

The Masked Historian's

# ULTIMATE

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## COMMON ENTRANCE REVISION GUIDE



The Masked Historian recommends that you choose a minimum of THREE topics from within this booklet.

You must then learn these topics well.

These topics will be those that you will study to allow you to successfully write essays in SECTION B of the Common Entrance examination paper.

Help and guidance for Section A (the evidence section) will be found in the "Masked Historian's Guide to Successfully Answering the Common Entrance Evidence Section". You already have a copy of this booklet.

When you choose your three topics from this guide YOU MUST CHOOSE TO LEARN ABOUT A REBELLION. THIS IS THE LAW! As a consequence the guide begins with Rebellions.

Each new section has a guide sheet that gives you guidelines on what you should learn. Remember, the learning is up to you! Follow the guidance and make notes to help you learn.

This book ends with some sample Common Entrance essay questions. Look at them. How might you answer them?

**BE STRONG!**

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## Common Entrance Revision Guide.

### Choose a rebellion and learn it well: War and Rebellion.

Choose **ONE** rebellion: I recommend Wyatt's Rebellion (to be found in the Mary I section page) (Mr H's favorite) or the Pilgrimage of Grace (to be found in the Henry VIII section) or Ketts Rebellion (in a separate section immediately after this page)

- When did the rebellion happen?
- Why did the rebellion happen?
- Where did it happen?
- What did the rebels want to achieve?
- Who were the leaders?
- Learn the details of the events of the rebellion from its start to the finish.
- How did it end?
- What did the rebels achieve?
- Why did the rebellion fail?



**BE STRONG!**

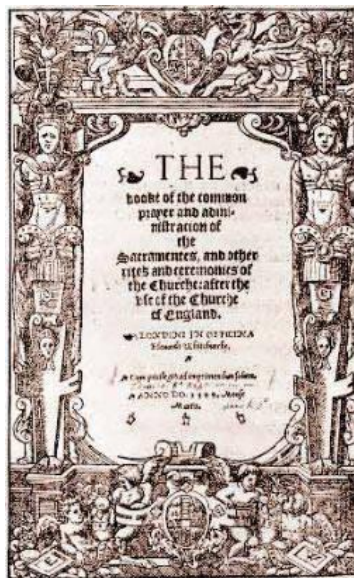
**EDWARD VI**  
**RELIGIOUS AND ECONOMIC PROTEST**  
**THE PRAYER BOOK REBELLION AND KETT'S REBELLION**

**Religious Protest: The Prayer Book Rebellion, 1549.**

Cranmer's **Book of Common Prayer**, published in 1549, moved the Church of England away from the Catholic Church and established it as a very Protestant Church. An act of Parliament called **The Act of Uniformity** made it law for this new prayer book to be used in all English churches from the end of May, 1549.

The changes made by the prayer book got a mixed reaction. Some priests refused to have anything to do with the new Church services and continued to run services in Latin! Other, more Protestant minded priests tore out the statues and furniture of their churches without hesitation. Opinion across the country was divided.

The people of Devon and Cornwall were particularly angry at these changes. The Cornish, particularly the purer Cornish-speaking people of the west, were fanatically attached to the Roman Church. Superstitious and therefore conservative, they feared change and the unknown. The Prayer Book and the Act of Uniformity stated that all new services should be in English. But most people in Cornwall did not speak English, they spoke Cornish-Gaelic! A call to translate the Prayer Book into Cornish was rejected.



*The cause of unrest. The Title page of Cranmer's Book of Common Prayer, 1549*

The situation was made worse by a government agent called William Brody who was sent to Devon and Cornwall to make sure that the new Prayer Book was followed. He gave the impression that the valuables that would be removed from churches were to be confiscated by the government. When he got to Cornwall, an angry mob set upon him and murdered him! One ringleader stated that the people of Devon and Cornwall would only obey the religion that was set out by Henry VIII.

This religious anger was made worse because people were suffering under the huge taxes that had to be paid to fund the army in Scotland. The protest soon became a rebellion and an army of ordinary people captured the city of Exeter in Devon.

An army was rushed to the West Country. Most of the soldiers were mercenaries (professional soldiers that came from Germany and Italy). After a series of small battles and a six-week siege of Exeter, the rebels were defeated in August 1549. 4000 rebels were killed in Exeter. A smaller rebellion in Oxfordshire was crushed easily and discontented priests were hanged from their own church spires as an example to all. Five of the leaders of the rebellion in Cornwall and Devon were taken to London and hanged, drawn and quartered.

