

Answer: BICYCLE

There are sixteen four-letter words, and twenty clues. Each clue clues a seven-letter word which can be created by injecting a three-letter substring of the form "aba" into one of the four-letter words. As an example, "Beethoven's Moonlight, and others" can be formed by using the given four-letter word "SONS" and injecting "ATA" to form "SONATAS".

Doing this for all sixteen given four-letter words, in the order given, yields:

SENT	+ALA	SEALANT	Caulk, for one
PATE	+ROR	PRORATE	Pay a partial month
BATH	+ENE	BENEATH	Under
AMEN	+DED	AMENDED	Modified, as a constitution
RATS	+EPE	REPEATS	Does again
EMIT	+NEN	EMINENT	Important
MUDS	+ARA	MARAUDS	Pillages and plunders
DIVE	+STS	DIVESTS	Gets rid of
ARMS	+ADA	ARMADAS	Great fleets
SINS	+UOU	SINUOUS	Snakelike
CLOT	+SES	CLOSEST	The one most near
PENT	+ASA	PEASANT	Commoner
SING	+OLO	SOLOING	Doing by yourself
ALLY	+TOT	TOTALLY	In its entirety
PEAK	+COC	PEACOCK	NBC mascot bird
SONS	+ATA	SONATAS	Beethoven's Moonlight, and others

Now, reading down the center letter of the added triplets, we get four more words, which can be matched up with the remaining four clues:

LONE	+ABA	ABALONE	Large, edible sea snail
PERT	+SIS	PERSIST	Never give up; continue
DOES	+ILI	DOILIES	Lace table pads
LOOT	+SES	LOOSEST	Least tight

We can then read BILE down the center of the new added triplets; without a clue, but with knowledge of the pattern, it shouldn't be too hard to extend one more time to BICYCLE.