

### 3.2.1. Developments in the economy and society

A. How was the class of the powerful formed?

1. A new aristocracy of the land (provincial aristocracy) began to form.
2. At the same time, there was also the aristocracy of titles, those who held state titles, (urban aristocracy).
3. Gradually, the two groups of the aristocracy merged through marriages into a single class in the late 10th century and are now called the powerful.
4. The powerful also include politicians, military and religious leaders, as well as managers of state, imperial, ecclesiastical and monastic property.

B. What was and who made up the middle class?

1. It was the class of entrepreneurs
2. It consisted of merchants, sailors and bankers.
3. It was organized into guilds or professional associations (systems).
4. It often instigated popular movements against the nobles.
5. It reached its highest point of political influence in the mid-11th century.

C. What were the individual groups that made up the peasants (the poor) at that time?

1. Free landowners
2. Landless farmers who rented land for cultivation
3. Serfs, who were bound to the land or had personal dependence on their lords.

D. In what state was the agricultural economy at that time?

1. From the early 9th century, the agricultural community and independent farmers were in danger of losing their property to large landowners.
2. Large landowners acquired the land of small farmers either legally (purchase or inheritance) or illegally. They often used the tax pressure of the state.
3. The nobles lived luxuriously from the income of their estates.
4. They refused to spend money to improve the means and techniques of production.
5. The large estates were not uniform:
  - they consisted of scattered areas, villages or suburbs
  - they were cultivated by free tenants or serfs.
6. The agricultural economy remained stagnant.

E. Who made up the municipality?

1. They were the masses of the people in the cities.
2. They consisted of the poor who worked occasionally or were unemployed.

## **Exercises:**

**1. Build the social pyramid of that time. Do not forget the head of state.**

**2. Correct the errors, where they exist:**

- Serfs were cultivators who were bound to the land or had personal dependence on their masters.
- Large estates were uniform areas that were cultivated by serfs.
- The powerful include both members of the aristocracy of the land and the aristocracy of titles.
- Systems were guilds or professional associations.
- The urban aristocracy gradually merged with the provincial aristocracy and together with other powerful strata formed the powerful.
- The agricultural economy developed rapidly.
- The municipality was the simple people of the cities.
- Landless farmers had their own estates.
- The middle class consisted only of merchants.
- The nobles, despite the income of their estates, lived a simple and modest life.