Medieval Europe PRACTICE TEST

Name: ______________________________

Part 1: Multiple Choice Knowledge Assessment ( /38)

1. Which of the following modern countries were NOT once part of the Roman Empire?
   a) Egypt.
   b) South Africa.
   c) Italy.
   d) France.

2. Which of the following was NOT a “gift” that the Romans left for future civilizations?
   a) The Latin alphabet and language.
   b) Works of history and philosophy.
   c) Gunpowder.
   d) Large arenas, baths, and theatres.

3. To the Greek, Roman and Byzantine world, anyone who didn’t speak Latin or Greek was often referred to as
   a) Barbarian
   b) Pagan
   c) French
   d) Viking

4. From a medieval-Christian perspective, non-Christians were frequently referred to as,
   a) Witches
   b) Asians
   c) Franks
   d) Pagans

5. Following the collapse of the Western Roman Empire, the ____________ Church led Western Europe for centuries.
   a) Protestant
   b) Byzantine
   c) Roman Catholic
   d) Greek Orthodox

6. Following the collapse of the Western Roman Empire, the ____________ controlled the Eastern Mediterranean for centuries.
   a) Protestant Reformers
   b) Byzantine Emperors
   c) Roman Catholic Church
   d) Russian Slavs

7. The Byzantine ruler who founded Constantinople was known as
   a) Justinian
   b) Theodora
   c) Pope Urban II
   d) Constantine

8. A famous Welsh monk who brought Christianity to Ireland.
   a) St. Augustine
   b) St. Benedict
   c) St. Stephen
   d) St. Patrick

9. After the Western Roman Empire collapsed, ________________ became the most important Christian city in Europe.
   a) Constantinople
   b) Paris
   c) London
   d) Jerusalem

10. Emperor Justinian and Empress Theodora were both
    a) rulers of Gaul.
    b) rulers of Jerusalem.
    c) rulers of Byzantium.
    d) rulers of Rome.

11. Justinian’s attempt to reconquer the Western-Roman Empire in the 6th Century was undermined primarily by ____________.
    a) the poverty of Byzantium.
    b) the military failures of his forces.
    c) the emergence of an Islamic Empire
    d) the introduction of bubonic plague from Asia

12. Clovis converted his people, the ____________ to Christianity in 496 AD.
    a) Saxons
    b) Franks
    c) Goths
    d) Visigoths
13. Under Charlemagne, the Franks conquered much of what is now
   a) France, Germany, and Italy.
   b) Greece and Turkey.
   c) England, Ireland, and Wales.
   d) Spain and Portugal

14. In French, the name Charlemagne means
    a) Charles the-not-so-merciful.
    b) Charles, son of Magne.
    c) Charles the Great.
    d) Charles the Short.

15. Charlemagne was primarily interested in
    a) killing all of his enemies.
    b) finding new trade routes to Asia.
    c) conquering all of Europe.
    d) enforcing peace and promoting Christianity and learning.

16. Charlemagne was celebrated by the Church as a successful European ruler, because
    a) he liked killing pagans.
    b) he defeated his Muslim enemies in Palestine.
    c) he was always merciful towards his enemies.
    d) his rule allowed many years of peace and learning in Europe.

17. Irish Monks helped preserve learning in Europe during the “Dark Ages” by
    a) copying and preserving important manuscripts.
    b) converting all of the British isles to Christianity.
    c) reconquering much of England for the Romano-British Celts.
    d) moving all of their manuscripts to Rome.

18. Historians often refer to the early Middle Ages as “dark” because they are mainly implying that…
    a) medieval religion spread the “darkness” of ignorance across Europe.
    b) it was a violent time, filled with the evils of violence.
    c) a great deal of knowledge and technology was lost or forgotten among western Europeans during these years.
    d) they had no access to electricity and relied upon open flames to light their buildings.

19. The Moors were
    a) Slavic-speaking peoples from Russia.
    b) Turkic-speaking warriors from the steppes of Central Asia.
    c) French mercenaries who fought for the Franks.
    d) Muslim warriors from North Africa who conquered parts of Spain and Portugal.

