

Short Answer questions-
Social Science Chapter 1 Humanism

1. Roger Bacon and the Rise of Rationalism

Q1: Who was Roger Bacon, and what were his key ideas?

Ans: Roger Bacon was a 13th-century English philosopher who emphasized rationalism, knowledge, and love. He believed that reason leads to salvation and criticized the feudalistic and anti-intellectual attitudes of his time.

Q2: Why was Roger Bacon persecuted?

Ans: He was persecuted because his ideas challenged the religious and feudal authorities of medieval Europe, who opposed rational thinking.

Q3 (Application): How did thinkers like Roger Bacon pave the way for the Renaissance?

Ans: Their emphasis on reason and questioning authority laid the foundation for humanism, which later became a core principle of the Renaissance.

2. The Black Death and Its Impact

Q4: What was the Black Death, and how did it affect Europe?

Ans: The Black Death (1347–1351) was a deadly plague that killed millions, causing labor shortages and weakening feudalism. It led to economic changes and a shift toward human-centered thinking.

Q5: How did the Black Death contribute to the decline of feudalism?

Ans: The massive death toll reduced the labor force, forcing lords to pay higher wages, which weakened the feudal system and empowered the working class.

Q6 (Application): Compare the societal impact of the Black Death with a modern pandemic (e.g., COVID-19).

Ans: Both pandemics caused massive deaths, economic disruptions, and social changes. However, the Black Death led to feudalism's decline, while COVID-19 accelerated digital transformation and healthcare reforms.

3. The Renaissance in Italy

Q7: Why did the Renaissance begin in Italy?

Ans: Italy was the center of the Roman Empire, had wealthy city-states (Florence, Venice), trade networks, and access to classical Greek and Roman texts.

Q8: Name two powerful Italian families that supported the Renaissance.

Ans: The Medici family (Florence) and the Sforza family (Milan).

Q9 (Application): How did trade contribute to the Renaissance in Italy?

Ans: Trade brought wealth, new ideas, and cultural exchange, allowing Italian merchants to patronize artists, scholars, and scientists.

4. Humanism and Its Features

Q10: What is humanism?

Ans: Humanism is an intellectual movement that emphasized human potential, secular values, and rational inquiry, shifting focus from divine authority to human experience.

Q11: How did humanism differ from medieval scholasticism?

Ans: Scholasticism focused on religious theology, while humanism emphasized classical learning, individualism, and worldly life.

Q12 (Application): How is humanism reflected in modern education?

Ans: Modern education values critical thinking, secular knowledge, and individual growth—principles rooted in Renaissance humanism.

5. Renaissance Art and Artists

Q13: Name two famous Renaissance painters and their works.

Ans:

- Leonardo da Vinci: *Mona Lisa*, *The Last Supper*
- Michelangelo: *Sistine Chapel ceiling*, *David*

Q14: What were the key features of Renaissance art?

Ans: Realism, perspective, human emotions, naturalism, and use of light and shadow.

Q15 (Application): How did Renaissance art break away from medieval art?

Ans: Medieval art was symbolic and religious, while Renaissance art focused on realism, human anatomy, and secular themes.

6. Renaissance Literature

Q16: Who wrote *The Divine Comedy*, and why is it significant?

Ans: Dante Alighieri wrote it; it combined religious themes with human emotions and was written in Italian (vernacular), making literature accessible.

Q17: What was Machiavelli's *The Prince* about?

Ans: It advised rulers to prioritize power and pragmatism over morality, marking a shift in political thought.

Q18 (Application): Why was writing in regional languages important during the Renaissance?

Ans: It made knowledge accessible to common people, promoting literacy and cultural identity beyond Latin.

7. The Scientific Revolution

Q19: What was Copernicus's heliocentric theory?

Ans: The Sun, not Earth, was the center of the universe, challenging the Church's geocentric view.

Q20: How did Galileo contribute to science?

Ans: He improved the telescope, discovered Jupiter's moons, and supported Copernicus's theory, despite Church opposition.

Q21 (Application): Why was the Church against Galileo's findings?

Ans: It contradicted biblical teachings and threatened the Church's authority over knowledge.

8. The Reformation and Counter-Reformation

Q22: What were Martin Luther's *Ninety-Five Theses*?

Ans: A list of criticisms against the Catholic Church, especially the sale of indulgences, sparking the Protestant Reformation.

Q23: What was the Counter-Reformation?

Ans: The Catholic Church's response to the Reformation, involving reforms like banning indulgences and founding the Jesuit order.

Q24 (Application): Compare the Reformation with a modern religious reform movement.

Ans: Like Luther, modern reformers challenge religious corruption (e.g., calls for transparency in religious institutions).

9. The Printing Press

Q25: Who invented the printing press, and how did it impact society?

Ans: Johannes Gutenberg; it spread knowledge rapidly, increased literacy, and fueled the Reformation and Renaissance.

Q26 (Application): Compare the printing press's impact with the internet.

Ans: Both democratized information, but the internet spreads knowledge instantly, while the press was slower but revolutionary for its time.