

<b>Summary:</b>	The Black Death was an outbreak of the plague that spread rapidly around the country (and Europe), it was characterised by a lack of medical knowledge and understanding of the spread. Approximately 1/3 of the population were killed which led to social, economic and cultural changes, which changed the social structure of the country.
-----------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<b>The arrival of the Black Death</b>	
Summary	
The Black Death arrived in England in 1348, it had arrived from Asia, and was also spreading throughout Europe. At the time of its arrival England was a prosperous country, particularly as France and Scotland were subdued after England's successes in the 100 years' war. At the time there was little understanding of what the disease was caused by due to the lack of medical knowledge.	

Key knowledge		
1.	Melcombe Regis	In Dorset, and widely regarded as the port where a ship first arrived carrying a victim of the plague.
2.	Immediate impact	Created feelings of panic, suspicion, helplessness and outbreaks of violence. The plague was seen as a work of God.
3.	Contemporary views	People at the time had very little understanding of what caused the plague.
4.	Yersinia Pestis	The bacteria carried by rats that is believed today to have caused the plague.
5.	Bubonic plague	The most common strain of the plague during the Black Death. Name comes from buboes which were the swellings on the neck, armpits and groin. Attacked the nervous system. The mortality rate was about 50%.
6.	Pneumonic plague	Developed from the bubonic plague. Unlike the bubonic plague it was airborne. It had a mortality rate of almost 90% within two days.
7.	Septicaemic plague	Much rarer than the bubonic and pneumonic plague; it was even more lethal than the pneumonic plague.

<b>The spread of the Black Death</b>	
Summary	
The plague spread rapidly throughout the country, largely as a result of the lack of understanding of what caused it and the living conditions at the time.	

Key knowledge		
8.	Geographical spread	The plague initially spread through the South West of England, then from west to east, by July 1349 it had spread into the Midlands and north. In some century.
9.	Fleeing	Many tried to flee the plague which resulted in it spreading further.
10.	Ports	The plague spread quickly in coastal towns and villages due to the rats onboard the ships that docked.
11.	Living conditions	People lived in cramped, filthy conditions where little was done to improve conditions. This meant disease spread quickly, rats thrived and it would have been impossible to isolate the sick.
12.	Sewage	The rivers were filthy and were used to dump animal carcasses and other refuse which caused the plague to spread quickly.
13.	Summer of 1349	It was an extremely warm summer which accelerated the spread of the plague.

<b>The Legacy of the Black Death – population decrease</b>	
Summary	
A significant impact of the Black Death was the population decrease it caused, with approximately 1/3 of the population dying. This led to labour shortages which resulted in the peasants demanding higher wages and more rights. Attempts to limit this largely fell and played a role in causing the Peasants' Revolt 30 years later.	

Key knowledge		
14.	Impact on population	Historians estimate that between 25% - 60% of the population were killed by the Black Death. The most appropriate estimate is 1/3 of the population (approx. 1 million) died.
15.	Varied death rate	Some geographical areas were affected more than others. Peasants were affected more than the upper class, and there was a high death amongst the clergy.
16.	Consequences of population decrease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shortage of farm labourers.</li> <li>This meant that the numbers of days worked on the farm decreased.</li> <li>Meant there were less crops produced.</li> <li>Peasants could move from manor to manor seeking the highest wages which undermined the Feudal System.</li> </ul>
17.	Ordinance of Labourers	Introduced by the government in 1349 to control wage
18.	Statute of Labourers	Introduced in 1351 to reinforce the Ordinance of Labourers. It introduced punishments (although not strictly enforced) and was unpopular with peasants.

<b>The Legacy of the Black Death – effects on survivors</b>	
Summary	
The Black Death led to social, economic and cultural changes in society for the survivors.	

Key knowledge		
19.	Wages	Wages for peasants had started to increase in the early 1340s and increased rapidly after the Black Death.
20.	Rent	The lack of peasants to farm land increased their bargaining power which meant rents fell and the income of Lords decreased.
21.	Standards of living	Standards of living for peasants improved; they could farm the land for themselves. However the authorities were keen to retain the feudal system.
22.	Architecture	Became more simple.
23.	Art	Became more focused on death and punishment.
24.	Medical knowledge	Impact was limited; although greater attempts were made to understand sickness and improve hygiene.

Key words	
<b>Great pestilence</b>	This is what the Black Death was referred to by many at the time.
<b>Contemporary</b>	Someone/something from the time.
<b>Clergy</b>	People working in religious roles in the church.