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The Renaissance and the Age of Shakespeare (1485-1625)



AUDIO



VIDEO



KEY TOPICS Across the ages

The Renaissance is a time traditionally known for its great cultural and artistic revival. But there's more to it when we talk about concepts like well-being, bias, and youth.

GRASP the ESSENCE

The **Renaissance** was a period of such unprecedented cultural, intellectual and artistic awakening that people almost perceived it as a **'rebirth'**. During this incredible period in Western history voyages of discovery redefined the geography of the old world, young thinkers employed new rational tools to challenge many long-standing assumptions and century-old prejudices, while pioneering scientific theories revolutionized understanding of the universe. This intellectual shift marked a significant change in perspective, yet the Renaissance remained a complex period. While progress was made in many areas, the era still grappled with its own set of **BIASES**, which shed light on how societal norms continued to influence artistic expression and social structures. Renaissance artists and playwrights placed a strong emphasis on **the balance between mind and soul** and contributed to developing the idea of mental **WELL-BEING**. At the same time, the Renaissance celebrated **YOUTH** as a symbol of power, innocence and hope for the future. The importance of educating the youth became visible thanks to the works of 'young' intellectuals.

In the Renaissance a **new concept of 'human being'** was born and found its best expression in some of the most refined works of art that have ever been produced in history.

VOCABULARY Lab

1 Use these six prefixes to form eight compound words. Then find their meaning in the dictionary.

high- | in- (x2) | re- | im- | un- (x2) | under-

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1birth | 3usual | 5balance | 7known |
| 2sight | 4formation | 6light | 8stand |



VIDEO
HISTORY AND CULTURE

LINES OF ENQUIRY



WELL-BEING

Well-being includes various aspects that determine the quality of our **1**....., such as emotional **2**....., psychological resilience, sense of efficacy, and personal **3**.....

What is the link between aspirations and well-being?

What are the effects of poor mental health?

What effects does stress produce on people?

What happens if people do not get enough sleep?

What is the link between mental well-being and physical well-being?



BIASES

Biases (= prejudices) are influenced by social, **4**..... norms, **5**..... and religious norms and beliefs, shaping and often distorting the way we perceive others.

What are the most common stereotypes related to women?

What prejudices sustain Western colonisation?

What are the most common biases about beauty?



YOUTH

Youth implies a period of **6**..... as well as adherence to **7**..... expectations.

What does strict parental authority often cause in children?

What characterises passions when we are young?

Can we remain young for ever?

2 Complete the definition of the **KEY TOPICS** of Chapter 2 with the following words.

political | growth | lives | instability | gender | societal | fulfilment

HISTORY TIMELINE



1485
End of the War of the Roses
Henry Tudor becomes King

1500

1509-1547
Henry VIII's reign



1547-1553
Edward VI

1553-1558
Mary Tudor

1558-1603
Elizabeth I



1534
The Act of Supremacy

1534
Thomas More beheaded for treason

1517
Luther's Theses



1560
Reformation in Scotland (J. Knox)

1577
Francis Drake and the circumnavigation of the globe

LITERARY WORKS

TEXTUAL DEVELOPMENTS

C. Marlowe, **Doctor Faustus**: *Doctor Faustus' death* → p. 114

W. Shakespeare, **Hamlet**: *To Be or Not to Be* → p. 150

W. Shakespeare, **Macbeth**: *The dagger scene* → p. 159

W. Shakespeare, **Macbeth**: *After Duncan's murder* → p. 161

T. More, **Utopia**: *The role and nature of bodily health* → p. 106

Well-being includes maintaining realistic aspirations and emotional health.

Hamlet's obsession with death can be a sign of poor mental health.

Macbeth's hallucinations show the physical and psychological effects that moral chaos causes on people.

Lady Macbeth's descent into madness might be a terrible consequence of sleep deprivation.

Utopians believe that well-being depends on physical health.

Queen Elizabeth I, **The Spanish Armada Speech**: *The Queen's motivational speech* → p. 94

W. Shakespeare, **The Tempest**: *Prospero and Caliban* → p. 169

W. Shakespeare, **Sonnets: Sonnet 130** - *Beyond ideal beauty* → p. 184

Queen Elizabeth I showed that women can become powerful leaders.

Prospero views Caliban as an inferior 'subject' to be educated and civilised.

Shakespeare defends 'natural beauty' against all sorts of artificial beauty.

W. Shakespeare, **Romeo and Juliet**: *The Prologue* → p. 126

W. Shakespeare, **Romeo and Juliet**: *Romeo and Juliet kiss* → p. 128

W. Shakespeare, **Sonnets: Sonnet 18** - *Timeless beauty preserved* → p. 182

Strict parental authority often causes deep frustrations among the youth.

Strong and uncontrollable passions can lead young people to self-destruction.

Shakespeare manages to make youth eternal through poetry.

1588

Defeat of the Spanish Armada

1593

The Plague in London

1603-1625

James I, beginning of the Stuart dynasty

1605

The Gunpowder Plot



1620

Arrival of the *Mayflower* and the Pilgrim Fathers in Plymouth, America.

1600



1587

Execution of Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots

1611

King James's Bible



1700

1625

Death of King James I

