

**SHORT ANSWER**

10 minutes for these questions (4 points each)

1. What new political entity emerged in western Europe in the place of feudalism?

*The modern nation-state*

- 2-3. Name two factors that precipitated the Hundred Years' War.

*One major factor was the French king's attempt to control Guyenne, an English-held province in France. In 1337, Philip IV declared he would take over the province, which angered the English. King Edward III responded by claiming the French throne, because his mother was the sister of three French kings. Another factor was a dispute involving the county of Flanders, a thriving commercial area in northern France which produced cloth made from the wool supplied by the English. The French insisted that Flanders belonged to France. In a strategic move, Edward III encouraged the Flemish cloth makers to revolt by withholding English wool from their markets. For business interests, the Flemish sided with the English. NOTE: Students may list the French attempt to take Guyenne and Edward's response as two separate factors; this is acceptable.*

- 4-6. What was the Black Death, when did it occur, and how did it affect the European population?

*The Black Death was a devastating plague that struck Europe from 1347 through 1352. It killed between a fourth and a third of the European population.*

7. Name a major change in warfare tactics that occurred during the Hundred Years' War.

*A major change in warfare strategy occurred during the Hundred Years' War as the English employed the common man as foot soldiers in fighting, unlike the French who upheld the feudal model of fielding an army of nobility. There was also a change in weaponry as the English utilized the longbow as a more effective weapon, enabling their yeoman archers to pierce the armor of the mounted French knights and to shoot down their horses as well.*

- 8-9. Name two major reasons for the decline of feudalism.

*Answers may include any two of the following:*

- *The Black Death killed between a quarter and a third of Europe's population, disrupting feudal relationships between noblemen.*
- *The Hundred Years' War further disrupted the feudal system by draining men and money.*
- *Kings' effective central governments won loyalty, soldiers, and support from both local lords and townsmen, eventually gaining a mutually beneficial relationship between kings and townspeople, while decreasing the power of local lords.*
- *Europe moved slowly from a land-based economy to a money-based one, shifting wealth from lands to towns, thus weakening the monetarily poor nobles' power while strengthening the rise of modern European nation-states.*
- *English peasants in warfare changed both the kind of soldier employed and the social standing of most soldiers, which was the beginning of the end of the status and privileges of feudal society.*

10. What was the significance of the term "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" to the people of the fourteenth century?

*The term "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" is a biblical allusion based on Revelation 6:1-8, in which four horsemen are described representing war, famine, disease, and death. NOTE: Students may also offer other interpretations of this phrase. It was often referred to by the people during the 1300's, who experienced several major calamities such as severe famine, the Black Death, the Hundred Years' War, and corruption and disunity in the papal courts. To the people living at the time and afterwards, it represented divine judgment and the fear that the world would end.*

**ESSAY QUESTION**

NOTE: Due to the breadth of these essay questions, we have increased the time limit to 25 minutes for one of these questions (60 points).

1. In the late Middle Ages, our sovereign God was “bulldozing” old things to make way for newer things. In a detailed essay, tell how the Hundred Years’ War, the Black Death, and the rise of towns all contributed to the demise of the Feudal Age and the construction of the Modern Age.

**Points an Excellent Answer Might Include****Hundred Years’ War**

- Disrupted the feudal system, draining men and money from it
- Broke many personal loyalties forever, as people died or were displaced
- Strengthened national identity, as countries united around a common enemy
- Further strengthened French national identity by the inspiration of Joan of Arc
- Changed military tactics and included English peasants in battle, beginning the end of the chivalric approach to warfare
- Increased the power of the English parliament, affording it numerous opportunities to limit royal power, since kings had to go to Parliament for money to wage war
- Increased the power of the French monarchy and central government, as the French Estates-General, weary of death and destruction, gave kings power to tax directly without asking permission

**Black Death**

- Killed a quarter of Europe’s population
- Disrupted feudal relationships, making it easier for serfs to leave manors and establish new lives in towns
- Removed many from positions of power, further aiding kings in consolidating control

**Towns**

- Grew in response to revived international trade, which they in turn encouraged
- Developed at ports, at intersections on major trade routes, or around fortified castles, where traveling merchants could stay overnight for protection
- Generally dirty and crowded, but exciting and eventful
- Provided new freedoms and opportunities that manor life could not offer
- A powerful merchant middle class developed, including merchants, bankers, craftsmen, and skilled laborers
- Acquired new governments led by guild leaders, who regulated the quality of work in their trades and worked to gain rights from the local nobility
- Resulted in Europe moving slowly but surely from a land-based economy to a money-based one: lords who were land-rich but cash-poor declined in influence, while merchants, guild masters, and kings increased in power
- Increased the power of kings, as townsmen agreed to pay taxes to them in return for good government; kings, in their turn, protected townspeople from oppression by local lords

