

Important Concepts . . .

# Preview Review



**Social Studies Grade 8**  
**W1 - Lesson 1: Introduction to**  
**Worldview**

## Important Concepts of Grade 8 Social Studies

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## Materials Required

**Textbook Required**  
*Worldviews: Contact  
and Change*

Social Studies Grade 8  
Version 5  
Preview/Review W1 - Lesson 1

Publisher: Alberta Distance Learning Centre  
Written by: Tom Dirsra  
Reviewed by: Donna Klemmer

Project Coordinator: Jerry Pon  
Preview/Review Publishing Coordinating Team:  
Kelly Kennedy and Marlyn Clark



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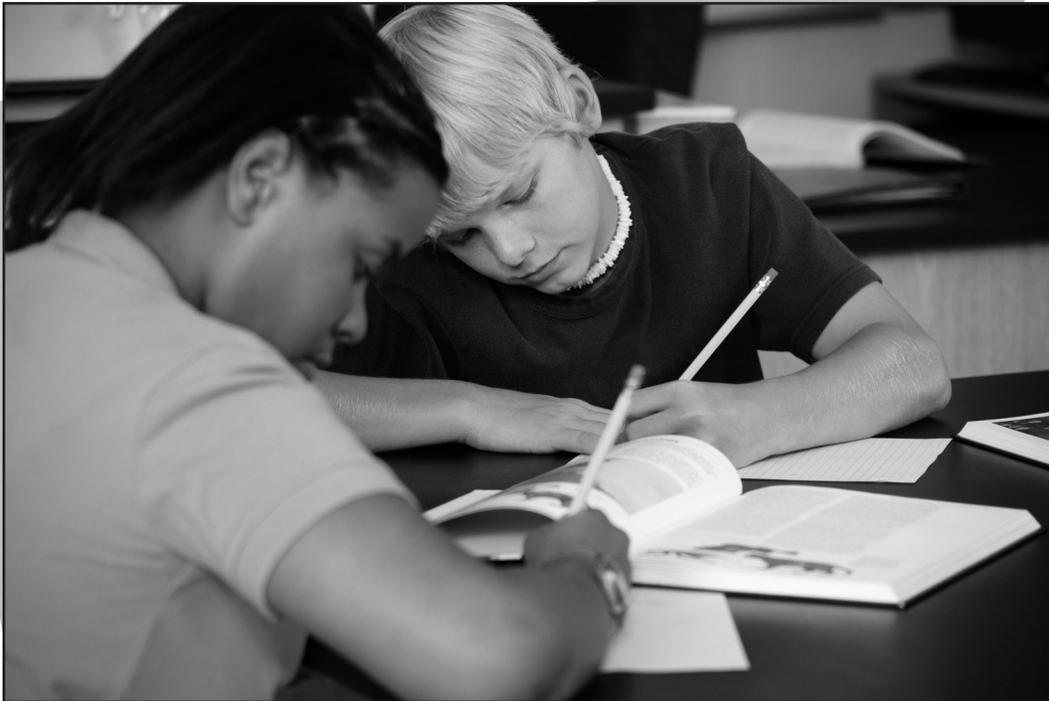
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# **Preview/Review Concepts for Grade Eight Social Studies**



***W1 - Lesson 1:***

***Introduction to Worldview***

# OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson, you should

- understand what a worldview is and how it is influenced by new information
- be able to demonstrate an understanding of the worldview of Middle Age Europeans
- recognize how beliefs and values are shaped by time, geographic location, and societal context

## GLOSSARY

**allegiance** – the devotion or loyalty of an individual to a knight, noble, or king

**Black Death** – a disease that began in southern Europe in 1347; five years later 25 million Europeans have died. It is also known as the Black Plague or the Bubonic Plague.

**cathedral** – the main Christian church building used by a bishop

**feudalism** – a political system in which land was granted for loyalty. Those who did not own land worked for those who did and were protected by the landowner.