**MEANWHILE... there were further protests and rebellion elsewhere ...**

### **Economic and Religious Protest: Kett's Rebellion, 1549.**

While Somerset and the government had their hands full dealing with the Prayer Book rebellion, another violent protest broke out in Norfolk where religion was not the only cause of trouble that summer.

Throughout Henry VIII's reign there had been widespread enclosure (fencing in) of farmland so that it could be used to keep sheep. Many landlords preferred sheep farming because the wool could be sold to make cloth. The English cloth trade was booming and there were good profits to be made. Flocks of sheep replaced fields of corn in many parts of the country, especially in the south, the midlands and East Anglia. Fewer workers were needed to look after livestock than to farm crops. This meant that many agricultural workers became unemployed. This was very difficult, especially as the price of food and rents for housing were beginning to rise quickly. Taxation was also high to pay for the Scottish war. Fewer arable crops were being grown and the price of basic foodstuffs began to rise quickly.

This situation continued into Edward's reign. Landlords began to fence in common land to farm more sheep. Although they owned this land, the ancient feudal rights of the common still remained and many poorer people had nowhere to graze their own animals. Young King Edward spoke out against this enclosure of common land. Somerset had tried to help people by placing a tax on sheep in an attempt to prevent landowners from extending their sheep farming. But this did not prevent protest.

Unrest over enclosures was fueled by the opposition to the new Prayer Book and in Norfolk small groups of agricultural workers began to tear down the fences that had been placed on common land. One landowner whose fences were smashed was a man called Robert Kett. He began as one of the targets for the protestors, but he soon became their leader.

The rebellion grew and 15,000 protestors marched to Norwich (the biggest town in Norfolk) and fought against royal soldiers in the town. Unusually for a peasant rebellion, Kett imposed strict discipline on his forces and put an end to the violence when he arrived. He had his followers set up camp on Mousehold Heath outside Norwich for six weeks. It seemed as if the rebels were now content to protest peacefully.

Somerset had problems dealing with this rebellion. He already had troops in Devon and Cornwall and soldiers in Scotland. He was slow to act against them and he was criticised by John Dudley, the Earl of Warwick and Somerset's ambitious rival on the Royal Council. Dudley took command of 1500 foreign mercenary soldiers that landed on the south coast and marched them to Norfolk instead of Scotland, their initial destination. On his march northwards, Dudley collected other royal soldiers and by the time they reached Norwich, his army numbered 13,000.



*A contemporary woodcut showing what the mercenary soldiers used by Dudley may have looked like.*



*Do not make fun of this man. He is a typical German mercenary soldier. They were famous for their flamboyant dress, a style known as "Puff and Slash". They were also noted for their rough treatment of civilian populations. The English government hired many hundreds of such soldiers to fight against the Scots and crush the rebellions of 1549.*

On his arrival, Dudley offered the rebels a pardon, but Kett refused because he said that they were not rebels. He stated that they were not rebelling against the authority of the king but against unjust landlords who were enclosing land causing hardship. Dudley attacked the rebels regardless. Three thousand were killed and 300 were captured and executed in Norwich. The rebellion was crushed and Dudley returned to London.

Robert Kett was imprisoned and later hanged from the battlements of **Norwich Castle**.



*Norwich castle surrounded by the modern city of Norwich.*

What were the consequences of Kett's rebellion?

- 300 executions including Kett's
- The rebellion was broken up
- In future, the government took care to control the amount of land enclosed but they did not stop it
- Dudley returned to London and used Somerset's failure to deal with this crisis and the problems with the Prayer book rebellion as a reason to plot against him. He told the council that neither rebellion would have taken place if he had been Lord Protector
- Faced with the problems in Scotland, the rebellions, rising prices and high taxation, the Royal Council forced Somerset to resign



**Here endeth the rebellion section.**

## Year 8 Common Entrance Revision Guide.

### Henry VII: Government and Parliament.

As you read the information within this section you should make sure that you prepare revision notes on the following aspects of this topic:

- The end of the war of the Roses, the Battle of Bosworth.
- How did Henry make peace after thirty years of war?
- How did Henry VII increase royal power? What were his problems and how did he solve them?
- How did he decrease the power of the nobility?
- How did he solve his lack of money?
- How did he maintain peace with other countries?
- How did he solve the breakdown of law and order?
- Rebellions: Lambert Simnel, Perkin Warbeck. What happened, when, where, how were they defeated?