**Sample Answer**

*In the late Middle Ages, our sovereign God was “bulldozing” old things to make way for newer things. The Hundred Years’ War, the Black Death, and the rise of towns all contributed to the demise of the Feudal Age and the construction of the Modern Age.*

*The Hundred Years’ War played an important role in the rise of modern nation-states in England and France. The Hundred Years’ War contributed greatly to the rise of a national identity in England and France, as the inhabitants of each country found common cause in their enmity for the other. Feudal lords died in battle, making it easier for kings to control their realms. The English Parliament grew in power as English kings had to ask Parliament for money; in*

France, however, the Estates-General forfeited the power to tax to the king, thereby strengthening the monarchy. All these things helped centralize power in the parliament or the monarchy, contributing to the unique development of these nation-states.

The Black Death also had the effect of loosening feudal relationships. Large proportions of Europe's population died of the plague, sometimes up to whole towns. Much of the rigid social structure that had defined the Middle Ages was wiped out. This made it easier for peasants to move from manors to towns. With so many lords dead of the wars or the plague and townsmen looking directly to the king, it was easier for the kings of France and England to solidify their power. This also contributed to the modernization of France and England.

The rise of towns was central to the new, modern way of life. Towns meant trade and prosperity. In trading, they came into contact with a broader world than their own small region. Townsmen did not answer to a local lord but were ruled directly by the king. People in towns could improve themselves and rise in society. All these were marks of the modern world that was replacing feudalism.

The Hundred Years' War, the Black Death, and the rise of towns were all part of God's "bulldozing" of the existing European way of life. These and other changes brought the end of feudalism and the beginning of the modern world.

2. In the late Middle Ages, new influences caused changes in European society. Europeans left manors for towns, broke out of feudal relationships, and saw the influence of the pope decline in their lives. In a carefully constructed expository essay, give the details of these societal changes. What new factors or events caused these changes in each case, and what was the result?

### Points an Excellent Answer Might Include

#### Towns

- Grew in response to revived international trade, which they in turn encouraged
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#### Relationships

- Peasants rewarded with freedom for fleeing to towns
- Large portions of society killed off by the Black Death, leaving gaps in the previously rigid society
- Gentry's ranks reduced by Crusades and Hundred Years' War
- Social mobility possible in towns: new, influential merchant class
- Increased power of kings, whose centralized rule replaced the strict supervision of local lords
- Decline of lords in contrast to the rise of merchants

#### Papal Influence

- Loss of papal prestige over secular kings, who dared to challenge popes
- Babylonian Captivity, in which popes ruled from Avignon, France, under thumb of French kings
- Great Schism made popes a laughingstock, in which two or three rival popes claimed the office
- Increased corruption in church, along with continuing political squabbles
- Discovery of potentially rival authorities to popes
- People increasingly thinking for themselves
- Growing willingness for people to question papal teaching and authority, a trend that came to fruition during the Renaissance and Reformation

**Sample Answer**

*In the late Middle Ages, new influences caused changes in European society. Europeans left manors for towns, broke out of feudal relationships, and saw a decline in the influence and authority of the pope.*

*The growth of towns in the late Middle Ages marked the end of the manorial way of life. Towns grew up in response to a revival of international trade, which they in turn encouraged all the more. Town life was often attractive to peasants living on manors. Towns were free from feudal lordship, and anyone who lived in a town for a year and a day would be a free man. The social order in towns was not rigid; people could improve themselves by their own hard work. As people flooded the towns, wealth came to be measured in money rather than in land, lowering the lords' prestige. These things hastened the end of manorial life.*

*The late Middle Ages saw Europeans breaking out of feudal relationships for a variety of reasons. Part of this was due to peasants fleeing to towns, but there were also other causes. Disasters like the Black Death and wars like the Crusades and the Hundred Years' War killed off feudal lords as well as commoners. The rigid control of the ruling class was weakened. Kings began to exercise more centralized control from their distant capitals. Merchants were increasingly important, and anyone could become a merchant. Thus, the old feudal relationships began to disappear.*

*Papal authority and influence over people's lives also began to decline in the late Middle Ages. During the height of the Middle Ages, popes had held supreme power over everyone in Christendom. Kings were weak, and local nobles, though powerful on their own lands, did not have widespread influence. Now, however, secular rulers were challenging the supremacy of the pope. The Great Schism and the Babylonian Captivity discredited the papacy. Corruption in the church further tarnished its image. As the Middle Ages gave way to modern times, the pope's power was no longer supreme and unquestioned.*

*In short, the late Middle Ages was a time of monumental change. The pillars of society—manorial life, feudal relationships, and the influence of the papacy—were shaken, giving way to the town life, social mobility, and willingness to question the church that would characterize the Modern Age.*