



HUMANISM

“To neglect knowledge is to neglect virtue; the intellect lightened by the flame of goodness cannot help but love it. Love is only born of knowledge. Reason is the guide of a right will. It is reason which leads us to salvation.”

These are the words of Roger Bacon, a scientific philosopher who lived in England in the 13th century. Here he is referring to the importance of rationalism, knowledge and love. During his time, the rulers of Europe had denied rationalism. Thinkers like Roger Bacon questioned the existing feudalistic power system and its ideas and concepts. As a result, many of those thinkers were subjected to cruel persecution and imprisonment. Some of them even lost their lives.

But, later, situations began to change.



Roger Bacon and his diagrams

From 14th century onwards a series of changes took place in the social, economic, and political spheres of Europe. Along with the influence of the Greco-Roman cultures of ancient Europe, a tendency to move away from the ideas that existed in the medieval times also gained strength. Let us examine the characteristic features of these changes.



Greco-Roman Civilisations

The two most important civilisations that existed in the ancient Europe were Greek and Roman civilisations. They are known as classical civilisations. The Greek civilisation was from 12th to 4th century BCE. The Roman civilisation was from 7th century BCE to 5th century CE.

- Humanistic perspective (Humanism)
- Growth of urban life
- Progress of trade
- Rise of nation states
- Individual liberty
- Rationalism
- Spread of secular values
- Monetary economy
- Importance gained by regional languages
- Changes in the realms of art and science

These changes were particularly evident in Italy, which was part of the ancient Roman civilisation. Historians termed this changes 'Renaissance.' The Renaissance is considered as a period of transformation from the medieval feudalism to the modern age.



Renaissance

The word "Renaissance" means "rebirth." It denotes the revival of ancient Greco-Roman culture, which began around the 14th century.



Evaluate the significance of the statement that the Renaissance was a period of transition from the medieval to the modern.

Why Renaissance in Italy?

Refer Map 1.1. Identify the cities that existed in medieval Italy.

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Cities in Italy were different from the rest in Europe.

The reason is that:

- They were more independent, wealthy, and dynamic.
- Traders in these cities were well aware about banking and insurance. Some of them had expertise in technical matters of trade, such as bookkeeping. Many of them had become extremely wealthy through trade.



Map 1.1



Bookkeeping

Detailed recording of the income and expenditure of an establishment on a daily basis is called bookkeeping. Bookkeeping is the first step in accounting.

The commercialisation that occurred in Europe by the 11th century led to the disintegration of the medieval feudal system and the decline of the religious supremacy. This led to the emergence and domination of the new wealthy class. As a result, several wealthy families also emerged in Italy. They demanded a share in the political power. Let us examine some of these families and their respective cities.

Italian Families	Cities
Medici	Florence
Sforza	Milan
Farnese	Parma
Orsini	Naples
Visconti	Milan



The Crusades

The wars fought between believers of Islam and Christianity over Jerusalem, which was considered a holy land by both, are known as the Crusades. The Crusades that took place from the 11th to 13th century had a profound impact on the political, social and economic lives in both Europe and Asia.

The Crusades that took place during the medieval period facilitated cultural exchange between the East and the West. Italian cities got acquainted with the cultures, cities, and lives of the people in the Eastern world. This accelerated the growth of Italian cities. As a result of trade links with the Islamic Empire and the Byzantine (Eastern Roman) Empire, enormous wealth flowed into the Italian cities. Over time, merchants in Italian cities gained monopoly in the trade between the East and the West in the Mediterranean.



Italian cities were wealthier compared to other European cities. Describe the circumstances that led to this.

The Bubonic Plague, which erupted in the mid-14th century, severely affected the Italian cities. This catastrophic event, known as the 'Black Death,' claimed the lives of thousands, resulting in a severe shortage in labour. Consequently, this paved the way for the decline of medieval feudalism that was heavily reliant on the agricultural sector. Furthermore, it facilitated the emergence of a

new, commercial middle class. When traditional medicines failed to fight the plague, people began to explore the medical sciences of ancient Greece and Rome. The terrors of the plague prompted human beings to contemplate the fleeting nature of life, seek wellness, and focus on their own well-being. This introspection paved the way for the emergence of humanism.