**freeman** – a rent-paying tenant farmer who did not owe service to a landlord

**hierarchy** – a system that ranks persons according to status or authority

**journeymen** – individuals who have learned a trade and passed a test to be admitted into a guild

**isolation** – when a person or group is entirely cut off from others

**manors** – districts over which individuals had control. They included a large house built apart from the village where the peasants lived. Noblemen, knights, bishops, or the king could control manors.

**Middle Ages** – a period of time beginning with the fall of the Western Roman Empire to the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century

**monastery** – a place where monks performed their religious duties

**Peasants' Revolt** – This revolt began as a reaction to a tax and resulted in the beginning of the end of serfdom.

**perspective** – a way of looking at situations or facts and judging their relative importance based on one's cultural beliefs

**point of view** – an individual's personal beliefs and opinions

## **GLOSSARY continued...**

**serfdom** – a labour system in which serfs were legally bound to reside and work on land owned by their lord

**sumptuary laws** – a set of laws that controlled the expenditure for clothing, food, and furniture. These laws ensured that the class structure was maintained.

**tithe** – a percentage of earnings or crops given to the church

**worldview** – the framework of beliefs about life and the universe held by an individual or a group. It is the overall perspective from which one sees and interprets the world.



# W1 – Lesson 1: Introduction to Worldview

## Reading 1: What Is A Worldview?

What is a **worldview**, and why is it important? A simple definition is that a worldview is a view of the world based on an individual's values and beliefs. People tend to judge things on what they know and believe. What you know and believe comes from the education and beliefs you receive from your family and your society. Your worldview can change as new knowledge becomes available. As you grow, you continue to increase your knowledge about the world. Your view of the world changed soon after the first day of school. It happened as you made new friends and met your teachers and has been changing ever since. Each new friend and teacher brought new ideas and knowledge about the world around you. Your worldview usually changes slowly and over a period of time, but at other times changes in your worldview happen more rapidly.

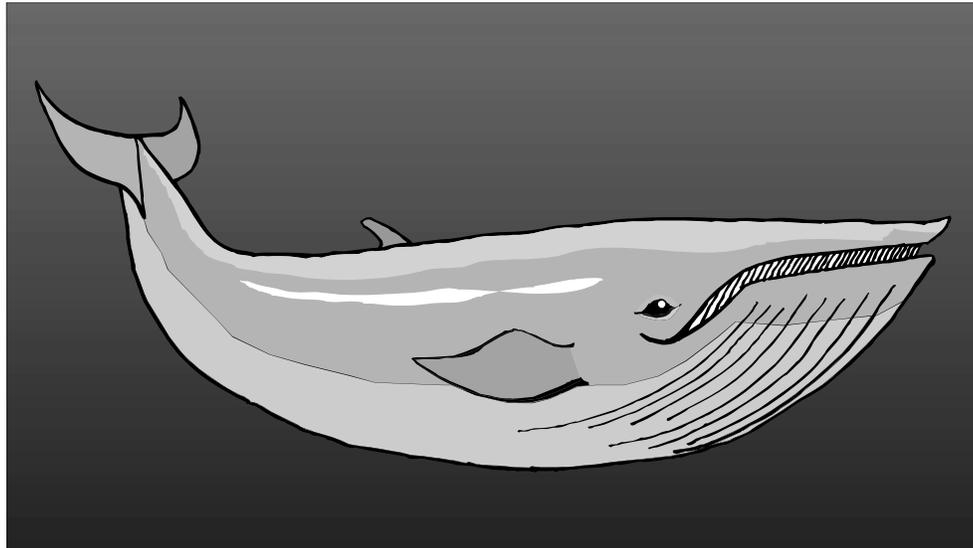
The Social Studies 8 course is a study of how contact with other cultures changed people's worldview. How did the worldview of Renaissance Europeans change when they came into contact with other cultures? How did the Aztecs' worldview change after first contact with the Spanish? Why did the Japanese change their policy of **isolation** from the rest of the world to opening their borders to western countries? These are some of the questions you will examine.

