

# *Medieval Education - Universities*



***Describe the situation in the field of learning and education after the fall of Rome. What was it like? (1)***



- \* ROMAN TIMES – most noble kids were educated **before the age of 14**
  - \* after 476 – most **SCHOOLS WERE CLOSED DOWN**
  - \* education was directed towards religion
  - \* vast majority of people uneducated (consequences?)
  - \* common language – **LATIN** (like English today)
  - \* **monastic or palace schools**
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# *How did the teaching change?*

- \* students at monastic schools **often became monks**
  - \* writing books and preserving **Greek and Roman texts**
  - \* most politicians and rulers ascended to power **by warfare** and inheritance rather than education
  - \* **most elite fighting troops were educated** (reading, writing and practical skills)
- peasants remained uneducated because of lack of finances – **TOO EXPENSIVE**
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# *Charlemagne (A)*

To effectively rule his kingdom, and to successfully convert people to Christianity, Charlemagne wanted his officials to be able to read and write. If he sent them a note, giving them some instruction, he wanted to make sure they could read it.

To accomplish this, he turned his own palace into a center for learning. Scholars came from all over Europe to teach in the palace school.

Charlemagne knew how to read, but he did not know how to write. He attempted to learn, but his hands were too scared from battle to write legibly. Charlemagne tried to talk other nobles into joining him in his educational pursuits, but they were quite resistant. It was not the Frankish way. The Frankish nobles thought reading and writing was a waste of time. They were warriors.

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# *Charlemagne (B)*

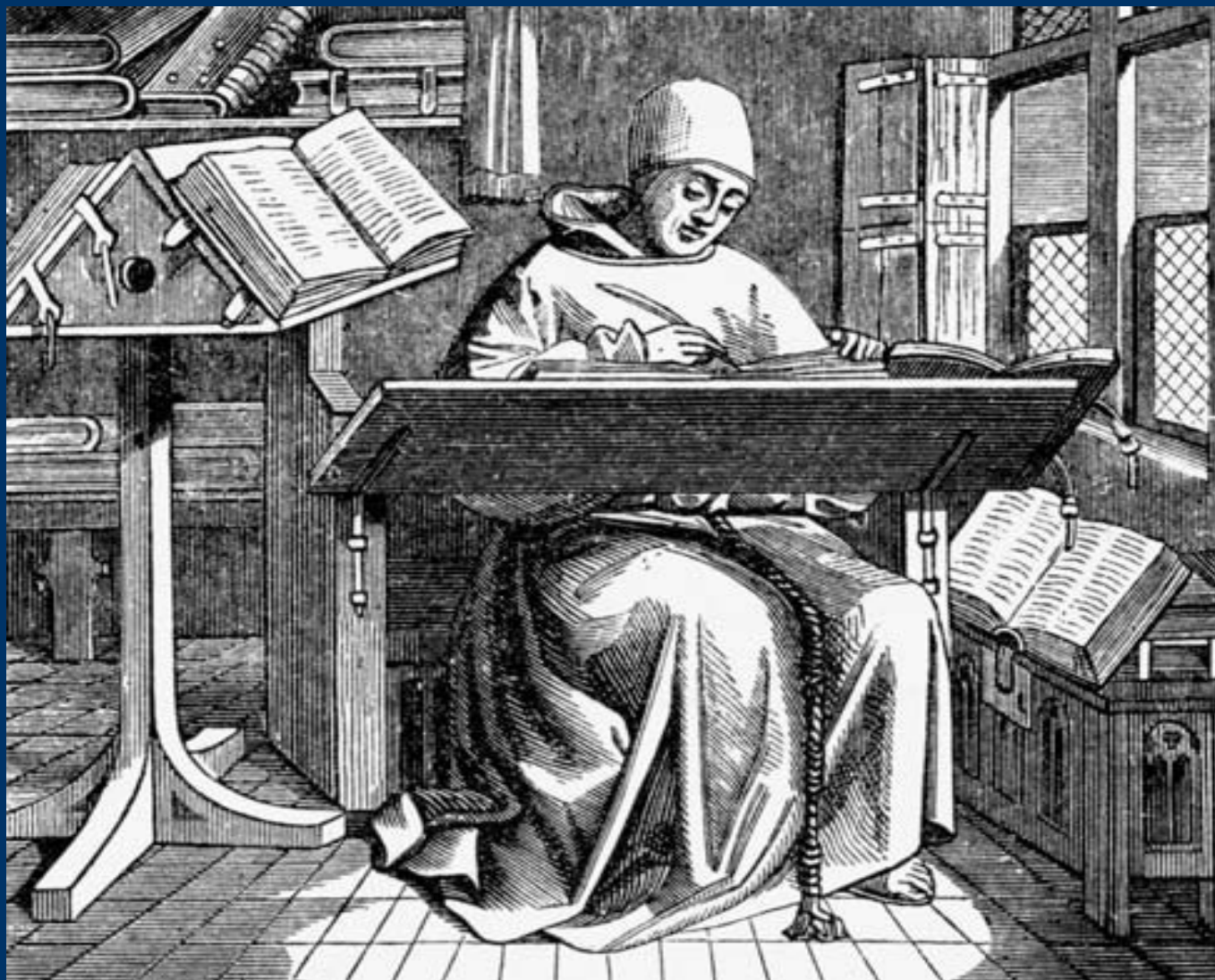
**Preservation:** Charlemagne gave many of his scholars the job of copying all the old manuscripts into Latin by hand. This preserved much knowledge. All books in the middle ages were written by hand. All books were written to glorify religion. Each page was beautifully designed. Some pages were "illuminated" with a cover of gold.