Discuss the impact brought about by the outbreak of the plague in 14th century in various fields in Europe.

The prosperity, political liberty, and social unity of the cities fostered civic sense and self-respect among people. Revived interest in the concepts of law and order, and governance that had flourished in the ancient Roman Empire began to spread throughout Italy. A section of the population well-versed in ancient Roman law and the Latin language turned their attention to commercial pursuits. This, in turn, sparked a renewed interest in classical languages, literature, institutions and antiquity. Each city aspired to become a centre of art and literature. Under the patronage of rulers and clergy, people sought out, collected, and preserved the remnants of ancient Rome, including paintings, manuscripts, and architectural remains. The rulers realised that, rather than waging wars, commissioning grand buildings and fostering art and literature would be a better way to leave a lasting legacy in the minds of the people.

Wealthy patrons beautified their parish churches and actively promoted the construction of monasteries and nunneries as well as cathedrals. In Italian cities such as Florence, Milan, Rome, and Venice, patronage of the arts was considered a



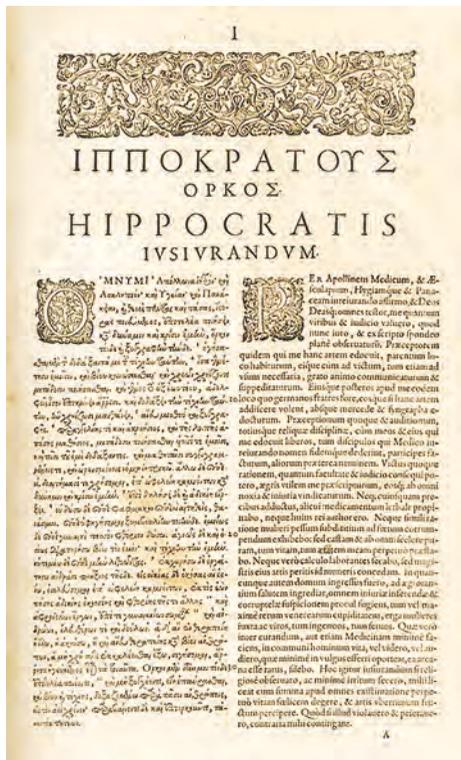
Black Death

The Black Death is the epidemic that ravaged Europe between 1347 and 1351. Black boils appeared on those who were affected by the disease. That is why the disease is known as Black Death. This epidemic spread through the fleas carried by rats that reached European ports via merchant ships.



A Colonial Perspective of European Renaissance:

Several arguments have emerged of late challenging the conventional view that the Renaissance originated in Europe. Works like *Stolen Legacy* by George James, *Black Athena: The Afroasiatic Roots of Classical Civilization* by Martin Bernal present alternative perspectives. They are of the view that colonial historians have perpetuated a Eurocentric narrative, portraying Europe as the sole hub of civilisation. They dismissed the contributions of other cultures. According to these critics, this biased approach has led to the marginalisation of non-European cultures, implying that only Europeans are civilised, while others are uncivilised.



Greek manuscript

civic responsibility. In 1453, the Ottoman Turks conquered Constantinople, the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire. This city was a centre of many scholars who possessed manuscripts of ancient Greco-Roman literary works. In the aftermath of the Turkish conquest, these scholars migrated to Italian cities, bringing their manuscripts with them. As a result, research and studies, previously confined to universities during the Middle Ages, began to spread to libraries. The convergence of wealth and political freedom created a fertile ground for artistic innovation and cultural experimentation. Consequently, novel ideas began to emerge in the cultural and intellectual spheres.



Map 1.2

Look at the map 1.2 and locate Constantinople. Discuss its geographical significance.



Assess the impact of the conquest of Constantinople by the Turks on the intellectual landscape of Italy.



