

HISTORY · CHAPTER 4

The Three Orders

A 1-page guide for parents · 90-second read.

EXPECTED MARKS

A well-prepared student should score 7-8 out of 8 on this chapter's questions. Below 4 usually means the link between the three orders, the land-for-service bond and the peasants who fed everyone was never understood as one connected system.

TIME TO MASTER**6-8 hrs****HELPLINE****70330 05444****WHAT THIS CHAPTER IS, IN PLAIN ENGLISH**

Your child is studying how society was organised in Western Europe in the Middle Ages (roughly the 9th to the 16th century). Medieval thinkers imagined that society was divided into **THREE ORDERS** by the work each did: those who **PRAY** (the clergy and the Church), those who **FIGHT** (the nobles and armoured knights) and those who **WORK** (the peasants who farmed the land). The chapter explains **FEUDALISM** — a system in which a great lord granted land to a lesser man in return for loyalty and military service, while peasants (many of them unfree 'serfs' bound to the land) actually grew all the food. It also covers the huge power of the Church, the life of the peasants on the manor, the growth of towns and trade, and the great fourteenth-century **CRISIS** — famines and the Black Death plague that killed about a third of Europe — which slowly broke down feudalism and led to strong modern kingdoms. It is a foundation chapter of Class 11 History and usually carries 6-8 marks.

5 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD

- What were the three orders, and what did each one do?
- What was feudalism — how did a lord and a vassal depend on each other?
- What was a 'serf', and how was a serf different from a slave?
- Why was the Church so powerful — what was the 'tithes'?
- What was the Black Death, and how did the fourteenth-century crisis weaken feudalism?

WEAK-SPOT INDICATORS

- Defines the three orders by race or wealth instead of by their function (pray / fight / work).
- Thinks feudalism just means 'a king ruling people', missing the land-for-loyalty bond.
- Believes serfs were slaves who could be bought and sold as individuals.
- Names only the Black Death and forgets that famine and peasant revolts were also part of the crisis.

WHEN TO WORRY — AND WHAT TO DO

If your child cannot explain in their own words the THREE ORDERS by function and the basic feudal bond (lord grants land, vassal gives loyalty and military service, peasants do the work), they will lose 4-5 marks on the two most common long-answer questions. The fix is a daily 10-minute recall of the three-orders triangle and the feudal pyramid, NOT re-reading the whole chapter.

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