You also need to understand that not everyone's worldview is the same as yours. Each culture develops unique worldviews based on its beliefs and acquired knowledge. Over time, worldviews change as new knowledge becomes available.

Have you ever eaten whale meat? Unless you are Inuit, chances are the idea does not appeal to you. However, in Japan, whale meat, fish, and shellfish are considered part of the marine food resources. These foods represent over 55% of the total meat consumption in Japan<sup>1</sup>. Whale meat is provided in 15% of Japanese students' school lunches.<sup>2</sup> The preservation of this traditional food source is important to Japan. As a result, Japan is one of a very few countries that still hunt certain species of whales on a commercial base.

Canada's worldview differs from Japan when it comes to whales. Canada once had a rich tradition in whaling before the west was opened and new sources of meat were developed. Nowadays, Canadian consumption of such marine food resources is less than 9%.<sup>3</sup> Laws have been established banning all commercial whaling to preserve whales from extinction. In addition, Canada changed shipping lanes in the Bay of Fundy to help avoid ships from striking and killing whales, and whale watching has become a major tourist industry. Only Inuit groups are allowed to carry out whaling because it is still an important food source and part of their traditional way of life.

This whaling example shows different worldviews of Japanese and Canadian society. Activity 1 asks you to examine the elements that make up your worldview.



<sup>1</sup> "Whaling Issues and Japan's Whale Research", Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR), 1993, Shigeko Misaki

<sup>2</sup> "Whale is Back on the School Menu after 20 Years." Deborah Cameron, May 21, 2005, The Sydney Morning Herald

<sup>3</sup> Statistics Canada 2007



## Reading 2: Developing a Worldview

Most Alberta students who were born and raised in Canada have developed a “Western worldview”. What is a Western worldview? It is a view that has been developing over the centuries and is what you will learn about in Social Studies 8. In Alberta, there is a mixture of cultures represented in most schools. Students may come from First Nations or Inuit cultures. Some are descendants of the first European settlers, while others have come from other parts of Canada, and still others come from all corners of the world.

Each individual has a **point of view**. Your point of view is not to be confused with a worldview. Your point of view is the way you look at things as an individual. You may like country music while others prefer hip-hop and still others like heavy metal. The type of music a person likes is a personal preference or point of view. If many people share a liking of hip-hop music, then that becomes a group’s **perspective**.

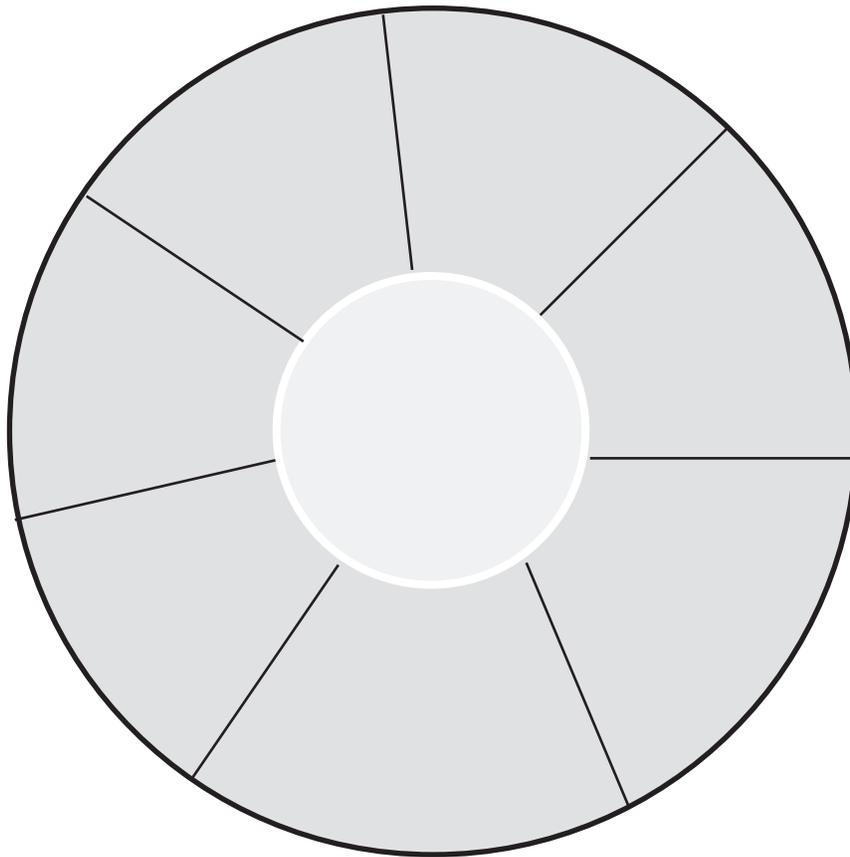
Points of view and perspectives are included in a worldview. However, a worldview also creates meaning to us that answers important questions. To learn what those questions are and how Alberta students develop a “Western worldview”, read pages 2 to 5 of your textbook, *Worldviews: Contact and Change*. Then complete Activity 2.