Human beings at the Centre

The Middle Ages were predominantly influenced by the philosophical school of thought known as scholasticism, which was deeply rooted in Christian theology. Although scholasticism encouraged knowledge and research, it prioritised the divine and the afterlife. The concept of Humanism emerged as a departure from Christian theology, emphasising the significance of human experience, worldly life and rational inquiry. Humanists highlighted the uniqueness, emotions, capabilities, literary expression, and communication skills inherent in humanity. This paradigm shift was founded on a transformation from a theological perspective to a human-centered outlook. Humanism also accommodated dissenting voices and criticism, questioning the authority of religious dogma and domination.

During this period, people avidly read ancient Greco-Roman works. The Arabs played a significant role in disseminating the ideas of the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle throughout Europe. Humanists produced works in regional languages and created paintings and sculptures in the Greco-Roman style. Although ancient Greco-Roman civilisations served as their primary source of inspiration, the humanists' perspective was distinctly different. Greco-Roman art depicted Gods, the wealthy, and the powerful in all its beauty and splendour. However, Renaissance art represented human beings in all its naturalness. The numerous works of art and literature produced during the Renaissance period bear testimony to this shift. Humanism later became a source and inspiration for transformative changes across various spheres, including painting, architecture, literature, politics, history, science, and religion. The Renaissance, in essence, embodies these changes.

Aristotle



Aristotle was a philosopher who lived in ancient Greece. His ideas paved the background for new questions and debates in the Renaissance period. His works, translated into Latin and regional languages in the 12th and 13th centuries, were widely disseminated throughout Europe. The significance Aristotle placed on the pursuit of truth, coupled with the profound depth of his scholarly endeavors, accounted for the immense interest in his ideas.



How did the emergence of humanism impact the course of world history?

Renaissance Art



Medieval painting

Renaissance painting

Paintings from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance period are given here. Although the themes are similar, distinct differences are evident in their style. Can you identify the differences?

Notably, Middle Age paintings tend to emphasise spiritual themes, such as angels and heavenly realms, whereas Renaissance paintings focus on the beauty of the human form, originality, and a naturalistic use of colours. This shift in artistic focus was a hallmark of the Renaissance period, during which fields like painting, sculpture, and architecture underwent profound transformations. Florence, one of the major commercial centres in Europe was also the centre of Renaissance in Italy.

Painting

Humanistic ideals were reflected profoundly in Renaissance paintings. Painters of the time presented human forms with remarkable accuracy, clarity, and meticulous attention to detail in their works. The knowledge they had acquired about human anatomy facilitated this artistic achievement. Moreover, painters emphasised rationalism and human emotions, attributing significance to the values of this world. With the influence of humanism, artworks became increasingly precise and realistic.

Painters often selected themes that emphasised theological significance for their works. However, Renaissance paintings had certain other distinctive features as well.

- Landscapes
- The use of colour to illustrate light and spatial depth
- Realistic depiction of the human body
- The use of oil paint
- Portraits
- The representation of divine figures in idealised human forms



This is a depiction of "Agony in the Garden" by Giovanni Bellini, a renowned Italian Renaissance painter. The scene illustrates Jesus Christ kneeling in prayer on the Mount of Olives, while his disciples sleep nearby. In the background, a group of Roman soldiers can be seen approaching to apprehend Jesus Christ.



This is the renowned diptych oil painting by the Italian Renaissance painter Piero della Francesca, titled "Diptych of Federico da Montefeltro and Battista Sforza."



Look at the pictures given here and identify the characteristic features of Renaissance painting reflected in them.

The influence of Greco-Roman art was first evident in Giotto's works. However, it was Masaccio, a painter who emerged later created a profound impact on all artists who came later. His wall paintings, characterised by their round in shape and seemed to protrude from the surface, showcased human figures engaging in everyday life experiences.

'The Last Supper' and 'Mona Lisa' are the world-famous paintings of Leonardo da Vinci. These paintings speak of the unique way in which da Vinci harmonises colour, shadow and light. He was a versatile genius who scientifically studied the human body.

In the 'Last Supper,' emotions like surprise, fear and guilt of Christ's disciples are vividly etched as Christ reveals that one of them betray him. It is widely acknowledged that the enigmatic expressions of Mona Lisa conceals many unanswered questions, masterfully embedded by Leonardo da Vinci.