BE STRONG!

## What immediate problems did Henry VII after he had defeated Richard III (at Bosworth) and how did he solve them?

- His claim to the throne was weak; in fact it was the **weakest claim** since William the Conqueror. His claim was through an illegitimate line (somewhere in his family history two of his ancestors had not been married) and he was technically barred from the throne.
- Other claimants (people who thought they had a right to be King) included:

1. **Edward, Earl of Warwick** - Nephew of Richard III and Edward IV.
2. **John de la Pole**, Earl of Lincoln - Nephew of Richard III and Edward IV. He had been nominated by Richard III as his heir.
3. **Edmund de la Pole** - Nephew of Edward IV and Richard III.
4. **The Princes in the Tower** - Edward V and his brother Richard. Sons of Edward IV.

- **The Yorkists still had support in the north** of England and in Ireland and had a powerful ally in Richard III's sister Margaret, dowager duchess of Burgundy. This made it inevitable that other claimants would crop up and challenge Henry for the throne.
- Many of the **barons/nobles** still possessed armies (retainers) that were a constant threat to Henry and peace in the country. (Overmighty subjects)
- The crown's **treasury was nearly empty** after the 100 Years War and the subsequent War of the Roses.
- England **did not enjoy good relations with** many countries of **Europe**. There was a constant threat of invasion from Europe on behalf of the Yorkists. All the powers of Europe doubted Henry's ability to survive, and most were willing to help Henry's opponents .
- English trade had suffered during the War of the Roses (WotR) and badly needed help.
- Spain was becoming a major power in Europe as she began to create an Empire in the New World (Central America, South America and the Caribbean).
- Henry was determined to **restore order to the nation**. England needed **stability and peace**.
- He wanted to be wise and firm. In Henry's mind there was no doubt that his major problem were his rivals to the throne and the nobles who might support them.
- Many of the nobles with whom he was going to have to deal with were greedy, selfish power seeking men who changed sides at the drop of a hat.

- They were untrustworthy and had little moral conscience.
- This was a '**New Monarchy**' and Henry would have to fight fire with fire and would often have to employ **bullyboy tactics** against them in order to achieve his aims.
- Henry was only too aware that he had won his crown in battle. If he wasn't extremely careful the same could happen to him!

## HENRY VII - HOW HE DEALT WITH RIVALS TO THE THRONE.

### Rivals and Rebellions

- In 1486, he married **Elizabeth of York** (daughter of Edward IV) and in doing so he united the houses of Lancaster and York. Some Yorkist supporters were now on his side.
- Edward, **Earl of Warwick** (a rival to the throne) was placed in the Tower. John de la Pole, the **Earl of Lincoln** was made to submit to Henry, recognise him as King and give up his claim to the throne.
- The fate of the **Princes in the Tower** was uncertain. However, there are an increasing number of historians who believe that Henry arranged for them to be killed.
- The first rebellion, against Henry that, led by **Lord Lovell**, in 1486 was ill prepared and unimportant.
- In 1487, a **Yorkist plot** put forward **Lambert Simnel** pretending he was the Earl of Warwick. John de la Pole, earl of Lincoln, was behind the plot with additional help from many Irish chieftains, and of 2,000 German mercenaries paid for Yorkist supporters abroad.
- Henry immediately took the real Earl of Warwick out of the Tower and paraded him around the streets of London.
- There was little support for Simnel's army and it was crushed at the **Battle of Stoke** on 16th June 1487.
- All the Yorkist leaders, including the Earl of Lincoln, were killed except Simnel who was captured.
- Henry realised that Simnel was just a pawn and he was made to work in the royal kitchen for the rest of his life.
- In 1491, The Yorkists again put forward another imposter. This time it was **Perkin Warbeck** claiming to be Richard, Duke of York, the younger of the two princes, kept/murdered in the tower.
- An invasion in 1495, failed and Warbeck was captured and held custody in the Royal household.
- Henry discovered that a number of his so called supporters had been involved in the plot, including Sir William Stanley. They were all executed.
- Warbeck remained in custody until he escaped in 1498.

