

Analyzing a Primary Document

This is a quotation from a medieval document – a contract between a medieval English serf, John of Cayworth, and his lord.

John of Cayworth holds one horse and thirty acres of land...

And he should find one man for two days to mow the meadow of the lord...and receive for each day three meals...

And he ought to collect and carry that same hay which he has mowed...And he has from the lord two meals...

And he ought to carry wood from the woods of the lord to the manor house for two days in summer with one cart and three of his own animals and he receives from the lord for each day three meals...

And it must be noted that...the serfs on this manor may not marry their daughters nor have their sons...enter the priesthood without the personal approval of the bailiff or servant of the lord.

1. What services does John have to perform for the lord?
2. What payment must the lord provide for these services?
3. What restrictions does the lord place on his serfs?