Unit 6   People of the Monasteries SOC 1-03a, 2-03a

Talking Point

Not everyone who lived at a monastery was a monk or nun. What sort of jobs do you think other people would do?

Activity 1

Compare your answers with this list of people working for the nuns at the Priory of St Mary, Haddington in 1560 and their payment each year. Do you think £1 in 1560 was worth more or less than £1 today? Look at the wages. Which jobs were well paid and which not? Think about why?

The master cook	£6	
Two other cooks at £2 each	£4	
Two porters	£6	67p
Pantry man	£4	
Assistant pantry man	£2	
Maltman	£6	67p
Brewster (Brewer)	£8	
Laundresses	£2	
Gardener	£1	33p
Smith	£2	
The carter	£1	
The carter's boys at 50p each	£1	
The ploughman	£1	67p
Four other servants at £1 each	£4	
The stable boys at 50p each	£1	

Literacy activities

Activity 2

Why do you think the Priory needed a brewer, carter, ploughman and stable boys?   What kind of work did they do?

Activity 3

You can do any of these jobs. Which one would you choose? Why? Make a list showing how many in your class chose each job. (The maltman made malt out of barley. Malt is the most important ingredient of beer.)

Activity 4

Chose any one of these jobs and write a paragraph describing their work.

Numeracy activities

Activity 5

How much did the Priory spend on these servants each year?

Activity 6

The Priory made an allowance, called a 'portion', for each nun. The portion covered food and clothing. The value was £27 38p each year.   There were about 20 nuns in 1560. What was the total cost of the portions?

Activity 7

The nuns provided this amount of charity and hospitality in 1560. A boll is worth 70p.   What was the total value of charity given by the nuns in 1560?

To old men, widows, poor pilgrims and beggars	£40 in silver and 2 chalders of oatmeal
To poor people each year	£66 67p
To feed their horses and provide hospitality for visitors in one year	10 chalders of oats

A chalder is an old Scots measure equal to 16 bolls. How many bolls of oats did the nuns give in charity and hospitality each year?

Activity 8

Add the total servants' wages and the cost of portions and the amount spent on charity and hospitality.

Plenary

Why wouldn't monks or nuns have carried out these jobs? Would you have liked to do them?

KEY   **Numeracy activities**

5   £51 34p

6   £547 60p

7   12 chalders x 16 bolls = 192 bolls

£106 67p in money + £134 40p in oats (192 x 70p) = £241 7p

8   £51 34p + £547 60p + £241 7p = £840 1p