Study Guide for the Middle Ages Unit Test

Identify: Make sure to list their most notable accomplishment!!!

Early Middle Ages:
1. Clovis: The first King of a united Frankish Kingdom. He used Christianity to help unite the people.
2. Charles Martel: Known as Charles the Hammer he fought the Muslims and held them in Spain.
3. Charlemagne: Great Frankish King who was crowned Roman Emperor by the pope. Lead Europe into a mini Renaissance. Known as the ‘Farther of Europe’.

Kingdoms of England and France/Crusades:
5. Henry II: Created a better/fairer legal system in England including trial juries, grand juries and circuit judges.
6. King John: He was a weak King who was forced to sign the Magna Carta after he had abused his power to tax the people.
10. Saladin: Muslim leader and general during the Crusade of the Kings. Defeats the Christians and takes Jerusalem.
11. Richard the Lionheart: English king who fought Saladin during the Crusade of the Kings. Makes an agreement with him allowing the Muslims to keep control of Jerusalem and the Christians to worship safely in the city.
12. Fredrick Barbarossa: Holy Roman Emperor who was prepared to fight in the Crusade of the Kings but dies on the way.

Islam:
13. Muhammad: Founder of the religion of Islam, he is believed to be Allah’s most important prophet.
14. Al-Razi: Muslim chemist who developed a system for categorizing substances (animal, mineral, vegetable) He also wrote books for doctors to help them identify diseases.
15. Ibn Sina: Persian/Muslim doctor who discovered how diseases spread from person to person and published his findings.
16. Ibn Kaldun: Muslim historian who wrote that all civilizations rise, grow, and then fall. He said geography and climate had major effects on people and civilizations.

China:
17. Confucius: Great Chinese philosophy who taught that people needed a sense of duty and put the needs of the family and community before the needs of themselves. Today we call his teachings Confucianism.
18. Laozi: Founder of Daoism which is the belief that people should give up worldly desires in favor of nature and the Dao.
19. Siddhartha Gautama: Founder of Buddhism who believed that life was suffering and the only way to end suffering was to give up worldly desires in order to reach Enlightenment or Nirvana.
20. Hanfeizi: Founder of the philosophy of Legalism which said that society needs harsh punishments and strict laws.
21. Qin Shihuangdi: First emperor of a united China, founder of the Qin Dynasty, and the man who started the Great Wall.
22. Han Wudi: Ruled during the height of the Han Dynasty. He used civil service exams to choose the best government officials.

**Role of the Church/Plague/Hundred Years War:**
23. Thomas Aquinas: A member of the clergy who helped establishes scholasticism (the belief that religion and reason can coexist) and natural law which argued that some laws are simply part of human nature.
24. Francis of Assisi: Founded the Franciscan friars who lived in the cities and aided the sick and poor.
25. Joan of Arc: French peasant girl who went on to lead the French army to victory against the English during the Hundred Years War. She was ultimately arrested and burned at the stake as a heretic.

**Early Middle Ages: Pages 513-518**

**Essential Question:** What Happens When There is no Central Government?

**Key Vocabulary:** Mostly the names listed on the previous page

1. How did Geography affective the unity of Europe after the fall of Rome?
   Rivers, mountains and peninsulas shaped the landscape of Europe, serving to divide the people into smaller kingdoms.

2. Who were the Franks and how did the Frankish Kingdom help reestablish order in Europe?
   The Franks lived in modern day France and Germany. They united under King Clovis and Christianity to establish the first empire after the Romans.

3. How were the Muslims a threat to Europe during the Early Middle Ages? Who stopped them from invading central Europe?
   The Muslims had invaded southern Europe and moved into Spain during the late 8th century. Charles Martel (Charles the Hammer) defeats the Muslims and keeps them from invading deeper into Europe.

4. Describe the significance of Charlemagne’s Empire. Why is it sometimes referred to as a ‘mini-Renaissance’?
   Charlemagne was crowned a new Roman Emperor by the Pope on Christmas Day A.D. 800. His empire would encourage education, art, and literature which is why it is sometimes called a ‘mini-Renaissance’.

**Critical Thinking:**
Describe life in the early Middle Ages and how do you think the lack of central government hurt the progress of society?
During the Early Middle Ages life was chaotic and full of war, disease and famine. A lack of a central government meant that there was no one to protect the people from attacks and raids by neighbors such as the Vikings. People were forced to live in small communities and swear their loyalty to local lords in exchange for protection.

**Feudalism and the Rise of Towns: Pages 523-533**

**Essential Question:** How do Societies Stabilize in the Face of Adversity?

**Key Vocabulary:** Feudalism, Vassal, Fief, Knight, Serf, Guild, & Charter
5. Define Feudalism: A form of government based upon the loyalties between a lord and vassal.