Leonardo da Vinci



The Last Supper



Mona Lisa

The paintings done on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel at Vatican, along with 'The Last Judgment,' have cemented Michelangelo's status as an immortal artist. His works predominantly feature powerful and graceful human forms.

Other notable painters of the Renaissance period include Titian and Raphael. Raphael portrayed humans as wise, moderate, and dignified. In their paintings, beauty and ideas were given equal importance.



Michelangelo



Titian



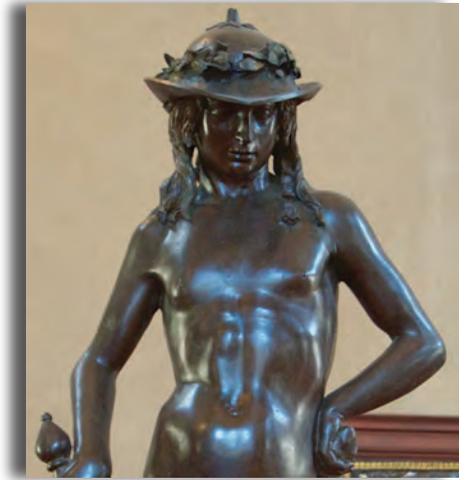
Raphael



Discuss the features of Renaissance painting and prepare a note.

Sculpture

Sculpture was another equally notable field of Renaissance art. Donatello was one of the most important sculptors of the Renaissance period. He liberated the art of sculpture from the medieval Gothic style, giving his works greater power and individuality. His iconic bronze sculpture, 'David,' showcases a youthful figure standing with his weight shifted onto one leg. Another notable work, 'Gattamelata,' depicts a soldier sitting on horseback, evoking the cavalymen of ancient Rome. Through this masterpiece, Donatello immortalised a secular hero.



Donatello's David

Michelangelo's sculptures, which depicted Gods in human forms, deviated significantly from the traditional ancient Greco-Roman style. His renowned works, such as the 'Pietà,' portrays Virgin Mary, with Jesus Christ on her lap and the majestic sculpture of 'David,' have cemented his legacy as an immortal artist.



Gattamelata

Pietà

Michelangelo's David



Identify and list the common features of Renaissance painting and sculpture.

Architecture

Architecture was another field that witnessed transformation besides painting and sculpture. Filippo Brunelleschi set a new style in architecture. Quite different from the Gothic architectural style of the medieval period, influence of ancient



Dome designed by Brunelleschi



Gothic style

Gothic style developed in Europe in the second half of the Middle Ages. It originated in France. The pointed arch was its striking feature. A large number of churches and universities were built in Europe in this style.



Greco-Roman (classical) style is evident in the Cathedral he built in Florence. The lofty towers found in Gothic style, were replaced with domes (Dumo). Later, in the St. Peter's Basilica, built under the supervision of Michelangelo and Bramante, this style is more evident.



St. Peter's Basilica



Prepare a digital album describing the influence of humanism on Renaissance art.

Renaissance Literature

*“It is not in the stars to hold
our destiny but in ourselves.”*

The above quote is from William Shakespeare's renowned play Julius Caesar. Examine the influence of humanism as reflected in these lines by Shakespeare.

Renaissance writers gave importance to individual liberty and secular values. The basic characteristic of Renaissance literature was its breaking away from the scholasticism of the Middle Ages. Although influenced by ancient Greco-Roman culture, most Renaissance writers chose to produce their works in

regional languages. Prose literature gained prominence during this period.

In what ways will writings in regional languages and in prose forms become beneficial to society? Discuss in class.

Dante, the renowned author of *The Divine Comedy*, was a prominent literary figure during the Renaissance period. The poem's theme revolves around Dante's imagined pilgrimage through Hell, Purgatory, and Paradise. However, it also profoundly reflects human emotions, patriotism, fascination for natural phenomena, and the longing for a unified and independent Italy. Dante wrote *The Divine Comedy* in the regional language.

