Marriage and Women in Medieval England
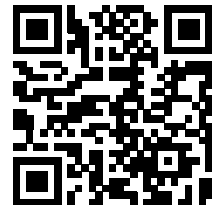
In medieval England, _____ was a central aspect of a woman's life. Most women were expected to marry and their social _____ was largely determined by their husband's position. Women, from nobles to _____, found that their lives were intricately linked to whom they married. _____ was not only a personal relationship but also a strategic alliance that could increase the _____ and power of a family.

For noble women, marriage was often used as a tool for political _____. Marriages among the nobility were arranged by the families and were used to secure loyalty and bonds between powerful families. The _____ often had no say in the matter, and her main role was to produce _____ and manage the household.

Peasant women, although also subject to arranged marriages, had a slightly different _____. Their marriages often involved less political maneuvering, but economic factors still played a significant _____. A peasant woman's value was also measured by her ability to work on the _____, support her husband, and raise children.

In both cases, the woman's consent was rarely considered important. The _____ did preach that a woman's consent was necessary for a valid marriage, but in _____, this was often overlooked in favor of family and political interests. Once married, _____ were expected to be obedient to their husbands and were legally _____ to them.

Education for women was not a priority, and their _____ was generally limited to learning domestic skills. Some women, particularly in wealthy _____, could learn to read and write, but their main duty was still managing the household.

Despite these restrictions, some women found ways to exert _____. Through managing large households or monastic estates, they could gain respect and a degree of _____ within their confined roles. However, their lives and freedoms were significantly limited compared to modern _____.

bride	standards	status	families	role	Marriage	education	peasants	marriage
experience	heirs	women	farm	alliance	Church	wealth	power	practice
subordinate	influence