**Write an account of the life of a craftsman in a medieval town. Use the following headings: training, house and shop, daily life, entertainment.**

Hello! My name is Tom son of John. It is 1300 and I am a carpenter living in Wexford.

**Training:**

* I became an apprentice at the age of 12 and worked for seven years with a master carpenter to learn my trade. I lived in the attic of the master’s house and ate with the master and his family. Breakfast = bread and weak beer. Dinner = meat (beef, lamb, chicken or pork) Supper = apples, cheese, spiced cakes and ale. Ate on wooden square plates – led to the expression ‘a good square meal’.
* After that I became a journeyman. I was paid for my work and I was free to do a day’s work for anyone. I travelled to different parts of the country picking up tips on how to work with wood. Some skilled masons travel all over Europe building churches.
* In order to become a master craftsman, I had to prove my skill and high standards. Last year I made a beautiful table as an example of my work and it had to be examined by the master craftsmen in the town. They thought my work was excellent so now *I* am a master craftsman and I am a member of the carpenters’ guild. I am now free to open up my own shop.

**The guild**: Now that I am a member of a guild I can vote for the town corporation. The guild sets the standards of work we have to meet, the prices we charge and other rules like opening times. The guilds also settle disputes between craftsmen, journeymen and apprentices.

I had to pay a lot of money to get into the guild but they will look after me when I’m old and even pay for my funeral

**House and shop:** My shop is right out on the street and I live above it with my wife. She helps me and we open from dawn till dusk when the curfew bell rings. Then we have to put out the fire and the candles.

**Daily life**: I get my materials from the **market d**own in the square on Thursdays. Once a year we have a huge fair where merchants and craftspeople come from all over to trade. Some come from as far away as Russia!

There are stalls selling all kinds of things like food, ribbons, knives, furs and silks. The acrobats, juggling and bear baiting are good too.

**Pastimes**: Saturday afternoons, Sundays and Holy Days are free. I love watching the wrestling, bearbaiting and playing chess, draughts or cards. Sometimes I call to the local alehouse for a drink.