

Form 6 History Revision

Summer Exams

Key dates to learn

- Death of Thomas Becket – **1170**
- When the Black Death arrived in Britain – **1348**
- The end of the Peasants Revolt - **1381**
- When Henry II became King – **1154**
- When the Pope outlawed trial by ordeal - **1215**

What you will be tested on in the exam:

- The **key dates** of some of the main events we have studied.
- The **key words and definitions** of some of the key things we have studied.
- You will need to **analyse some sources** about **The Black Death** (two photographs and a written passage). No revision needed.

Write a short essay on ONE of the following;

- How **law and order** was kept in medieval times.
- The life and death of **Thomas Becket**.
- Why the **peasants revolted** in 1381.
- The four possible **routes to heaven**.

Key words and definitions (you don't need to have exact definitions to get the marks)

- **Stocks** – a punishment for petty (minor) crimes, where wooden boards locked a criminal in place.
- **Bubonic Plague** – the most common type of the plague named after the swellings on victims bodies.
- **Pope** – the head of the Catholic Church, he lives in Rome and is believed to be God's representative on earth.
- **Doom painting** – a painting showing people being sent to heaven or hell on the day of judgement.
- **Tithe** – a medieval tax paying one tenth of all farm produce to the church.
- **Poll tax** – a flat rate tax paid by all adults.
- **Statute of Labourers** – a 1351 law which fixed the wage for peasants at pre-Black Death levels.
- **Benefit of Clergy** – the privilege enjoyed by clergymen to be tried in church courts and get a lesser punishment.
- **Trial by ordeal** – a trial of a painful test, where the will of God was believed to decide the verdict.
- **Flagellant** – member of a religious sect (group) who whipped themselves for their sins.

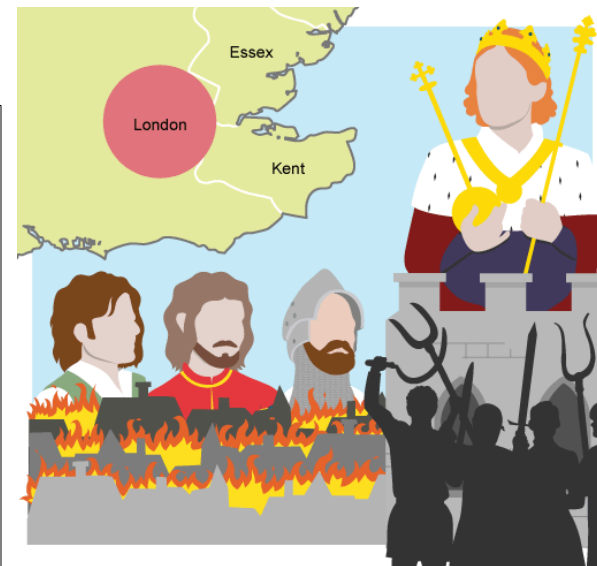
We have completed all these history topics in class.
Everything you need to know is included here. You may use other sources of information but there is no requirement to.
Good luck, try your best and don't worry!!!

The Peasants Revolt 1381

In 1381 the peasants of England were angry and threatened to revolt and cause trouble for the king.

The main causes were:

1. Peasants had **increased confidence** as they had survived the plague.
2. They feared losing the rights they gained after the plague and having lower wages (**The Statute of Labourers** passed in 1351).
3. There were new ideas about **sharing wealth**.
4. They hated the **Poll Tax** and thought it was very unfair.



2. Not everyone was in favour of the peasant having the power to ask for higher wages and better standards of living.

3. There were also changes in beliefs. Many who had survived the plague decided that religion should change too! One new idea was **sharing the wealth**. The Church said it was God's will that there be rich and poor – the peasants didn't think that this was very fair!



4. Under the **poll tax** everyone paid the same, regardless of how rich or poor they were. This meant that if you were a peasant you would pay the same amount as the lord you worked for.



The Statute of Labourers
The lords of the manors and the barons were not impressed. They decided to pass the Statute of Labourers in 1351. This meant that wages had to be at pre-plague levels – not exactly fair for the peasants!

The Peasants Revolt – What happened?

The introduction of the poll tax was the **final straw** for the peasants, who saw it as **the rich trying to make the lives of the poor even harder**. Few peasants could afford the tax. When officials came round they **hid** or **lied** about the number in their family. So many peasants **avoided** paying that in 1381 commissioners were sent out to **catch tax dodgers**.

Men such as **John Ball** gave sermons (speeches) to ordinary people, saying that the answer was to go to the king and say that they were being treated unfairly.

