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# THE NORTHERN RENAISSANCE AND ITS SCHOLARS



## ORAL QUIZ ON RENAISSANCE LIFE

The points and level of detail given below are those that an upper-grammar student might be expected to know from his reading, though he may not include every detail. You may also use these points to prompt your student.

### Life in the Renaissance

- 1. What kind of education did children of wealthy families of the Renaissance receive?

  Growing up in a wealthy family during the Renaissance afforded children a better and more well-rounded education.

  With the emphasis on classical learning, these children studied a wide variety of subjects including grammar, rhetoric, history, science, poetry, art, and literature.
- 2. What kind of education, if any, did the ordinary Renaissance boy or girl receive?

  The level of education ordinary people received depended on their situations in life. A merchant's son might have a tutor and a merchant's daughter most likely learned to read and write in a convent. Poorer families did not have time to provide a formal education. A boy might have the opportunity to apprentice with a skilled craftsman, but most likely a girl would marry young and receive no education other than learning to run a household.
- 3. Describe what education was like in the universities of the Renaissance.

  Universities emerged in almost every city during the Renaissance. Anyone could attend them who had the time. Wealthy boys and men were encouraged to pursue a university education. Most universities required a lengthy course of study for seven years, and students could move on to other universities to study if they wished. Unlike our universities today, there were no exams!
- 4. In the Renaissance era, how did the homes of the wealthy differ from the homes of ordinary families? There was a vast difference in the homes of the wealthy as compared to the homes of ordinary people. In order to show off their wealthy status, rich people lived in ornately decorated houses called palazzos with separate bedrooms and private baths. The working merchant lived in a simpler house with several rooms and perhaps a shop on one floor. Poorer families had very small homes built with mud, timber, and thatch. These homes relied on a small fire for warmth and cooking, though few of them had chimneys.
- 5. What was the diet like for people in the Renaissance period?

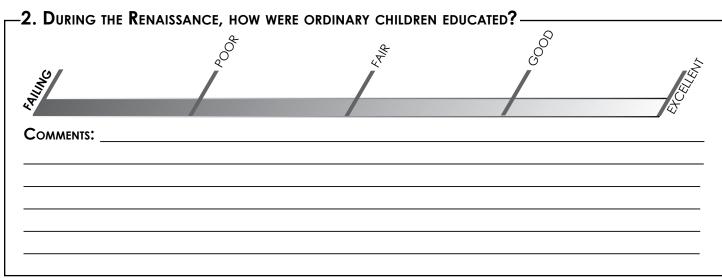
  As with other parts of daily life, the diet depended on wealth and where people lived. Wealthier people were able to procure and enjoy a more varied diet that often consisted of wild game, seafood, and vegetables flavored with all kinds of spices. The more simple food of the common family included thin soups made from cabbage and broth, eggs, coarse bread, and milk. Because water was often unsafe to drink, both wealthy and ordinary people drank wine.
- 6. What kinds of recreational activities were enjoyed during the Renaissance?

  During the Renaissance, there were many recreations from which to choose. Most people, including the poor, enjoyed music as entertainment. This was very different from the Middle Ages, where music primarily accompanied religious ceremonies. Games like chess, roulette, and fox and geese were also favorite leisure activities. Among many sports, falconry was one of the most popular.
- 7. Name three kinds of craftsmen who worked during the Renaissance.

  Any three of the following are acceptable: glassmakers, weavers, tailors, clock makers, vase makers, jewelers, carpenters, goldsmiths, stonecutters, and metalworkers.
- 8. Name three popular items that Europeans traded during the Renaissance.

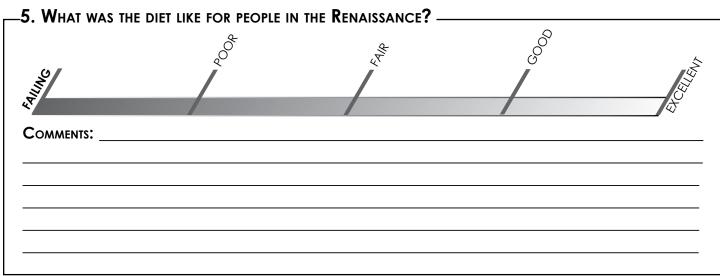
  Any three of the following are acceptable: iron, tin, leatherwork, cotton and gold thread, and spices from the East.

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Comments:

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8. NAME THREE POPULAR ITEMS THAT EUROPEANS TRADED.

COMMENTS: