Headings	Notes			
WHAT WAS THE RENAISSANCE?	• The Renaissance ('rebirth') is the period in history where there was renewed interest in the			
	civilisations of Ancient Greece and Rome. People began to look at the world in new ways,			
	questioning old ideas from the Middle Ages and developing new ideas in art, architecture,			
	science, literature and medicine.			
THE CAUSES OF THE	The Renaissance began in	Italy (before eventually spreading to the	ne rest of Europe) due to:	
RENAISSANCE	• The ruins of the Roman Empire inspired Italians to copy the achievements of their ancestors.			
	• The fall of Constantinople (1453) caused many Greek scholars to escape to Italy, bringing			
	with them Ancient Greek and Roman manuscripts.			
	Wealth from trade with the East meant that Italian merchants had money to spend on art and			
	architecture as a show of wealth.			
	Merchants who travelled to China, India and Arabia such as Marco Polo brought back new			
	ideas from these advanced civilisations such as mathematics.			
	Competition between Italian city states such as Florence and Venice led to them hiring			
	artists to create great works of art to showcase the wealth of these cities.			
	Patrons such as the Catholic Church or de Medici's of Florence were wealthy enough to			
	commission an artist to produce a work of art.			
	Medieval Art	Renaissance Art	Examples	
	 Mainly painted religious imagery. 	 Religious images but also ancient mythologies, people, landscapes and nature. 	• <i>The Last Supper</i> by Leonardo da Vinci	
	 Painted on wooden panels or onto wet plaster (fresco) 	 Painted on canvas (a thick woven sheet of flax) 	• <i>The Virgin of the Rocks</i> by Leonardo da Vinci	
	 Pigment mixed with egg yolk which dried quickly. 	 Pigment mixed with oil, allowing for the sfumato method of a 'smoky' effect. 	• The <i>Mona Lisa</i> by Leonardo da Vinci.	
	 Art was flat, 2D – no depth 	 Perspective was used which created a 3D effect 	• <i>The Last Judgement</i> by Michelangelo	
	People did not look realistic and not to scale	 Artists studied anatomy to make people look realistic 	<i>David</i> by Michelangelo	
Keywords	Summary			
Renaissance	5			
Patrons	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	The Renaissance was the period in history where there was a renewed interest in the civilisations		
Fall of Constantinople		of Ancient Greece and Rome. People began to question old ideas from the Middle Ages and to develop new ideas in art, architecture, science, literature and medicine. Wealth from trade as		
	well as competition between Italian states helped patrons to commission works to be done.			
	The fall of Constantinople and the discovery of ruins of the Roman Empire, alongside the new			
	ideas brought back from China, India and Arabia helped develop new techniques and beliefs.			
	Changes in art resulted in new types of imagery and materials to be introduced in works of art.			

Headings	Notes	
LEONARD DA VINCI (1452 -	• Born in Vinci near Florence, da Vinci became an apprentice to the artist Andrea del Verrocchio	
1519)	in Florence at the age of 14.	
	He worked for the Duke of Milan, Ludovico Sforza, from 1482.	
	• Da Vinci was an artist, genius and inventor, using mirror writing in his notebooks.	
	• He made sketches of the human body, animals and ideas for machines/ other inventions.	
	Most notable works include: the Mona Lisa, The Last Supper, and the Horse and Rider	
MICHELANGELO BUONARROTI (1475 – 1564)	Born near Florence, Michelangelo was apprenticed to the sculptor Domenico Ghirlandaio and	
	studied the works of Donatello . He later studied in Lorenzo de Medici's sculpture academy.	
	From 1496, he worked in Rome where he sculpted the <i>Pietà</i> .	
	• In 1508, Pope Julius II commissioned him to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.	
	• He was the chief architect of St Peter's Basilica but died before it could be completed.	
	Most notable works include: <i>David</i> , the <i>Pietá</i> , the <i>Sistine Chapel</i> , <i>The Last Judgement</i> and	
	the Creation of Adam.	
TECHNOLOGICAL	 Before the 1400s, books had to be handwritten so not many were in circulation. 	
CHANGES: THE PRINTING PRESS	Johannes Gutenberg invented the movable type printing press in 1450	
	This involved placing individual metal letters into a frame to form words before they were coated	
	with ink and the frame was pressed onto paper.	
	The first book Gutenberg printed was the Gutenberg Bible.	
EFFECTS OF THE	 The Printing press spread quickly and resulted in several significant effects. 	
PRINTING PRESS	Printed books became much cheaper than handwritten manuscripts.	
	More people learned to read and write and were introduced to new ideas.	
	• The Church's control over learning and ideas declined alongside challenges to the Church.	
	 People began to read for pleasure and genres such as fiction became popular. 	
	Latin declined as books were published in the vernacular (the native language spoken by	
	ordinary people)	
Keywords	Summary	
Leonardo da Vinci	Da Vinci and Michelangelo were both born near Florence, and became apprentices at young	
Michelangelo	ages before later being commissioned to complete works such as the Mona Lisa and the Sistine	
The Mona Lisa	Chapel. Before the 1400s, books were handwritten and rare: Johannes Gutenberg invented the	
The Sistine Chapel	movable type printing press which spread quickly, resulting in significant changes such as: more	
Johannes Gutenberg	books were available as they were much cheaper than handwritten manuscripts, more people	
The Printing Press	learned how to read and write and were introduced to new ideas. Books were published in the	
	vernacular while genres such as fiction became popular as people began to read for pleasure.	
	The Church's control over learning and ideas declined alongside challenges to the Church.	



Headings	Notes and Key Facts	
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE	Shakespeare was born in Stratford-on-Avon in 1564.	
(1564 - 1616)	 He joined a London company of actors called The King's Men. 	
	 In 1599, the company opened the Globe theatre which could hold 2,000 people. 	
	• He published 38 plays (The Merchant of Venice, Much Ado About Nothing and As You Like	
	It) and 154 sonnets (14-line rhyming poems)	
CHANGES IN HEALTH AND	O Doctors such as Andreas Vesalius investigated anatomy (the study of the structure of the	
MEDICINE	human body) while others dissected bodies to learn about the human bones, muscles, veins	
	and organs.	
	William Harvey discovered that the heart pumped blood around the body.	
CHANGES IN SCIENCE	Humanism (shift in focus on God to a focus on human knowledge) led to people being more	
	interested in the world around them.	
	• One such area of interest was in astronomy (the study of the planets and stars). People	
	believed that earth was the centre of the solar system rather than the sun. This old belief,	
	dating back to the ancient times, was challenged during the Renaissance.	
GALILEO GALILEI (1564 –	Galileo was a mathematician from Pisa who developed theories about space and time	
1642)	including the Law of Falling Objects (which proved that objects fall to the ground at the same	
	speed regardless of weight).	
	 He improved the telescope, making it possible to study astronomy. 	
	• Galileo agreed with the writings of the Polish priest, Nicolaus Copernicus, regarding the Earth	
	rotating around the sun.	
	• He published his ideas in <i>Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems</i> (1632) for which	
	he was arrested and tried for heresy (knowingly holding a view that went against the official	
	teachings of the Church).	
	• He would spend the rest of his life under house arrest as a result.	
Keywords	Summary	
William Shakespeare	William Shakespeare was a English Playwright born in Stratford-on-Avon in 1564. He wrote his	
Humanism	first plays during the reign of Charles I. Some of his 38 plays include The Merchant of Venice.	
William Harvey	The Renaissance led to a shift in focus from an emphasis on God to a focus on human	
Andreas Vesalius	knowledge (humanism). In the 16th and 17th centuries, scientists investigated the study of the	
Galileo Galilei	human body. William Harvey and Andreas Vesalius were among those who investigated and	
Nicolaus Copernicus	made discoveries about the human body. Galileo Galilei and Nicolaus Copernicus were amor	
Heresy	those who developed theories about space and time, space and time, leading to Galileo being	
Astronomy	arrested and tried for heresy. The studies of astronomy and anatomy were an important	
Anatomy	development which paved the way for many modern discoveries.	



Keywords	Definition	
Anatomy	The study of the structure of the human body.	
Astronomy	 The study of the celestial objects, including stars, planets and comets. 	
City States	 Most of Italy was divided into city-states. Each city-state included a city and surrounding countryside. City-states had their own laws and money. 	
Dissection	Cutting up a corpse or plant to study its internal structure.	
Fresco	Painting that is done on damp plaster	
Heliocentric model	• A model of the solar system in which Eart and other planets revolve around the sun at the centre.	
Heresy	Knowingly holding a view that went against the official teachings of the Catholic Church.	
Humanism	• The main philosophy of Renaissance scholars. Humanists emphasise the potential of the huma mind to make sense of the world.	
Ligature	A thing used to bind or tie something tightly.	
Patron	A wealthy person who sponsors artists and writers to create works of art.	
Perspective	A technique used in art to give the illusion of depth and space.	
Printing Press	• A method of printing books that placed individual metal letters into a frame to form words, coated them with ink and pressed the frame onto paper.	
Renaissance	 A historical period when Europeans revived their interest in the learn of Ancient Greece and Rome. Scholars, artists and scientists produced great works and inventions. 	
Scientific Method	• The system of noting observations, doing experiments and drawing conclusions.	
Sfumato	 A painting technique that allows colours to shade gradually into one another. It results in softened edges instead of harsh lines. The word 'sfumato' means smoky. 	
Sonnet	• A poem of fourteen lines with a fixed rhyme scheme.	
Telescope	• An instrument that makes distant objects appear closer when you look through it.	
Vernacular	The language of the people.	