Another world-renowned writer, Petrarch, was a leading exponent of humanism. His sonnets addressing Laura reflected a bold and unique style. However, Petrarch remained committed to writing in Latin. Another notable Renaissance writer was Boccaccio, the author of the celebrated work *The Decameron*.

Niccolò Machiavelli's work, "The Prince," presents political thoughts. He believed that a ruler's paramount responsibility is to maintain the authority and security of the state. He also believed that individuals are generally selfish, driven by a desire for power and material prosperity. He advocated that a head of state should remain impartial and avoid showing favouritism or obligation to specific groups among the subjects. In *The Prince*, Machiavelli portrays an administrator who is different from the traditional medieval feudal administrators.



Dante



Petrarch



Machiavelli

“Every prince ought to desire to earn the reputation of being merciful, and not be cruel; at the same time, he should also be careful that no one else misuses that mercy. A prince, therefore, should not care for the ill repute of being cruel while ensuring solidarity and loyalty among the subjects.”



Machiavelli’s perspective about a king is given above. Based on this, discuss the ideas put forward by Machiavelli about monarchy. Examine to what extent humanism is reflected in this.



Cassandra Fedele

During the Italian Renaissance, several women recognised the significance of humanism. Among them, the most notable was the humanist and writer Cassandra Fedele. She earned a name through her writings and speeches, emphasising the importance of providing higher education to women. Fedele maintained a lively correspondence with wealthy Italian lords who championed humanism. Her speeches and writings were printed, published, and popularised by several prominent publishing houses.

In due course, the influence of Renaissance extended beyond Italy, impacting the literature of other countries. Consequently, numerous remarkable works were produced in other parts of the world. Let us take a look at some of them.

Author	Work	Country
Erasmus	In Praise of Folly	Netherlands
Geoffrey Chaucer	Canterbury Tales	England
Thomas More	Utopia	England
Miguel de Cervantes	Don Quixote	Spain
François Rabelais	Gargantua and Pantagruel	France

Printing played a significant role in popularising literature during the Renaissance period. Johannes Gutenberg established the first printing press in Europe. The printing machine, which was set up in the 15th century was made of metal and was of movable type. What could have been the influence of the printing press on the society of that period?

- Dissemination of knowledge
- Progress in literacy
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With the invention of the printing press, people started reading literary works extensively.

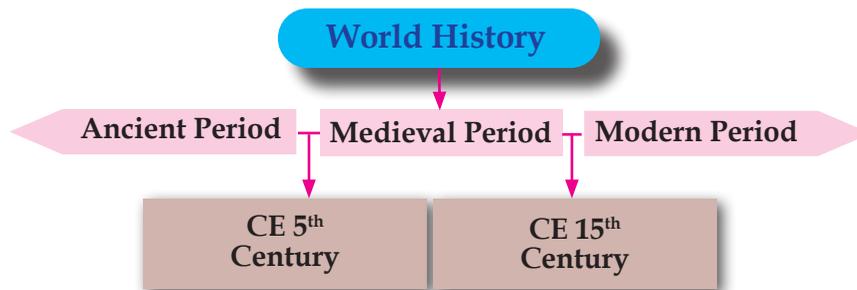


Prepare an essay on the topic 'Humanism and Renaissance Literature.'



Printing Press

Renaissance and Historiography



World history has been categorised as illustrated above for the ease of learning. This classification divides history into three distinct periods: the Ancient Period, spanning up to the 5th century CE; the Medieval Period, extending from the 5th to the 15th century; and the Modern Period, encompassing the era thereafter. This classification emerged during the Renaissance period. It was introduced by two Italian historians, Flavio Biondo and Leonardo Bruni. Let us examine the significant changes that occurred in the historiography during this period.

The transition from medieval Christian tradition to a secular life and thought was also reflected in the realm of historiography. During the Middle Ages, the prevailing notion was that historical events were divinely ordained and the course of history was governed by supernatural powers. This perspective lost its relevance during the Renaissance period.



Flavio Biondo

Leonardo Bruni

Instead, human-centered explanations and interpretations gained recognition. Human life became the focus of historical narratives, superseding the chronicles of monks and biographies of priests.