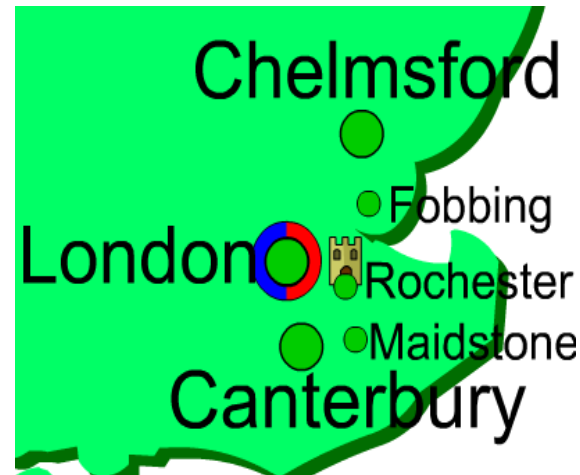
The rebellions started among peasants in Essex and Kent. The two main leaders were **John Ball** and **Wat Tyler**.

John Ball had started out as a priest in York, but had been thrown into prison by the Church as it did not like what he was preaching.

Wat Tyler was chosen by the rebels to lead them. Little is known about him.

The peasants' demands

- the end of serfdom (being tied to the land)
- that everyone who had taken part in the rebellion should be given a free pardon
- that labour services should be abolished, and landholders should pay a low, fixed rent
- that the king's advisers should be punished.



Summary

The Black Death	Fewer peasants available to work the land, so they expected to be better treated.
Introduction of the poll tax	Peasants felt the rich were taking from them with no good reason.
John Ball's speeches	Peasants realized that they were being badly treated by the rich.
Death of Wat Tyler	The peasants lost their leader and left London.

The Four Routes to Heaven

In medieval times, **religion was very important**. Everyone went to church. Life was hard for the common peasant but the church helped them and reminded them of the **joys waiting** for them in **heaven**. Church services were in **Latin** but there were statues and pictures to help people understand the services. The Church was very powerful in medieval times. People believed that most people went to **purgatory** when they died. **Purgatory** was not as bad as **hell**, but not as good as heaven. To move up into heaven you needed to be **sorry for your sins** and get **people to pray** for you.



Via the Priest



- People had to **attend mass every Sunday**.
- They had to **confess their sins** to the priest and he would forgive them.
- Priests encouraged people to **help others** like the sick and the homeless.
- **Good deeds** could help you get to **heaven**, **bad deeds** could send you to **hell**.

Pilgrimages

- Pilgrimages are **journeys to sacred places**.
- In medieval times, people tried to make at least one pilgrimage during their lives.
- It was an **act of devotion** and they hoped it would give them a **better chance of getting into heaven**.
- People who were **very ill** went on pilgrimages. They hoped that by doing so they would be cured of their disease.
- The holiest place of all was the **Holy Land** where Jesus had lived. After that came **Rome**, where the pope lived.



Buying your way

- People believed nearly everyone went to **Purgatory** when they died.
- To move up to heaven, you had to be **sorry for your sins** and get people who were still alive to pray for you.
- People often **left money for prayers** to be said for them after they were dead.
- Rich people paid for **colleges** to be set up where **priests prayed for their souls**.
- Less well-off people joined **guilds (associations)** which arranged masses for their souls after they died.
- **Pardoners** travelled around selling pardons. This freed people from their sins so they could go **straight to heaven** when they died.



Becoming a Monk or Nun

- People thought monks and nuns would automatically go to heaven as they had given their lives for God. Monks did a lot of **good work** and they took 3 **vows, poverty, chastity and obedience**.
- Nuns lived very similar lives to monks.
- Most nuns were from wealthy families (or **widows**). Becoming a nun gave women a chance of a **career**, and was the only **alternative to marriage**.



The Life and Death of Thomas Becket

- **Henry II** was a very powerful king from 1154 to 1189. However, there was one group Henry could not control: and that was the **Church**.
- Henry had a close friend called **Thomas Becket** who had been Henry's closest adviser (his chancellor). When the top job in the Church came up, Henry said Thomas should have it.
- Henry decided that the best way to control the Church was to make Thomas Becket **Archbishop of Canterbury**, which he did in **1162**.
- **Unfortunately for Henry, the plan backfired and Thomas became deeply religious.**

"When he was chancellor, he threw his house open to all men ... who came to the King's court ... His table shone with gold and silver cups and bowls..." **William Fitzstephen, 1171.**

"He wore a hair shirt of the roughest kind ... and his usual drink was water ... Immediately over his hair-shirt he wore the habit (clothes) of a monk ... He entertained the outcast and the needy in his house and he clothed many against the severe cold of winter." **William Fitzstephen.**



The arguments begin!

*"I not only became religious, I also **disagreed** with Henry. He thought priests who did bad things should be sent to trial in the **Kings' Courts** like ordinary men. The **Pope** and I thought they should be tried in **Holy Courts** like they had in the past."*

- Henry saw it differently. He saw the **Holy Courts** as being too **soft on the priests** who committed crimes and he wanted to stop the Church having too much power. It got so bad that Becket fled England to stay in France for a bit!
- In **1170**, Henry decided to show Becket that he was not the only archbishop in the country.
- While Becket was in France, Henry got the **Archbishop of York** to **crowns** Henry's son as the future King of England – and crowning kings was Becket's job!