20. Moorish Caliphs controlled much of ___________________ Europe from the 8th Century until the late 15th Century.
    a) Central
    b) South-Western
    c) Northern
    d) Eastern

21. The Anglo-Saxons were
    a) Germanic peoples who invaded and settled England.
    b) English raiders who settled in Italy.
    c) Muslims from North Africa who invaded Spain.
    d) French warriors who invaded Rome.

22. The Vikings were
    a) Frankish warriors with horned helmets.
    b) Germanic invaders with big axes.
    c) rich warriors with lots of land.
    d) feared seafarers and warriors from Scandinavia.

23. One word that we did NOT get from Scandinavian languages is
    a) Thing
    b) Aqueduct
    c) Thursday
    d) Friday

24. The Battle of Hastings of 1066 is credited with demonstrating the military superiority of the…
    a) archer.
    b) catapult.
    c) shield wall.
    d) knight.
25. After William the Conqueror conquered England in 1066, ____________ laws and feudal customs were introduced into England.
   a) Italian
   b) Norman
   c) Saxon
   d) Celtic

26. Motivations behind Pope Urban II’s first call for a holy crusade in 1095 did not include...
   a) distracting European knights from fighting each other.
   b) sharing the management of Jerusalem with Muslims and Jews.
   c) reconquering Muslim-controlled areas of the Holy Land for the Church.
   d) expanding the control of the Catholic Church over the Mediterranean region.

27. The motivations of a common crusader-knight for going on a holy crusade probably did not include...
   a) peacefully spreading the Christian faith.
   b) protecting Christian pilgrims within the Holy Land.
   c) killing the enemy and acquiring their wealth and lands.
   d) securing forgiveness for past sins and gaining access to paradise after death.

28. Which characteristic of life for a medieval peasant would have been more pleasant?
   a) They typically enjoyed as many as 80 feast days and holidays per year.
   b) If their harvest was poor, they would have little or nothing to eat.
   c) They had no organized health care system and lived on average to age 25.
   d) Their lives were completely dependent upon the goodwill of their lord.

29. Which characteristic of life for a medieval lord would have created stress or difficulty?
   a) The peasants produced food for their lord in exchange for leasing them land.
   b) Their wealth was protected behind the walls of their castles by a private army.
   c) They controlled all of the land and produce on their manor.
   d) Their wealth and title was completely dependent upon maintaining favour with the monarch.

30. How might the church have served, at times, as a stabilizing force within feudal European society?
   a) Sometimes church leaders called for wars against their enemies.
   b) Popes, cardinals and even abbots grew wealthy and sometimes threatened the power of kings.
   c) The church placed constraints upon the “bad” behaviors of certain Europeans by threatening eternal punishment for sin.

31. The Chivalric Code was
   a) A series of laws that controlled the powers of Kings.
   b) A series of rules to govern the conduct of knights and limit bloodshed.
   c) Laws about crimes and punishment.
   d) A series of church laws showing how to get to Heaven.

32. Monasteries and churches were often patronized or financially supported by rich lords because
   a) Monks made the best bankers.
   b) Monks also required investments for scientific research.
   c) Monks and priests made the best soldiers.
   d) Monks and priests offered prayer and absolution from sins.

33. The plague of the mid 1300s helped end which political/social/economic system in Europe?
   a) The Roman Empire
   b) Feudalism
   c) Capitalism
   d) Mercantilism
34. Which animals most likely carried the Black Death virus into Europe?
   a) Elephants
   b) Snakes
   c) Wild Bears
   d) Fleas living on rats

35. What was a more technical/scientific name for the Black Death?
   a) The Pale Horse
   b) Gangrene
   c) Aids
   d) The Bubonic Plague

36. What was the centre of our universe, according to the old Ptolemaic (Greek) model?
   a) The Moon
   b) The Earth
   c) The Sun
   d) The Stars

37. When one group harms or kills another group because of their religious or political beliefs, we call this ____________.
   a) Production
   b) Falsification
   c) Personification
   d) Persecution

38. Which of the following was NOT invented in medieval Europe?
   a) The mechanical clock
   b) The flying buttress
   c) The rifle
   d) Spectacles

39. Which of the following is a fact?
   a) Charlemagne was a cruel, merciless monster.
   b) Charlemagne was an even more gifted ruler than Emperor Justinian was.
   c) Charlemagne was the best king the Europeans had ever had.
   d) Charlemagne was crowned Emperor of the Romans in 800 by the Pope.