These books are known as illuminated manuscripts. The art of illuminating manuscripts continued for many hundreds of years.

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# SCRIPTORIUM



# Carolingian illuminated manuscript





# *STUDENT'S BOOKS (2)*



**\* EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE**

**\* TEACHER DICTATED FROM A BOOK AND  
THE STUDENTS COPIED THE TEXTS**

**\* courses offered according to books**

**e.g. Porphyry's Introduction to Aristotelian logic  
books of the Bible  
Cicero's books for the study of rhetoric  
Donatus's Ars Grammatica (grammar)**

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# ***TAKING NOTES IN THE MIDDLE AGES (3)***





- \* WRITING TOOLS – BONE OR IVORY STYLUS
  - \* WOODEN TABLETS – COATED WITH WAX
  - \* also PARCHMENT, QUILL PEN, INK
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# *CHARLEMAGNE'S REFORMS (4)*



- \* he ordered all bishops to start **school at each cathedral**
  - \* **started a palace school** for his family and court
  - \* invited **Alcuin of York** to reorganize the system of education
  - \* some bishops evidently ignored Charlemagne's orders
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# *Alcuin of York – medieval scholar*

- \* English scholar, philosopher, poet (740-804)
  - \* bishop of York and then abbot of St. Martin's monastery in Tours (Frankish Empire)
  - \* he taught the king himself, his sons and relatives
  - \* there were a number of other famous scholars that gathered around him
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# *What types of schools did exist?*

- \* **monastic schools** (restricted admission to those who wanted to work within the church)
  - \* **cathedral schools** – bishops ordered to support at least one teacher
  - \* **universities** – schools of higher education
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# *CHARLEMAGNE'S REFORMS (4)*



- \* the English word „**university**“ is derived from the Latin word „**universitas**“ - which means „**guild**“
- \* first universities were corporations of teachers and students that reminded the structure of a merchant or craft guilds



# *How did universities develop? (6,7)*



e.g. Paris

- \* Philip Augustus, French king, granted the cathedral school in Paris privileged status in 1200AD
  - \* pope acknowledged the importance of such decision in a papal decree
  - \* the university teachers were given the right to confer degrees – Bachelor, Master
  - \* students were required to write a „masterpiece“ in the same way as apprentices were required to produce a „master“ work
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# *Clash of Reason and Faith (8)*



- \* **scholasticism** is a way of looking at the world and man's relationship with God
  - \* **scholasticism** is also a method of teaching and approaching life's questions
  - \* **scholastic philosophers** tried to find a way to reconcile **REASON** (rozum, logické myšlení) and **FAITH** (víra)
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# *Thomas Aquinas – a scholastic (8)*

- \* Italian dominican monk, writer, philosopher
  - \* regarded by the Church as one of the greatest theologians
  - \* wrote Summa Theologica – it's compilation of theological teachings of the time (on God's existence, Creation of Man, Man's Purpose, Christ, the Sacraments, etc.)
  - \* studied in Naples, Paris, where he later taught
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# *Abélard and Heloise*

**Pierre Abélard**

**A new method SIC ET NON (yes and no)**

**QUESTION is asked first (e.g. IS GOD ETERNAL?)**

**arguments FOR and AGAINST**

**a SUMMARY (answer)**

**Also called DISPUTATION**

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# *What is Sorbonne?*

- \* a college – a group of students living together for protection and convenience of getting food and lodging
  - \* College of Sorbonne – one of the first colleges of the University of Paris, founded in 1257 by Robert de Sorbonne
  - \* often used as a synonym for the Faculty of Theology
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# *Oldest universities in Europe*

Bologna - 1088

Paris – 1150

Oxford – 1167

Cambridge – 1209

Salamanca, Padua, Montpellier, Toulouse, Orleans,  
etc.

Prague – 1348 (during the reign of Charles IV.)

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# *What did the students study? (9)*

\* TRIVIUM

GRAMMAR

RHETORIC

LOGIC (DIALECTICS)

\* QUADRIVIUM

ARITHMETIC

GEOMETRY

ASTRONOMY

MUSIC

**I.E. 7 LIBERAL ARTS, TAUGHT IN LATIN**

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