## Activity 2: Developing a Worldview

To complete the activity, you must finish the worldview icon below and the chart on the following page. The information needed to complete this activity can be found on pages 4 and 5 of your textbook. If you are working in a classroom, you may discuss this activity. If you are working individually, complete the activity and check your work with your learning facilitator or teacher.

1. Complete the icon below by using the information found in Figure 3 on page 4 of your textbook, *Worldviews: Contact and Change*.



2. Each of the seven elements contributes to how you develop a worldview. Look at the chart on page 5 of your textbook, *Worldviews: Contact and Change*. Then, complete the missing sections of the following chart. The first element is completed for you.

**Thinking About the Worldview Elements**

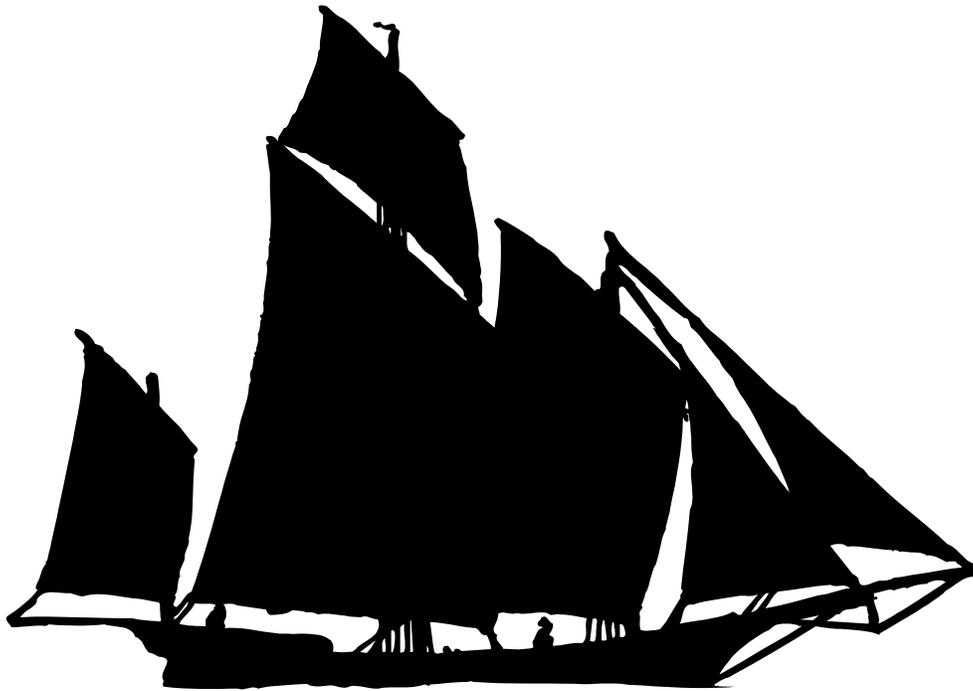
<b>Worldview Element</b>	<b>Possible Questions</b>
TIME	Why do some celebrate Christmas two weeks after December 25 <sup>th</sup> ?
KNOWLEDGE	
	What do people believe about marriage?
	How do people control the supply and demand of materials?
GEOGRAPHY	
	How do people treat individuals who commit murder?
SOCIETY	