Chronicles

Monarchs traditionally appointed court historians to record the events of their kingdoms. These historians documented the events during the reigns of their patrons. Modern historians have labelled these texts as "Chronicles" as they provide a continuous, chronological account of events

Another significant development in historiography during the Renaissance was the growing importance of archaeological evidence and relics. Thus, historians began to place greater emphasis on evidence such as inscriptions, coins, and ancient manuscripts, in their narratives. Furthermore, efforts to collect and preserve ancient manuscripts intensified.

With the emergence of humanism, critical thinking gained significance in history. Scientific enquiry and studies replaced stories and myths. The contributions of Machiavelli to Renaissance historiography are noteworthy.



Elucidate the role of Renaissance in making historiography scientific.

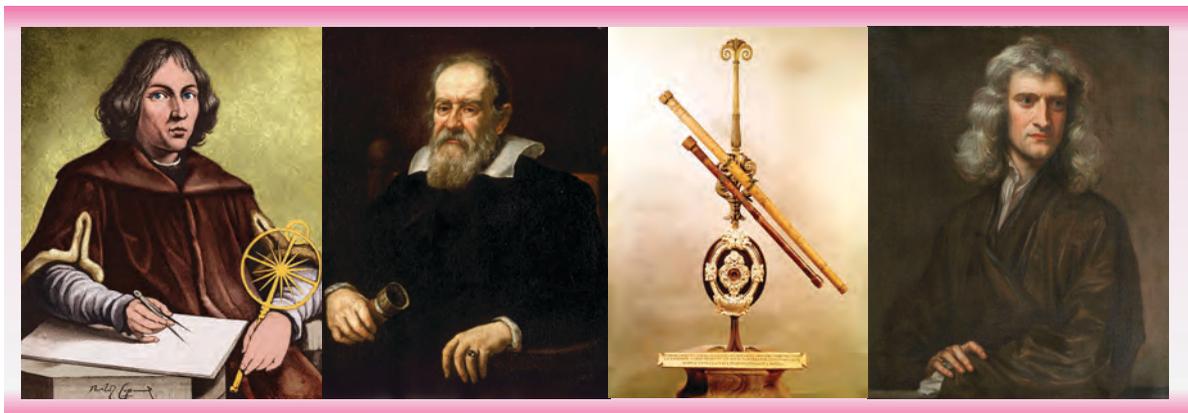
Renaissance and Science

*“In the year sixteen hundred and nine
the light of Science shone
in his modest house in Padua as
Galileo set out to prove that the
Sun is fixed and the earth is on the move.”*

This is the introduction of the play on the life of Galileo by the famous German playwright Bertolt Brecht. Until the 16th century, the belief that the earth was the centre of the universe prevailed. These lines refer to the attempts made by Galileo, who challenged and negated the geocentric belief. Let us discuss how the Renaissance influenced the existing beliefs and rational thinking in this manner.

The Renaissance laid the foundation for the evolution of modern science. Remarkable transformations took place in the field of astronomy during this period. Scientists put forward a groundbreaking view that planetary motions are governed by material forces. The geocentric model of Ptolemy, which positioned Earth at the center of the universe, remained unchallenged until the 16th century. Later, Nicolaus Copernicus, a Polish astronomer and priest, challenged this prevailing doctrine. He presented a revolutionary argument that the centre of the universe is not the Earth, but the Sun. Through his observations, Copernicus demonstrated that the Earth and the other planets revolve around the Sun.

The revolutionary discoveries of Copernicus were further elucidated and expanded upon by Galileo Galilei and Johannes Kepler. Kepler's pathbreaking findings revealed that the speed of planets varied based on their distance from the Sun, which laid the foundation towards the end of the 17th century for Isaac Newton's formulation of the theory of gravitation. With the telescope that he designed, Galileo Galilei made seminal discoveries, including satellites of Jupiter and rings of Saturn. Galileo's findings provided conclusive evidence in support of Copernicus' principles.



