

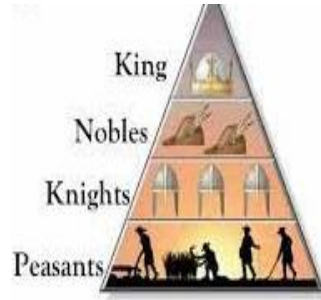
GCSE History- Knowledge Organiser - Conflict and Upheaval 1337 - 1381 - Key Question 1 - English Society

Key Terms

Feudal System	The system of sharing land to share control and power
Rural	Countryside and villages
Agriculture	Farming
Monarchy	The King or Queen and Royal family
Villeins	Peasants - Farm workers who did not own any land
Cottars	The poorest type of villein
Clergy	People who worked for the church e.g. priests and monks
Catholicism	The only type of Christianity in the 14 th Century - Catholics were led by the Pope
Lollardy	Lollards challenged the Catholic Church by asking for an English Bible
Monopoly	Having full control over something
Flanders	A country in Europe where modern Belgium is. It was very rich and based around trade
Wool Trade	The buying and selling of sheep wool

What was England like in the 14th Century?

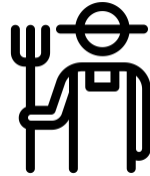
Society



The Feudal System was used to control England. The King owned all land and shared it with his Lords in return for loyalty. They could then share it with knights for loyalty and resources and the Villeins were given jobs on the land in return for money.

Most people lived rurally and worked in agriculture. There were only 2 towns in England: London and York.

There were roads left by the Romans which could be used to travel but this still took time as all travel was by foot or horse back.



Wool Trade



Most of England's wealth came from the Wool Trade. It had large areas of agricultural land dedicated to the raising of sheep. It also had large numbers of people working as weavers to turn the wool into wool which could be used to produce cloth and clothing.

King Edward III used the wool trade to create an alliance with Flanders. He granted Flanders a monopoly over English wool meaning they were the only people who could sell it. This was good for England as it gave them a rich ally but bad for the wool trade as it meant they could not sell their own wool!



Church



England was a Catholic country focused on Christianity. The Church controlled peoples beliefs and how they behaved (Bad behaviour made it more likely that your soul would not enter heaven).

The church was also the largest employer as it owned large areas of land for farming and the wool trade.

Priests carried out a number of duties in the community as did monks and nuns. The Pope was the head of the Church and more powerful than any monarchy as he was God's representative on Earth.



Women

Women were seen as the property of men. Your father owned you and made all decisions for you until you were married and then your ownership transferred to your husband. The only women not controlled in this way were nuns who gave their lives to work for the Church.

Poor women worked alongside the men as farm labourers as well as looking after their families and homes. Rich women were taught to read and write as a symbol of their wealth and their lives revolved around having children to produce heirs for their husbands.

