
AS Unit F984 – Non-British History**Study Topic 2: *The Italian Renaissance c.1420–c.1550***

Patterns of change and continuity should be considered in relation to the following issues: **These issues should be considered through a study of the following content:**

- How far did the Renaissance represent a break with the Middle Ages and how much continuity was there?
- What were the causes of the Renaissance?
- Why was there a Renaissance in Italy?
- What was the role of the Church?
- What were the main characteristics of architecture, painting and sculpture in the Italian Renaissance?
- What were the main developments in intellectual enquiry, political thought and ideas?
- What were the main developments in warfare, society and the economy?
- What were the main developments in science and medicine?
- What were the main developments in warfare and why were these significant?
- How did the Renaissance change over time? How valid are the terms 'Early Renaissance', 'High Renaissance' and 'Mannerism'?
- How and why did the Italian Renaissance influence other parts of Europe? (Case Study of the Renaissance in the Netherlands.)
- the meaning of the term 'Renaissance' – the return to nature and the discovery of the world, a return to antiquity, a shift from a God-centred to a man-centred world view;
- breaks from, and continuities with, the Middle Ages in eg world outlook, the arts, political organisation, the role of the Church;
- the causes of the Renaissance, including the growth of cities, expansion of trade, rise of rich powerful capitalist patrons, technical progress (including printing), malaise of the Church;
- the conditions in Italy in the mid-15th century, particularly North Italy and the city-states including Florence; the political, social and economic structure; the city-states as trading and banking centres; the guilds; rivalries and warfare between the Italian states and the impact of foreign invasion;
- the importance of the role of money, patrons including the Medici, and corporate pride and identity;
- the importance of Rome; the role of the Church in inspiring and purchasing Renaissance art; the religious motives of patrons; the poor and charitable confraternities;
- the impact of war on society, economy, art and intellectual enquiry; innovations in warfare;
- the main characteristics, innovations and achievements in architecture, painting and sculpture; the significance of eg, Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael and Michelangelo;
- developments in political thought and ideas; Machiavelli, Castiglione and 'The Book of the Courtier'; Humanism;
- the development of the scientific method and the main achievements in science and medicine; Leonardo da Vinci, Copernicus and Vesalius;
- the Renaissance in the Netherlands – Bosch, Brueghel and Vesalius; factors in the Netherlands that made it receptive, eg Van Eyck, trade links, patrons, intellectual developments.

Candidates are not expected to demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the content but are expected to have a knowledge and understanding of the main developments.