## Reading 3: A Changing Society

In 1347, a ship arrives off the coast of Italy and heads for one of the many city ports that will welcome its cargo. It comes from the Eastern Mediterranean and carries a cargo of spices and other materials. It also carries a cargo of death. The fleas on the ship's rats have infected the crew. The fleas carry a disease people would call the **Black Death**. Within five years, 25 million Europeans would die.

In 1434, a ship from China arrives in Tuscany, Italy. The Chinese are received by Pope Eugenius IV in Florence. They bring maps and a vast treasure of knowledge.

These two separate events brought about a change in Europe's worldview. To understand the change, you need to review Europe's worldview during the **Middle Ages**. To do this, read pages 18 and 19 and pages 22 to 27 in your textbook, *Worldviews: Contact and Change*. Then complete Activity 3.



## Activity 3: A Changing Society

To finish the activity, you must complete each given statement with the correct word on the provided line. If you are working in a classroom, you may discuss this activity. If you are working individually, complete the activity and check your work with your learning facilitator or teacher.

1. Twenty-five million Europeans died of a disease called the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. During the Middle Ages, much of Europe used a system called \_\_\_\_\_.
3. When a noble or knight swore \_\_\_\_\_ he promised his \_\_\_\_\_ to the king.
4. In a \_\_\_\_\_ system, people were born into a level of society and expected to stay at that level for the rest of their lives.
5. Most peasants were known as \_\_\_\_\_. Some paid rent for their land or worked for pay. These peasants were known as \_\_\_\_\_.
6. A peasant who was good at making shoes could become an apprentice and take a test to become a \_\_\_\_\_ and join a \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The feudal system began to breakdown when peasants started to \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The Black Death resulted in severe \_\_\_\_\_ shortages and many feudal estates went \_\_\_\_\_.
9. As peasants left the farms, they began to work in the towns. \_\_\_\_\_ became more important because it was used to judge how much money an individual could earn.
10. Political and social power began to change from the ownership of \_\_\_\_\_ to the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ one had acquired.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ were introduced to control the level of consumption.

## Reading 4: A Religious Society

Many people thought that God had sent the Black Death. During the Middle Ages, life was hard. Sickness, famine, and war were a way of life. The Church provided a way for people to reach heaven after they died, if they led good lives.

Everyone in the Church had a role to play and they had a duty to obey the group above them. For example, the people followed the wishes of their local priest, and he, in turn, followed the wishes of his Bishop. At the top of the Roman Catholic Church was the Pope. Because each member of the Church paid a **tithe** to the Church, over time the Church became very wealthy.

The Church also became the centre for learning. Many **monasteries** educated their nuns and monks; they learned to copy religious texts and ancient works of the Romans and Greeks. Universities grew from these monasteries and people came, not to be a nun or a monk, but to study grammar, geometry, art, music, and astronomy.

After the Black Death, many people began to question the Church. It seemed that prayers did not work because many of their family members had died. Some even thought God had turned his back on them. At this time, people also began to examine the Church and saw things they felt were wrong. The Church had become very wealthy. Some of the Church leaders seemed more interested in maintaining a wealthy lifestyle than saving souls.

Towns and cities were growing and a merchant class was developing. Universities were beginning to question old beliefs. The worldview of Europe was changing and this affected the way people lived.