Copernicus

Galileo and the telescope

Isaac Newton

The Renaissance also witnessed significant advancements in the field of medicine, particularly anatomy. The Swiss scientist Paracelsus conducted extensive research on the causes of diseases and tried to develop remedies. Meanwhile, Andreas Vesalius pioneered the study of human anatomy through meticulous

dissection of cadavers, thereby contributing substantially to the field of human anatomy.



Conduct a panel discussion on the contribution made by Renaissance science to the progress of modern society.

The Reformation

The influence of the Renaissance extended to the realm of religion also in Europe. Satirical works penned by humanists like Erasmus, coupled with critiques from John Wycliffe, Jan Hus, and Savonarola, laid the groundwork for protests against certain practices and beliefs within the Catholic Church. One

contentious issue was the sale of indulgences, where the Church would collect money from believers. Church authorities proclaimed that purchasing indulgences would redeem individuals of their sins. The money thus collected was proposed to fund the construction of hospitals and cathedrals. However, when Johann Tetzel, a Dominican monk, arrived in Germany to promote the sale of indulgences. Martin Luther, a priest, responded by pasting his famous 'Ninety-Five Theses' on the doors of the Wittenberg Cathedral in 1517. This pivotal event marked the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. Initially, Luther's intention was merely to spark an ideological debate. So, he wrote his theses in Latin, instead of German. However, his work was translated into German without his knowledge, and as a result, widely disseminating it. Subsequently, Luther severed his ties with the Church.



Erasmus



Martin Luther

The universities of Germany, particularly Wittenberg University, where Martin Luther taught, played an important role in laying the groundwork for the Reformation. The interests of secular rulers who wished to limit the powers of the clergy and church courts further encouraged the Reformation. Many rulers had grown dissatisfied with the extensive powers of the clergy, particularly in matters of taxation and ecclesiastical appointments.



The influence of humanism became the reason for Reformation, justify this statement.

The Reformation, that originated in Germany, soon spread to other European kingdoms. Huldrych Zwingli and John Calvin in Switzerland, assumed leadership in the Reformation movement. In England King Henry VIII led the Reformation and the Anglican Church emerged there with the monarch serving as its head. This development led to the establishment of the National Church.

Counter Reformation

Following the Reformation, the Catholic Church initiated efforts to reform itself, a movement known as the Counter-Reformation. As part of this initiative, the Church leadership convened the Council (Synod) of Trent in Northern Italy. The objectives of this council were to correct erroneous tendencies within the Church, and to implement reforms. As a result, the sale of indulgence was banned. A list of books (The Index) that should not be read by the believers, was published. The court of inquisition, which was there in Medieval times, was reinstated.

'The Society of Jesus,' set up by Ignatius Loyola, a Spanish priest, also played a prominent part in Counter Reformation. Its members were bound to observe strict discipline and unquestioned obedience. They tried to establish the authority of the Catholic Church by setting up schools and engaging in active missionary work. Counter Reformation succeeded in eliminating a number of wrong tendencies in the Catholic Church. Counter Reformation is also known as Catholic Reformation.



Ignatius Loyola



Compare and contrast Reformation and Counter Reformation.

The Renaissance marks the evolutionary progress of humanistic ideas that originated in Greco-Roman times. Renaissance was also a continuation of the ancient and the middle ages. At its core, the Renaissance was characterised by humanism, which focused on humanity and human needs. Through extensive trade contacts and cultural exchange, the Renaissance fostered mutual relationships between Europe and other societies.



Conduct a seminar in the class on the topic 'Influence of Renaissance on different spheres.' Areas to be considered:

- Art
- Literature
- Politics
- History
- Science
- Religion



Extended Activities

- Prepare a flip magazine including the contributions of the Renaissance period in art and literature and exhibit it in the class room.
- Organise a poster exhibition on the topic 'Inventions in the field of science in the Renaissance period and the contemporary world.'
- Bhakti Movement in India was a protest like the Reformation in Europe. Discuss the similarities and differences between these two, and prepare a note.
- Prepare a digital atlas by marking the important European countries which became the platform for the Renaissance and the Reformation.