6. Explain the relationship between a Lord and a Vassal (Make sure to mention the word fief)
   A lord gives a vassal a piece of land known as a fief and promises to protect the vassal in exchange for the loyalty of vassal.

7. Describe a Knight (what steps did someone need to take to become a knight)?
   A knight was a warrior on horseback. In order to become a knight you first had to serve as a page and squire. Only after showing bravery could you be dubbed a knight. Knights all came from noble birth.

8. What was a serf? How did he differ from a freeman?
   A serf was a farmer or worker who swore loyalty to a lord and was bound to the land. He received protection in exchange for work and payments (turning over up to two thirds of their crops). A freeman was not tied to the land and could come and go as he pleased. He rented land and used worked as a skilled artisan.

9. What improvements in farming occurred during the age of feudalism?
   The invented the heavy wheeled plow, the iron blade, the horse collar to pull the plow, windmills, and crop rotation.

10. Why were castles important to the protection and development of towns?
    Castles provided protection to the towns which allowed them to grow and reestablish trade and commerce.

11. Explain a guild and explain how guilds helped to stabilize society. (Make sure to mention apprentice, journeyman, and master).
    A guild was a business group of skilled artisans who worked together to set prices and quality standards. In order to join you had to first be an apprentice, then journeyman, then master. Guilds helped to reestablish trade and a middle class.

12. What was a Charter: A document given to the townspeople by a king granting them the freedom to govern themselves. This allowed for the reemergence of local government and individual freedoms.

   **Critical Thinking:**
   How did the rise of towns help to stabilize society and lead to the end of feudalism?
   As castles provided protection for the town’s people lived in less fear and trade began to remerge. This allowed for towns to grow and stabilize, as well as, create a new wealthy merchant middle class. This took place in part to the development of guilds and the return of trade. This new wealthy middle class began to wish to govern themselves rather than answer to the local lords. Eventually, they were granted a charter which meant they could elect their own local officials and create their own local laws.

   **Kingdoms and Crusades: Pages 535-538 & 541-543**

   **Essential Question:** What Happens when Different Cultures Come in Contact with One Another?
   How can Religion Impact Social and Political Institutions?
13. What was the Battle of Hastings and how did William the Conqueror change life in England?

The Battle of Hastings was fought between Harold Godwinson of England and William of Normandy over who would be the next king of England. William wins and introduces new technologies and feudalism to the English.

14. What improvements were made in England by Henry II in regards to an individual’s legal rights (make sure to mention trial juries, grand juries and circuit judges)

Henry II introduces trial juries, grand juries, and circuit judges. These help to create a legal system where all freemen have the right to a trial by jury and cannot be held without just cause.

15. What was the Magna Carta and why was it significant? (How did the Magna Carta increase the power of the people?)

The Magna Carta (or Great Charter) was a document the nobles of England forced King John to sign granting more freedom to freemen and the nobles and less power to the king. It limited the power of the king to tax the people and guaranteed certain rights to the people including a trial by jury and no illegal seizure of lands.


In England Parliament was a step towards representative government. It contained two houses of representatives; a House of Lords and a House of Commons. In France the Estates-General did the same and contained three groups of representatives; the clergy, the nobles, and the commoners.

17. What were the Crusades? (Who fought them and what were they fighting over?)

The Crusades were a series of holy wars fought between the European Christians and the Muslims of the Middle East over who would control the holy land and Jerusalem.

Critical Thinking:

Describe the positive effects of the Crusades on the people of Europe and the Muslims of the Middle East?

The Crusades lead to an increase in trade and an exchange in knowledge and technology that ultimately benefitted both the Christians of the Europe and the Muslims of the Middle East. The Crusades also helped to break down feudalism in Europe due to the limited number of lords left in Europe.

Islam: Pages 373-381 & 388-394

Essential Question: How can Religion Impact Social and Political Institutions?

Key Vocabulary: Bedouins, Caravan, Kaaba, Mecca, Madinah, Quran, Mosque, Bazaar

18. Describe the life of Muhammad and his message he preached. (Is there a connection between Islam and the Government of Muhammad?)

Muhammad was the founder of Islam he came from a wealthy family who controlled a caravan business. He became distraught over the corruption he perceived within the world and went to the mountains to pray. There
it is said he has a series of revelations which become the foundation of the Islamic faith. He establishes a government controlled by Islam.

19. Explain the Five Pillars of Faith, and how do they affective the daily lives of the Muslims?
   The Five Pillars of Faith are the center of Muslim beliefs. They include Belief, Prayer, Charity, Fasting, and Pilgrimage.