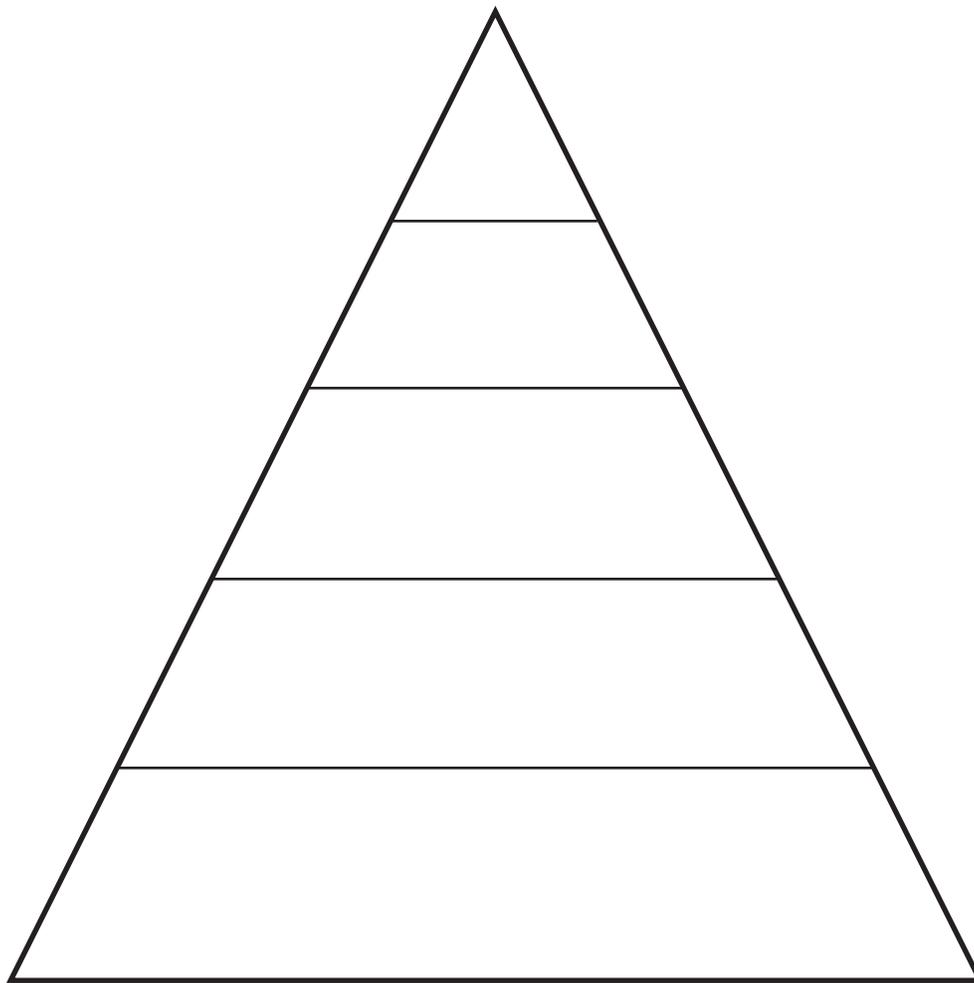
The use of tithes had an important role in the way the Church influenced the lives of Europeans. Read pages 31 to 36 in your textbook, ***Worldviews: Contact and Change***, to see how the role of the Church influenced the way of life and how that influence changed after the Black Death. Then complete Activity 4.



## Activity 4: A Religious Society

Complete the following questions. If you are working in a classroom, you may discuss this activity. If you are working individually, complete the activity and check your work with your learning facilitator or teacher.

1. Complete the chart below using information on page 31 of your textbook, *Worldviews: Contact and Change*.



**Church Hierarchy**

2. Match the individual or event on the left with the contribution or result on the right. Write the letter of the correct answer on the line provided.

