Ch 19 Reading Guide

1. What do the journeys of the Polo brothers represent about European society during the high

middle ages?

2. What was the Holy Roman Empire? What did each one of those words (*holy, Roman,* and

*empire*) mean to Europeans in this period? How was the Holy Roman Empire none of those?

3. What did the monarchies that emerged in France and England have in common? How were

they different?

4. What were the significant innovations in agriculture in Europe during this period? How did

each one lead to increased yield?

5. What was the role of the textile industry in the European economy during this period?

6. Where were the centers of the trade networks for Europe? Why there?

7. How did the development of chivalry affect the noble classes?

8. During this period Europe saw the emergence of a new social class in the cities. Who were

they? What roles did they play? How did they make a place for themselves in the medieval

social order?

9. What is scholasticism and what broader intellectual movements did it reflect? How did it

contrast with popular religion?

10. Where and how did Europe expand during the high middle ages?