40. Which of the following is an opinion?
   a) The Anglo-Saxons were immigrants from Germany who settled in England.
   b) Alfred the Great, king of the Anglo-Saxons, fought against Scandinavian invaders.
   c) Germanic invaders drove the Celts out of Eastern England.
   d) Celtic jewelry was even more beautiful than Scandinavian metalwork.

41. The Vikings are credited with establishing settlements throughout Europe, the North Atlantic, and even along the east coast of North America. This most clearly demonstrates the superiority of their…
   a) social hierarchy.
   b) fearful reputation.
   c) military organization.
   d) seafaring skill and technology.

42. Which of the following would NOT be considered a valid primary source for use in helping us better understand the impact of the Vikings on European societies?
   a) Archaeological remains of the victims of Viking raids.
   b) Eye-witness accounts written by a surviving monk who witnessed and attack.
   c) The design and structures of fortifications along the coast.
   d) Myths and legends about the Vikings that were written centuries later.
43. Which of the following would be considered a primary source for use in helping us better understand a contemporary Muslim perspective of events that took place during the first crusade?
   a) A treatise on knightly duties and chivalry, written by a monk during the crusades.
   b) The diary of a Muslim defender of Jerusalem, who witnessed the siege.
   c) A textbook explanation of the causes and consequences of the crusades.
   d) A written account of a Christian knight who witnessed the siege of a city.

44. It can be argued that, ultimately, the Crusades were not a success for the Catholic Church leadership because…
(Choose the best answer)
   a) many suffered and died at the hands of crusader knights.
   b) in the end, the Holy Land remained under the control of Muslim leaders.
   c) Crusaders sometimes unwittingly murdered Christians as well as Jews and Muslims.
   d) Jerusalem was captured and re-captured many times.

45. What evidence most clearly suggests that monks or abbots did not always keep to the ideals of St. Benedict?
   a) Monasteries became centres of trade and industry.
   b) The prayers of devout monks held monetary value.
   c) Many Europeans became monks or nuns.
   d) Many monasteries became wealthy, powerful, and corrupt.

46. How did monks, nuns and priests contribute positively to the lives of other medieval Europeans?
(Choose the best answer)
   a) By collecting tithes from all Christians.
   b) By challenging the power of kings.
   c) By taking vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.
   d) By preserving manuscripts, teaching children, and caring for the sick and the poor.

47. Which statement about medieval philosophers is perhaps most accurate or defensible?
   a) They were all superstitious magicians and charlatans.
   b) Medieval philosophers were only interested in matters of religion.
   c) Medieval philosophers all believed that the earth was flat.
   d) They were often aspiring scientists who held to some correct and some incorrect knowledge about the natural world.

48. Which of the following statements is most accurate or defensible?
   a) All medieval people believed that the earth was flat.
   b) The medieval Catholic Church discouraged all scientific inquiry.
   c) All medieval people were superstitious and believed in monsters and witches.
   d) Most medieval philosophers assumed that the Earth was the centre of the universe.

49. How did the Black Death help change the status of women in the 1300s?
   a) After the Black Death, many women became nurses and medical doctors.
   b) Women were blamed for the Black Death and faced persecution.
   c) The decrease in the male population meant that more opportunities were available to women.
   d) It killed many women and left many childless.

50. What evidence suggests that medieval women were not all “helpless damsels in distress?”
   a) Only a male heir could secure the throne for a king’s descendants.
   b) Some misogynistic men believed that women were sinful.
   c) Daughters of nobles were often married off in business transactions.
   d) Some women, such as Joan of Arc, fulfilled traditional “male” roles, such as leading troops in war.
51. What was the connection between the Black Death and the Silk Road?
   a) The Black Death destroyed trade along the Silk Road.
   b) The Black Death emerged after the Silk Road closed.
   c) The Black Death spread through contact with silk.
   d) The Black Death first spread from Asia to Europe through animal hosts along the Silk Road.