20. How did Islam spread to create an Empire? (What territories did they conqueror page 380)
   Islam rapidly spread throughout the Middle East. It was spread through military conquest and over trade routes. Eventually they controlled an Empire which included the Middle East, Northern Africa, Spain, parts of Eastern Europe, and Persia.

   Critical Thinking:
   What contributions of the Muslims still affect our world today?
   The Muslims made numerous contributions in the fields of medicine, science, architecture, literature, and mathematics which still affect our world today.

   China: Please Review the China Review Guide You Completed Last Week to Prepare for the China Quiz
   Key Vocabulary: Dynasty, Irrigation, Bureaucracy, Theocracy, Nirvana, Silk Road, Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, Legalism, Porcelain, Printing Process

   The Role of the Church/Black Death/Hundred Years War: Pages 519-521 & 545-558
   Essential Questions: How can Religion Impact Social and Political Institutions? What Happens when Different Cultures Come in Contact with One Another? How do Societies Stabilize in the Face of Adversity?
   Key Vocabulary: Excommunicate, Heresy, Anti-Semitism, Theology, Scholasticism, Vernacular, Plague, Battle of Agincourt

21. Describe the conflict between Henry IV and Pope Gregory VII.
   The two men argued over who should have the power to choose church officials, the Holy Roman Emperor or the Pope. Ultimately the Pope wins and the Church takes control of politics during the Middle Ages.

22. Why were monasteries important?
   Monasteries served as schools, hospitals, shelters and places of learning. Knowledge was preserved by monks who painstakingly hand wrote books from the Greeks, and Romans.

23. Describe the role religion played within the lives of the people during the Middle Ages. (Mention Cathedrals)
   The Church completely dominated your lives during the Middle Ages. Your daily life revolved around prayer and attending mass. The Church controlled education and healthcare. The Church was in charge of keeping records. Cathedrals were the most important buildings in any town and helped supply economic success as well. Finally, all the important events and rituals of your lives were related to the Church.

24. What was the Inquisition? (How did they treat the Jewish people of Europe?)
The Inquisition was a Church organization designed to seek out heretics and those who did not practice Christianity. Often the Jews and other groups were punished and sometimes tortured to gain confessions.

25. What were Universities? (Explain Scholasticism and natural law within this response)

Universities became places to educate and train scholars in a variety of fields including grammar, logic, arithmetic, geometry, music and astronomy. Students could earn advanced degrees in law, medicine or theology. Scholasticism and natural law helped to fuel the passion for knowledge as the Church lightened up its stance on certain fields of science and math.

26. Describe the Black Death and list two positive effects and one negative effect it had on Europe.

The Black Death was a terrible infectious disease (or plague) that struck the entire continents of Europe and Asia as well as parts of Northern Africa. The disease did have some positive effects including lower the population which helped to create a wealthy society and eliminate overcrowding in the cities. It also broke the power of the Catholic Church in Europe. Negatively, close to half the world’s population died of this terrible infectious disease.

27. Who fought the Hundred Years War, and how did it help to end Feudalism and start the Renaissance?

The Hundred Years War was fought between France and England. The war helped to break down feudalism by limiting the number of lords and ultimately aided in the movement towards the Renaissance as the people were sick of war and death and ready for a new age of celebrating life.

Critical Thinking:

How did the Black Death serve to break the power of the Church and lead to a new scholastic, scientific, and artistic movement known as the Renaissance?

The Black Death helped to break down the power of the Church and improve the living conditions and wealth of the survivors. This lead to a new era of science and discovery as more people were educated and ready to celebrate the life and accomplishments of humans rather than simply wait for the afterlife.

Other Review Papers Available: The Feudalism Review Worksheet, the Crusades Guided Reading, the Muslim Achievements Review, the Muslim Review Worksheet, the China Review Packet.

Essay Questions:

Directions: These are the Essay questions that will be found on the test. You will need to look over each of these questions and be prepared to write a 3 paragraph response for at least 2 of these questions. I am giving you the questions ahead of time; therefore, I expect that you provide specific details to support your discussion. Each essay will need a thesis statement and factual support.
1. How did the rise of towns help to stabilize Europe during the Middle Ages? Make sure to discuss the roles played by castles, guilds, and charters within your response.

2. How did the introduction of the Europeans, the Muslims and the Chinese all help and hurt the lives of these people? Describe how the Crusades, the Silk Road, and the Black Death all relate to this question.

3. Discuss three important topics of the Middle Ages that helped to lead Europe into the Renaissance. Make sure to explain how these topics served to improve life in Europe. Possible topics include the Crusades, the Magna Carta, the building of cathedrals, the first universities, the Black Death, and the Hundred Years War.

4. Describe how religion affected people’s everyday lives and politics during the Middle Ages. Make sure to discuss the role of religion in Europe, the Middle East, and China.