- He invaded again in 1499, when Henry who decided enough was enough, had Warbeck executed.
- Warbeck had received help at some time or other from France, James IV of Scotland, Maximilian I of Austria as well as powerful figures in England and Ireland.
- In 1499, Henry negotiated the marriage of his son Arthur to a Spanish princess, Catherine of Aragon.
- Ferdinand, the Spanish King, fearing for his daughter's safety, would not agree to the marriage until all rivals to Henry's throne had been eliminated.
- The Earl of **Warwick** suddenly found himself facing a charge of treason and subsequent **execution**. In 1506 he imprisoned the Yorkist Edmund de La Pole in the Tower of London, that Henry could at last feel safe. **The last of Henry's possible rivals for the throne had been eliminated.**
- Henry had now effectively and successfully achieved one of his objectives. HE had dealt with his rivals and made sure that there would be no more attempts to dethrone him.

## HENRY VII AND HIS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

### Restoring the Wealth of the Crown

- Henry wanted to make the crown financially independent of Parliament, in other words he didn't always want to have to rely on Parliament granting him sums of money.
- He received an annual sum from Parliament (Tunnage and Poundage). Therefore, it was Henry's policy to gather up as much money as humanly possible. **How did he go about this?**
- Henry confiscated the land of Yorkist rebels. Henry made money from these lands.
- The collection of **forced loans**.
- Henry had his own retainers dressed in their green and white livery that 'visited' selected persons and put the pressure on them to make "gifts" to His Majesty. In reality, Henry was running a protection racket.
- He accepted 'free' gifts from rich subjects, seen as a sign of goodwill and respect for Henry.
- He **encouraged efficiency in administration**. Most of the money collected from taxes went into the Royal Treasury that was now run by able and energetic servants and supervised by the king himself. He signed the accounts books!
- He used the Court of **Star Chamber** to impose fines on nobles that committed crimes.

- He owned the **custom duties** on **wool exports** so did much to make sure that the wool trade was helped when he made treaties with foreign countries.
- Nobles that inherited land on the deaths of their fathers had to pay a fee to the Henry before they were able to take over the land. This was called "**relief**".
- Nobles had to pay fees when their daughters married. Known as "**aid**".
- Henry **sold offices** and positions to suitable buyers.
- In 1491, Henry invaded France. The French quickly agreed a **Treaty at Etaples** that gave Henry an instant £149,000.
- When Arthur married Catherine of Aragon, Henry received a **huge dowry** from Ferdinand of Spain.
- Henry checked all the accounts himself and signed to that effect.
- He even changed his signature from time to time to avoid any fraud.
- Once again Henry was successful in achieving his financial aims. He is often portrayed as a miser. He was cunning and secretive and kept lists of those people who he thought were trustworthy or not.
- He avoided expensive wars that would have drained his treasury.
- During his reign **he increased his annual income** from £50,000 to £140,000. He also **accumulated a treasury** worth about £1½ million - £2 million.

He was the last King to die **leaving a surplus** in the treasury.

### **HENRY VII - CONTROLLING THE POWER OF THE NOBILITY... THE 'OVERMIGHTY SUBJECTS'**

- Fortunately for Henry many of the nobles had been killed during the War of the Roses.
- However, the few who remained were extremely rich and powerful. The Earls of Warwick had held double the land of any previous man and had a personal armies of over 30,000 soldiers
- If Henry and the Tudor dynasty were going to survive he had to do it on his own two feet and needed to destroy such men and the threat that they posed.

### **WHAT ACTIONS DID HENRY TAKE AGAINST THESE POWERFUL NOBLES?**

- **The Act of Livery** was passed in 1503: This banned the keeping private armies. This removed the threat of rebellion.
- **The Statute of Maintenance** was passed:

This prevented nobles from

1. Bribing judges and juries
2. Frightening judges and juries into giving false decision by crowding court rooms with retainers.
3. Causing riots.
4. Holding unlawful meetings.
  - Henry gave himself the sole monopoly of **gunpowder**. Without it the nobles would not be able to defy the King in long sieges. Henry had the ability to destroy their castles.
  - **No castle building** was allowed without Henry's permission.
  - Henry employed **middle-class men** and respected **churchmen** as his advisers and appointed them to the important offices in the land.
  - **The Court of Star Chamber** brought to trial any nobles who had broken the Acts of Livery and Maintenance.
  - Juries were not used but instead a panel of judges consisting of the Lord Chancellor, Treasurer, Keeper of the Privy Seal, a bishop, two chief justices and a lord of council.
  - Offenders were fined heavily and often had their lands confiscated.
  - Henry **refused to show favouritism**. