Appendix 1-F
Study Guide: The Middle English Period

1. The term used to refer to the language and literature between 1100-1485 is

2. Political Events
(pp. 44-46)

   1. The Middle English period actually began when _______________ from France took the
      throne in _______________.
   2. When pitted against _______________ at _______________, William won.
   3. William and his successors held important positions in both _______________ and
      _______________ until 1204.
   4. With the help of the _______________, at Poitiers, _______________ and others,
      England brought much of France under its control during the _______________.
   5. The English used the techniques of crossfire with the _______________ and the new
      innovation of _______________ to defeat the French.
   6. During the reign of Henry VI, England lost all the land she gained in France except the
      _______________, and the houses of Lancaster and _______________ fought
      for the throne in the _______________.
   7. This civil strife ended when a member of the _______________ family, Henry VII, married
      Elizabeth, a member of the _______________ family, and _______________ ascended the throne.
   8. After the _______________ the English had a _______________ system with
      different levels of responsibilities and _______________.
   9. William made a strong _______________ government by deposing English nobility and
      replacing them with French _______________.
   10. Henry II established an early principle of English and American _______________, that is a
      right of _______________ without extra expense.
   11. The medieval church with its _______________ law ruled on moral,
      _______________, and legal issues.
   12. In 1215 _______________ established in the _______________ the right of
       judgment by peers and the right of regular visits of judges to different parts of England.
   13. An assembly both of _______________ and _______________ held in 1625 at
       the request of _______________ was the forerunner of the House of Commons.
   14. No _______________ without consent of the people began under
       _______________.
Social and Economic Conditions
(pp. 46-47)

1. The bubonic plague or __________________________ and then the terrible __________________________ of 1666 caused a serious worker shortage in England.
2. Organized labor groups known as __________________________ began to compete for power with the aristocracy.
3. Yeomen, now capable of using the __________________________, proved a mighty force against France.

Religion
(pp. 47-49)

1. Pilgrims went on expeditions or __________________________ to recapture the Holy Land from __________________________. __________________________ was not successful at taking Jerusalem; however, a truce allowed the pilgrims access to holy places.
2. The __________________________ ended after the Moslems’ victory in Tripoli and Acre in 1289-91.
3. There was also division __________________________ the Roman Catholic church, with different papal authorities wanting power.
4. In the fourteenth century __________________________ condemned and challenged the Roman Catholic church.
5. John Wycliffe, the __________________________ of the Protestant Reformation, completed the first complete __________________________ translation of the Bible.
6. This questioning of the Roman Catholic church continued later with __________________________ in Bohemia and __________________________ in Germany.

Culture
(pp. 49-52)

1. The English language grew during the fourteenth century with additions from the French __________________________ aristocracy and the __________________________ world.
2. By the mid-fourteenth century __________________________ became the official language.
3. Of the __________________________ Midland and West Midland dialect, the __________________________ finally became the standard for all usage.
4. Scholasticism of the Middle English period used __________________________ to support faith.
5. English scholars who studied the Greek language and literature in Italy and then returned to England to share this new learning were called __________________________. These scholars studied diligently the subjects known as the __________________________.
6. The universities of __________________________ and __________________________ produced graduates who would pursue a career in the __________________________, law, or medicine.
7. The literature of the fourteenth century discussed __________________________ life, reflecting on some native __________________________ such as Robin Hood.
8. Anonymous authors wrote some of the best English short narrative __________________________ during the time.
9. The long narrative poems or ________________ were adventure stories which usually included a gallant ________________, ________________ elements, and romance.
10. The Middle English writers looked to ________________ writers as examples.
11. Because of the continental influence, the Middle English literature varied more in ________________, genre, ________________, and tone.
12. Medieval literature contained an instructive or ________________ element within the work.
13. Authors of the time included social ________________ in their works.
14. Authors such as Chaucer in ________________ applies a moral standard to a ________________ condition, thus using ________________ satire in his work. In this tale, as in others, the author uses animals in an ________________ about the fall of man.

Answer Key: The Middle English Period

1. Middle Ages

Political
1. William / 1066
2. Harold / Hastings
3. France / England
4. Black Prince / Henry V / Hundred Years’ War
5. longbow / gunpowder
6. port of Calais / York / Wars of the Roses
7. Lancaster / York / Henry VII
8. Norman Conquest / feudal / privileges
9. central / aristocracy
10. common law / trial by a jury
11. canon / doctrinal
12. King John / Magna Carta
13. lords / “commons” / Simon de Montfort
14. taxation / Henry III

Social and Economic Conditions
1. Black Death / fire
2. trade guilds
3. longbow

Religion
1. crusades / Moslems / Richard I
2. crusades
3. within
4. John Wycliffe
5. Morning Star / English
6. John Huss / Martin Luther

Culture
1. Norman / Arabic
2. English
3. East / East
4. reason
5. humanists / humanities
7. ordinary / heroes
8. ballads
9. romances / knight / supernatural
10. continental
11. subject / style
12. didactic
13. criticism