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| _____ da Vinci      | A. Portuguese explorer who sailed to India                            |
| _____ Copernicus    | B. French historian who coined the term “Renaissance”                 |
| _____ Luther        | C. painted the <i>Mona Lisa</i>                                       |
| _____ Black Death   | D. said the Sun was the centre of the universe not the Earth          |
| _____ universities  | E. believed that women should have a more significant role in society |
| _____ tithes        | F. reformer against the corruption of the Church                      |
| _____ Francis I     | G. made some people question their faith                              |
| _____ Michelet      | H. a way the Church collected money                                   |
| _____ de Pisan      | I. developed around religious schools                                 |
| _____ Vasco da Gama | J. supported the construction of the Louvre in Paris                  |



## W1 - Lesson 1: Introduction to Worldview Review Assignment

Complete pages 12 to 15 as your review assignment for this lesson. If you are working in a classroom, you may be reviewing this together. If you are working individually, complete the assignment and check your work with your learning facilitator or teacher. Use your notes and work from this lesson to help you. This assignment is worth 25 marks.

### Section A: Fill-in-the-Blanks

Use the following list of words to choose the best word to complete each statement. Write the correct words on the lines. Not all the words will be used. This section is worth 10 marks.

allegiance	freemen	isolation	perspective	sumptuary
Black Death	hierarchy	manors	open	tithe
feudalism	journeyman	monastery	serfs	worldview

1. \_\_\_\_\_ were legally bound to work and live on land owned by their lord.
2. Fleas spread the \_\_\_\_\_ throughout Europe.
3. When a knight swore his \_\_\_\_\_ to his king, he gave his loyalty to the king.
4. A university often developed near a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ did not owe service to a landlord.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church had the Pope at the top.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ was a political system that separated landowners from those who did not own land.
8. The Church gained wealth because parishioners paid a \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ laws ensured that the class structure was maintained.
10. Knights and nobles promised to fight for the king in exchange for the rights to land called \_\_\_\_\_ or fiefs.

## Section B: True or False

Read each statement carefully. If the statement is true, write **T** on the line provided. However, if the statement is false, write **F** on the line provided. Then **rewrite the sentence correctly to make the statement true**. An example is given to help you begin. This section is worth 5 marks.

  **F**              The Black Death was spread by bats biting humans.  
*The Black Death was spread by **fleas** biting humans.*

       1. Members of a Church had a duty to respect a priest’s authority and pay his salary.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

       2. Cooperative organizations called “guilds” organized the production of goods and trade in most towns.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

       3. Both religious men and women entered monasteries to devote their entire lives to God.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

       4. Your point of view is the way you and your friends see things.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

       5. As universities developed during the Middle Ages, both women and men attended.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Section C: Short Answers

Answer the following questions in complete sentences. The value of each question is indicated at the end of the question. This section is worth 10 marks.

1. What are **four** of the seven elements that are used to explore a worldview? Explain the role of each element you name. (4 marks)

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2. Name **three** changes that Europeans faced during the period of the Black Death that changed their worldview. An example is provided. (3 marks)

*People began to doubt the Church because it seemed that God had abandoned them when their prayers were unanswered.*

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3. What role did monasteries play in growth of knowledge? (1 mark)

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4. Name a type of religious building found throughout Europe. Why were they built? (1 mark)

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5. Why did people in Europe begin to change their thinking about time? (1 mark)

