughs were replaced with heavy iron-tipped ploughs.
- The method of harnessing animals to the plough improved which enabled animals to exert greater power. Horses were now better shod with iron horseshoes. It prevented foot decay.
- The increased use of wind and water energy for agriculture enhanced agricultural production.
- The most innovative change was the switch from a two-field to a three field system. Now, peasants could use a field two years out of three if they planted it with one crop in autumn and a different crop in spring a year and a half later.
- Now the farmers could plant one with wheat or rye, the second in spring to raise peas, beans and lentils and the other
- Part was left fallow.

As a result, there was an immediate increase in the amount of food produced from each unit of land. Food production almost doubled. There were better opportunities for cultivators. They could now produce more food for less land. The average size of peasants' farm shrank from about 100 acres to 20 to 30 acres. As a result of holding, smaller lands could be more efficiently cultivated. It also reduced the amount of labour. The new technological changes cost a lot of money.

4. Discuss the achievements of the nation-states.

Answer: The nation-states are known for achievements. Some of them were:

- ❖ The rise of nation-states crushed the power of the lords and this made people free from their excesses.
- ❖ They paved way for setting up peace.
- ❖ They taught the people to give support to their kings.

- ❖ They infused the spirit of nationalism among the people of different classes.
- ❖ They took remarkable steps for the consolidation of the economy of states.
- ❖ They contributed a lot in the development of language, literature and architecture

5. Discuss the political changes which occurred during 15th and 16th centuries in Europe.

Answer: The political changes that occurred during 15th and 16th centuries were as follows:

- European kings strengthened their military as well as financial power during 15th and 16th centuries. They created powerful new states. These were much significant for Europe. Economic changes were also occurring. Historians have, therefore, called these kings “the new monarchs”.
- Louis XI in France, Maximilian in Austria, Henry VII in England and Isabelle and Ferdinand in Spain were absolutist rulers. They initiated the process of organizing standing armies, permanent bureaucracy and national taxation. In Spain and Portugal, they began to play a role in European expansion overseas.
- Rulers dispensed with the system of feudal levies for their armies and introduced professionally trained infantry equipped with guns and siege artillery directly under their control.
- The social changes started to take place in the 12th and 13th centuries after the triumph of monarchies. The dissolution of the feudal system of lordship vassalage, and the slow rate of economic growth had given the first opportunity to kings to increase their control over their powerful and not so powerful subjects.
- With the increase in taxes, the treasury of monarchs filled. They had enough revenues to support larger armies. They also defended and expanded their frontiers and ruthlessly destroyed the internal bickering. Without resistance from the aristocracy, centralization could not be done. In England, the rebellions occurred in 1497, 1536, 1547, 1549, and 1553 simultaneously.
- In France, Louis XI (1461-83) waged a long struggle against dukes and princes. In the 16th century, the religious wars in France were a contrast between royal privileges and regional liberties.
- The king was now the center of an elaborate courtier society and a network of patron-client relationships.
- All monarchies, whether weak or powerful, needed the cooperation of those who could command authority. It did not matter whether they were weak or strong. Patronage became the means of ensuring cooperation. It could also be obtained by means of money.
- For ensuring survival, the nobility managed a tactical shift. They quickly transformed themselves into loyalists. Loyal absolutism has been called a modified form of feudalism. The lords were given permanent position in the administrative service. Now they started dominating the political scene.