*"Henry and I met up in France in 1170. We **patched up the argument** we had and I returned to England, but I could not help but feel wronged by some of my bishops. As soon as I got back to **England I got rid of all those bishops that supported the King!** They were supposed to obey the Pope (and me)!"*



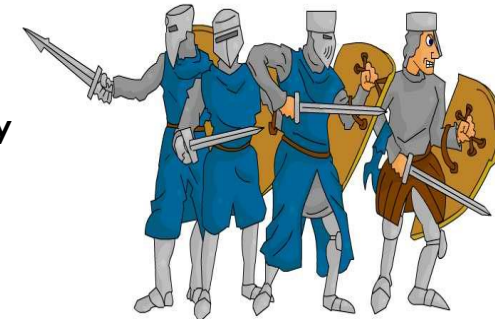
Henry was told by other bishops that Thomas needed sorting out! Henry flew into a rage when he heard about what Thomas had done and uttered the words...

"Will no one rid me of this troublesome priest!"



The Murder in the Cathedral

- The four Knights travelled to Canterbury Cathedral.
- They found Thomas preparing for mass.
- Thomas was struck on the head.
- Part of his skull was chopped off and his brains spilled out onto the cathedral floor!



Law and Order in the Middle Ages

- There were no policemen in the Middle Ages to keep law and order.



- Sometimes villages would appoint a part-time **constable** to make arrests, break up fights and keep the keys to the **stocks**.

The towns made people join '**the watch**'. This was a group of people who kept watch over the town each night.



- If you saw a crime committed you would raise the '**hue and cry**'. This means you had to **shout loudly** and people would come to help you catch the criminal.



- To escape punishment a criminal could **hide in a monastery** and claim **sanctuary**. This meant he could not be arrested for **40 days**. He could give himself up in that time or **confess**.

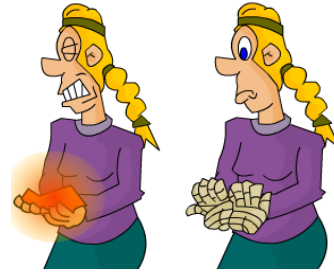
- There were also regular **manorial courts** which every villager had to attend.
- These were for the lord to collect his taxes, but also dealt with minor crimes and sorted out arguments – they even had **juries** of twelve men to decide if someone was guilty.



Trial by Ordeal

If a jury could not decide whether the defendant was innocent or guilty in a medieval trial, he or she could submit to '**trial by ordeal**'. An ordeal was a **painful test**, where it was believed that **God would decide the verdict**. The trials were usually carried out in the church or as near to it as possible.

Trial by hot iron

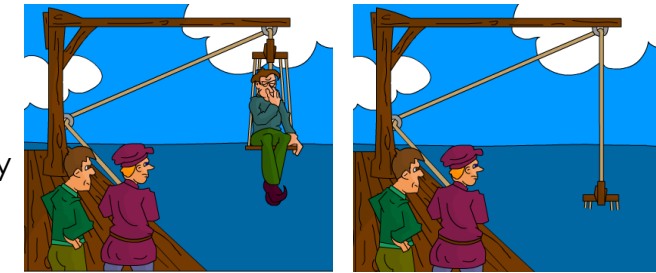


A person accused of a serious crime would fast for three days and then attend mass. They would then have to carry a scalding piece of iron 3 metres, and then the hand would be bandaged. After 3 days the bandage is removed. If the wound has festered, God has decided they are guilty.

The accused sat on a **ducking stool** and was ducked under the water.

It was believed that if they floated, the water was rejecting them or the devil was helping them, and they might be burned as a **witch**. If they sank, they were innocent but by then they might drown anyway!

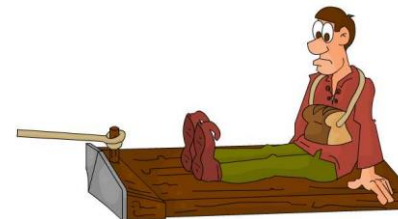
Trial by water



Punishments

The people of the middle ages did not have prisons like we do today. The punishment had to be seen to fit the crime and stop others doing the same.

Crime	Medieval Punishment
Theft	Hands cut off
Female commits murder	Burnt alive
Male commits murder	Hanged
Illegal hunting in Royal Parks	Ears cut off
High treason	Hung, drawn and quartered
Nobleman commits murder	Beheaded
Baker produces faulty bread	Dragged on sled around village with a loaf around his neck.
Caught not working hard enough	Whipped
Nobleman accused of ripping off another noble	Forced to fight each other in a duel
Caught cheating	Put in stocks in centre of village for people to throw food at.
Bishop commits murder	Fined
Drunkenness	Placed in the village stocks
Caught poisoning people	Boiled in olive oil
Woman caught gossiping	Forced to wear a metal bridle for a period of time.



SCOLD'S BRIDLE OR BRANK.