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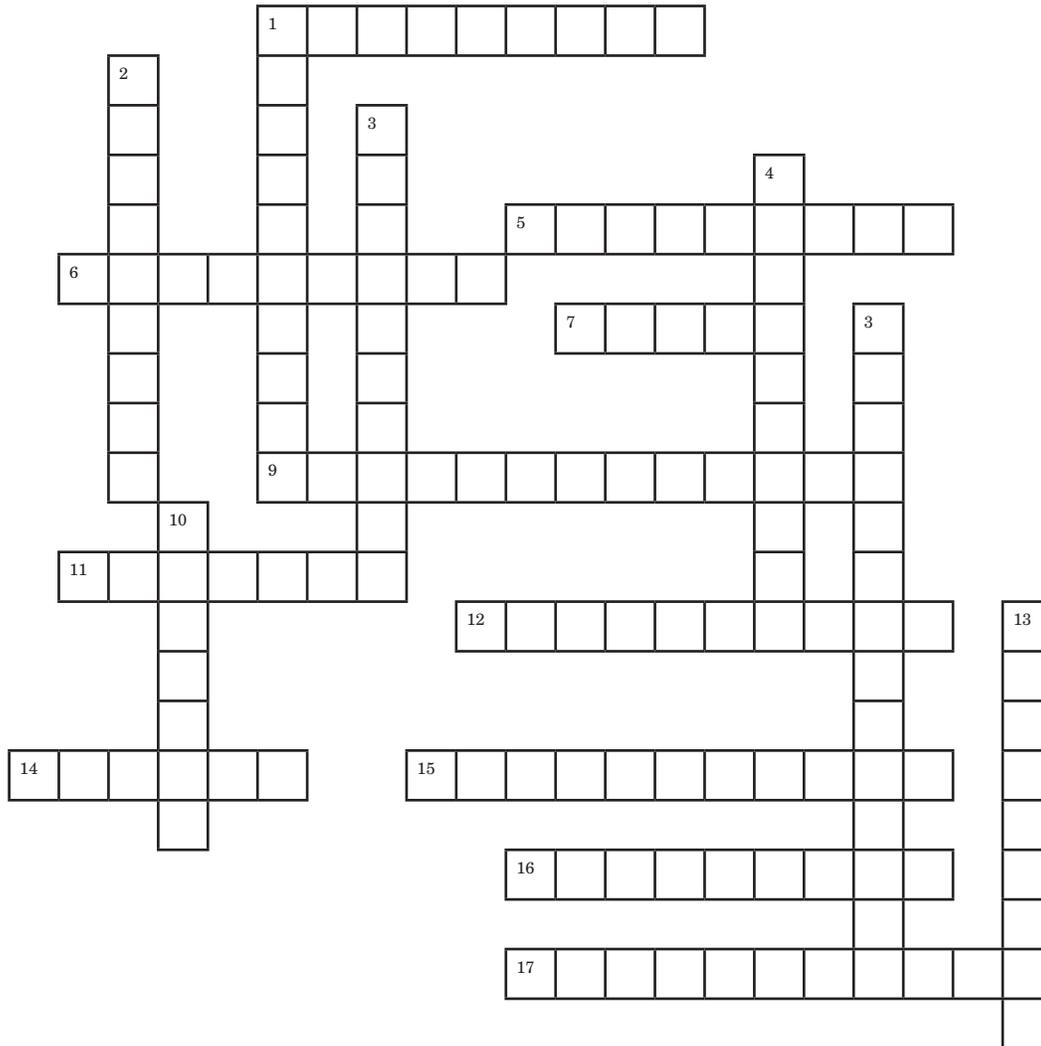
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**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**25 marks**

# Worldview Bonus Crossword Puzzle

Use the clues below to identify the word(s) in the crossword puzzle below.



**Across**

- 1. a place where monks performed their religious duties
- 5. a political system in which land was granted for loyalty
- 6. the main Christian church building used by a bishop
- 7. a percentage of earnings or crops given to the church
- 9. laws that ensured the class structure was maintained
- 11. a rent-paying tenant farmer who did not owe service to a landlord
- 12. also known as the Black Plague or the Bubonic Plague
- 14. districts over which individuals had control
- 15. individual's personal beliefs
- 16. a person or group entirely cut off from others
- 17. a way of looking at situations or facts

**Down**

- 1. the period of time beginning with the fall of the Western Roman Empire
- 2. a system that sorts persons according to rank or authority
- 3. individuals who have learned a trade and have passed a test to be admitted into a guild
- 4. devotion or loyalty of an individual to a knight, noble, or king
- 8. a revolt which led to the end of serfdom
- 10. a labour system legally binding serfs to reside and work on land owned by their lord
- 13. the overall perspective from which one sees and interprets the world





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