A. The Earliest Universities

1. Around 1200 there were more schools associated with the cathedrals than the monasteries.
2. In Italy and France teachers and students began to group together to study:
   a) rhetoric & logic
   b) literature
   c) mathematics,
   d) theology & philosophy,
   e) law
   f) medicine.

3. These groups became known as universities, with an organizational structure modeled on the guilds.
   a) Teachers had to have earned a license and students were given degrees that recognized the steps they had reached in their studies.

4. The University of Paris known for its courses in theology and philosophy, the University of Bologna (1st University) specializing in the training of lawyers and the University of Salerno famous for its medical courses based on Arabic learning.

5. The cultural exchange brought about by the Crusades were quickly utilized by the universities.
A. Method and Mystery

1. Beginning around 1200 new works by Aristotle were introduced into Western thought including his *Metaphysics*.

2. Aristotle’s ideas initiated a new style of inquiries in philosophy known as **Scholasticism**.
   a) Scholasticism originally began as a system to connect ancient philosophy (like Plato or Aristotle) with medieval Christian theology and thus find a better way of explaining theology.

3. Peter Lombard was Scholasticism’s greatest teacher.
   i. He collected and discussed all opinions on questions pertaining to Revelation in his *Books of Sentences*.
   ii. Lombard’s *Sentences* became the textbook of every teacher of theology at the time.

4. St. Thomas Aquinas - the “Dumb Ox” (1225 - 1274)
   a) Born in Italy of wealthy parents, Thomas became a Dominican priest against their wishes.
   b) The Dominicans sent him to the University of Paris where Albert the Great recognized his brilliance.
   c) Using Aristotle’s logic he updated Catholic theology and was able to explain Christ’s dual nature as both God and man and His presence in the Eucharist.
Method and Mystery

d) *Summa Theologica*

i. He discusses every important question of theology from every angle conceivable in his day and answers all objections.

ii. The *Summa* is considered one of the greatest achievements of humanity in the West.

Early Challenges to Thomistic Thought

5. Not everyone agreed with Thomas in his use of Aristotle because Aristotle was so materialistic.

6. The Franciscan John Duns Scotus tried to find a middle way between Thomas’ teachings and the followers of Plato.

Early Challenges to Thomistic Thought

7. He showed how far reason can take human understanding, while respecting its limitations and the necessity of faith.

8. The philosophers of the Renaissance held Thomas and Scotus and Scholasticism in derision but their achievements remain one of the Church’s great intellectual treasures.

Part III

The Mendicant Orders

A. A New Kind of Religious Order

1. Unlike the monastic orders, these new orders were not cloistered and lived in the towns.

2. They were forbidden to own property and lived a strict life of poverty making it necessary to beg for the necessities of life.

   a) They were called *mendicant* coming from the Latin *mendicare*, meaning to beg.

A New Kind of Religious Order

b) The two original mendicant orders were the Franciscans founded by *St. Francis of Assisi* and the Dominicans founded by *St. Dominic*. 
3. The Franciscans (Order of Friars Minor) were dedicated to preaching to the poor and lived lives of radical poverty as a way of reflecting more faithfully the love of Christ.

4. The Dominicans (Order of Preachers) focused on teaching and education and eventually produced some of the greatest teachers in Europe.

B. St. Francis of Assisi (c.1181 - 1226)

1. Early life
   a) He was born in the town of Assisi, the son of a wealthy silk merchant.
   b) He loved to be with his friends, hosted innumerable parties and enjoyed wearing the latest clothes.
   c) When he was sixteen his dream to become a Crusader became a reality and he fought on Assisi’s side in a war.
   d) He was wounded, captured and spent long months in captivity where he became very ill.

2. Francis finds God
   a) Francis began to take stock of his life and began to pray and meditate of the life of Christ.
   b) He heard God say to him, “Francis, go and build up my house again!”
   c) Francis took what was said to him literally, sold his father’s horse and some household goods and gave the money to the poor priest at a church.
   d) Francis’ father was so angry he beat him and then disinherited him.
   e) In front of the bishop Francis stripped himself nearly naked and told his father he would only call God his father from now on.
C. The Franciscan Order is started

1. Francis then retreated to the hills surrounding Assisi and soon others, attracted by his lifestyle of radical poverty, joined him.
2. Francis wrote a very simple rule for his followers.
3. In 1210 he journeyed to Rome to obtain papal approval for his order.
4. Innocent III gave his verbal approval and appointed Francis head of the order.

5. In 1219 Francis traveled to Syria where he tried to convert the Sultan to Christianity.
6. The Sultan did not convert but because of Francis he did give Christians safe passage to the Holy Land and appointed Franciscans as caretakers for the Christian shrines there.
7. Francis was the first known stigmatist in the Catholic Church.

8. St. Bonaventure

a) As the Order grew, the Franciscans had to find a practical means of surviving while keeping up with the spirit of Francis.

b) St. Bonaventure devised a way for the brothers to remain poor but still have places in which to live.

c) He made it possible that everything that was given to the Franciscans would be given to the Holy See. The Pope would own the houses and permit the Franciscans to stay in them.

i. This allowed the friars to prosper while retaining the poverty so loved and cherished by St. Francis.

D. St. Dominic (c. 1170 - 1221) and the Order of Preachers

1. The Albigensian heresy was causing a great deal of trouble in southern France

2. Dominic Guzman and his friend stayed in the region for two years trying to help the Abbot of Citeaux against the heretics.

3. Both men had been well educated in Spanish universities and they saw how their training helped them win their discussions with the heretics.

4. Dominic stayed in the area, living in a monastery with a few other priests, took on the Rule of St. Augustine and began to live a life of poverty modeled after St. Francis.
St. Dominic and the Order of Preachers

5. Dominic began sending his followers to the University of Paris and slowly but surely these “Dominicans” began to make headway against the heretics.
6. These priests also initiated the practice of saying the Rosary.
7. Eventually the Dominicans spread far and wide became famous for their preaching and intellectual expertise.

E. The Legacy of the Mendicant Friars

1. The two mendicant orders appealed to the people’s desire to have priests dedicated to Gospel ideals.
2. The mendicant orders helped rejuvenate the spiritual life of the Church by combining a simple Christian life with strong devotion to the Eucharist and serious education.

Part IV

THE FLOWERING OF CULTURE

A. Medieval Architecture

1. The medieval cathedral became the glory of this period’s artistic output that have lasted down through the centuries.

2. Romanesque cathedrals
   a) These churches resembled the ancient basilicas in their basic shape, and were characterized by thick, squat columns and piers holding up a stone roof, rounded arches and windows that were small letting in little light.
   b) The overall effect was permanence heavy with a sense of power and the infinitude of God.

3. Gothic Cathedrals
   a) Beginning in the 12th century, a new style of cathedral was sought to better permit more light to come into the building and provide as much space for music to echo throughout as possible.
   b) Architects began using pointed arches which permitted large expanses of wall pierced by stained glass windows depicting scenes from the Bible and lives of the saints.
Medieval Architecture

c) Flying buttresses were used to support the walls and ceilings.
d) The overall effect of gothic cathedrals was to reflect God’s transcendence, power and beauty.

B. Vernacular Literature

4. The greatest example of medieval vernacular literature is Dante’s Divine Comedy.
a) Dante drew together classical and Christian elements and produced a work of genius that mirrors both the virtue and vice of humanity with the profound mysteries of Christianity.

C. Painting and the Fine Arts

1. The subject of all medieval painting was religious since it was mainly bishops and religious orders who commissioned them.
2. Medieval artists usually copied the Byzantine style where figures were two-dimensional, usually expressionless with a gold background.