52. What evidence most clearly indicates that the Black Death emerged in Asia and then spread west to Europe?
   a) The first record of an outbreak appeared in Europe.
   b) Black rats only travelled from Asia to Europe.
   c) Plague records indicate that outbreaks occurred first in Asia, then in the Middle East, then in Europe.
   d) Scholars know that plagues always begin in Asia.

53. Which factor did NOT contribute to the ultimate decline of the feudal system in Europe?
   a) The Black Death left Europe underpopulated, and peasants in high demand.
   b) Trade cities emerged as new centres of wealth with the power to enact laws and raise taxes.
   c) Common merchants and bankers gained wealth and prestige.
   d) Catholic Europeans were united in their devotion to the Catholic Church.

54. What was the greatest lasting achievement of the Magna Carta (1215)?
   a) It set out the principle that “no person is above the law.”
   b) It ensured that Kings could rule with divine right.
   c) It limited the powers of King John in England.
   d) It forced King John to listen to his Barons.

55. What evidence suggests that Joan of Arc was a particularly controversial figure in European history?
   a) She was a woman that dressed and fought like a man.
   b) Her contemporaries couldn’t agree whether she was an angel sent from God, a witch sent by the Devil, or just a mentally ill peasant-girl.
   c) She was found guilty of heresy and burned at the stake.
   d) She was a peasant girl who won the trust of a king and his armies.

56. Which statement about the 100 Years war is most factual?
   a) It was a war over the French Crown that was fought between rival noble families in France and England.
   b) It was a war with no clear winner and no clear loser.
   c) It was a short, decisive war.
   d) It was a war between France and England.
Diagram and Short Answer Section:

1. Europe During the Middle Ages (10)
   - Instructions: Label the letters on the map in the correct places. Draw clear lines to demarcate borders, where necessary. **Letter A is done for you.**
   - a) The Moors (North Africa & Spain)
   - b) The Franks (France & Western Germany)
   - c) Rome (Central Italy)
   - d) Russians/Slavic Peoples (Russia)
   - e) Viking Homelands (Scandinavia)
   - f) The Anglo Saxons (England)
   - g) Byzantine/Ottoman Empire (Greece & Turkey)
   - h) The “Holy land” (Palestine/Syria)
   - i) The Atlantic Ocean
   - j) The Mediterranean Sea
   - k) The Black Sea
2. Which roles, responsibilities or privileges united the **commoners** and the **nobility** of Feudal Europe, and which divided them? Include 2 similarities and 4 differences (with examples). (        /7)

3. Paragraph: **Within Feudal societies, commoner and the nobility led lives that were both worlds apart, and yet they were entwined through duties and obligations.** First of all, they experienced the world very differently. For instance, ______________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________.

Also, ____________________________________________________________________________________.

For example, ________________________________________________________________________________.

Finally, while ________________________________________________________________________________, common Europeans ____________________________________________________________________________.

Yet despite these differences which divided commoners and nobles, feudal duties and religious obligations united them. For example, ________________________________________________________________________________.

Also, ____________________________________________________________________________________.

Thus, European nobles and commoners held distinct privileges and responsibilities, but were united by feudal and religious customs which held together the social fabric of feudal societies.
4. Create a diagram that explains how feudal societies tended to function. (10)

Include the following terms (you may need to use some more than once):

- Monarch
- Barons
- Lesser knights & nobles
- Commoners
- Peasants
- Craftspeople
- Land
- Food and labour
- Military service.

5. According to the diagram above, which groups would have enjoyed the greatest concentration of wealth and power? (circle ONE)
   a) The barons & lords
   b) The lesser knights & lords
   c) The commoners
   d) The monarch

6. In your opinion, which of the social groupings above benefited most from the feudal system? Explain your answer, using 2 examples. (3)

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