

## Module 7

### Joanna the Mad: Women in Medieval Times Handout

In each set of statements, choose the correct one:

Statement 1: **For most medieval women and girls, distress, hardship, pain and suffering was a historical fact of life.**

Distractors: The Medieval period is all about Knights defending castles and protecting damsels.  
The medieval women lived a true fairy tale.

Statement 2: **Noble women had easier lives than peasants or serfs.**

Distractors: Noble and lower class women had the same education.  
Peasant women had more liberties and rights than noble ones.

Statement 3: **All females were considered inferior to males by nature and by law.**

Distractors: Women and men were considered equal under the law.  
Women were seen as inferior only by church.

Statement 4: **The primary job opportunity for most women was to have and raise children.**

Distractors: The first priority for women was education and afterwards marriage.  
Women got married and had children after 20.

Statement 5: **In towns, one could find women merchants, druggists, barbers, and brewers.**

Distractors: In towns, women could not help their husbands and family businesses.  
Women could join professional union guilds on the same terms as men.

Statement 6: **Women could only own property if they inherited it from their fathers or late husbands.**

Distractors: Women from the upper classes never lost their property.  
Lower class women maintained their property even after marriage.

Statement 7: **The only alternative for an upper class woman, who did not want to be a wife and mother, was to become a nun.**

Distractors: Roman Catholic Church gave women the liberties that society deprived them of.  
Nuns could never become the leaders of abbeys and monasteries.

Statement 8: **It would be centuries before women in Europe would win the first rights and freedoms that most women have today.**

Distractors: After the Middle Ages, women obtained their rights and became equal to men.  
At the end of the medieval era, women gained many rights.



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