

Renaissance and Humanism

Activity 1

After watching the video (00.00 - 04.20 and 06.20-end), explain the main characteristics of Humanism, mainly regarding a. the relation with the classical tradition and b. the new concept about the human being. Build up your answer using phrases like, *in addition, moreover, not only ... but, besides, furthermore etc.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w95Zmb3nB80&t=13s>



Activity 2

Using Google Lents find some very basic information about the following paintings of the Renaissance. Do you think that they match the characteristics of the Renaissance mentioned in the previous activity?

Click or scan to see the pictures.

https://content.e-me.edu.gr/wp-admin/admin-ajax.php?action=h5p_embed&id=1504164



Activity 3

a) According to the next sources, mention the abilities/knowledges that a perfect Courtier should have. Use phrases like *He should be able to...*, *He should have knowledge of...*, *He must...*, *He ought ...*

b) The ideal man of the Renaissance is often called 'universal'. Can you explain that according to the texts you have read? Discuss in pairs and give your answer in a text of about 60 words.

Moreover, I deem it very important to know how to wrestle, for it is a great help in the use of all kinds of weapons on foot. [1.21]

It is fitting also to know how to swim, to leap, to run, to throw stones, for besides the use that may be made of this in war, a man often has occasion to show what he can do in such matters. [...] Nor less highly do I esteem vaulting on horse, which although it be fatiguing and difficult, makes a man very light and dexterous more than any other thing. [1.22]

For this reason I would have our Courtier sometimes descend to quieter and more tranquil exercises, and in order to escape envy and to entertain himself agreeably with everyone, let him do whatever others do, yet never departing from praiseworthy deeds, and governing himself with that good judgment which will keep him from all folly; but let him laugh, jest, banter, frolic and danse, yet in such fashion that he shall always appear genial and discreet, and that everything he may do or say shall be stamped with grace. [1.22]

B. Castiglione, *The Courtier*

[A father is giving advice to his son about his studies]

I intend, and will have it so, that thou learn the languages perfectly; first of all the Greek, as Quintilian will have it; secondly, the Latin; and then the Hebrew, for the Holy Scripture sake; and then the Chaldee and Arabic likewise, and that thou frame thy style in Greek in imitation of Plato, and for the Latin after Cicero. Let there be no history which thou shalt not have ready in thy memory; unto the prosecuting of which design, books of cosmography will be very conducive and help thee much. Of the liberal arts of geometry, arithmetic, and music, I gave thee some taste when thou wert yet little, and not above five or six years old. Proceed further in them, and learn the remainder if thou canst. As for astronomy, study all the rules thereof. Let pass, nevertheless, the divining and judicial astrology, and the art of Lullius, as being nothing else but plain abuses and vanities. As for the civil law, of that I would have thee to know the texts by heart, and then to confer them with philosophy.

Now, in matter of the knowledge of the works of nature, I would have thee to study that exactly, and that so there be no sea, river, nor fountain, of which thou dost not know the fishes; all the fowls of the air; all the several kinds of shrubs and trees, whether in forests or orchards; all the sorts of herbs and flowers that grow upon the ground; all the various metals that are hid within the bowels of the earth; together with all the diversity of precious stones that are to be seen in the orient and south parts of the world. Let nothing of all these be hidden from thee.

Fr. Rabelais, *Gargantua and Pantagruel*, 2.8

Activity 4

Work in pairs: one of you supports the idea that the injustice and the social inequalities can never cease to exist, because that's the human nature, whereas the other one supports the idea based on the Humanist ideas that man can bring the change. Write down briefly your main arguments and then discuss the topic in no more than 5 minutes.

Activity 5

After watching the following short video, think about the consequences of the invention of printing by Gutenberg. Keep notes and then express them orally using the construction *would+verb*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bhbl0eDGmsA>

[illegible]