

Outcome 10.2: explain economic innovations from the Pre-Modern and Early Modern Eras.

Use the text pp. 247-251 to complete the following.

1. What is meant by the manor system that was used in the early medieval period? How did it work?

2. What does it mean to say that medieval manors were “self-contained” and “self-sufficient”?

3. Using the source below and pp. 250-251, explain how manor life could be harsh for some.

Piers Plowman, written by William Langland in 1362, reveals the hard life of English peasants:

PRIMARY SOURCE 🕒

What by spinning they save, they spend it in house-hire,
Both in milk and in meal to make a mess of porridge,
To cheer up their children who chafe for their food,
And they themselves suffer surely much hunger
And woe in the winter, with waking at nights
And rising to rock an oft restless cradle.

WILLIAM LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman*



4. Using pp. 252-256, complete the table below to summarize changes that helped medieval Europe shift away from the manor system to greater commerce and trade.

Economic Changes	How economic changes influenced medieval life
Horsepower	
Three-Field System	
Guilds	
Fairs and Trade	
Business and Banking	
Towns Growing into Cities	
Development of a Merchant Class	

5. In your own words, explain what is meant by the Commercial Revolution and how it changed life in the Middle Ages.

