Causes of the Renaissance

1) The decline of feudalism
   a) Some nobles went on the Crusades that were wars between the Christians and the Muslim Turks in Asia Minor from 1096-1270.

(The Crusaders hoped to get back the Holy Land, Jerusalem)  
(The Crusaders had a large red cross on their clothes and shields. This meant that they were Christians carrying the cross.)

   b) Many serfs left the manor and lived as freemen in towns.
      □ Townspeople had greater freedom and were educated.  
      □ They had more ideas about art and learning and they looked at things in a new way.

   c) Feudalism declined in Europe. (The feudal lords over the serfs was greatly weakened.)

2) The decline of Church influence (p.5)

Early Middle Ages      14th century

Rome in Italy was the centre of Catholic Church

France controlled the Church and moved to Avignon.
There were two Popes and they quarrelled for leadership of Catholic Church (1378-1417)

Show two Cathedrals picture in Rome and Avignon.

Result:

a) It **reduced people’s support for the Church** and also reduced Church influence.

b) People **became interested in the world around them** and not just in religion.

3) The invention of a movable type printing press by Gutenberg (p.9)

   a) Books could be printed more quickly by the new printing machine.

   b) The price of books fell and people could afford to buy and read books.

   c) This helped the spread of ideas and learning.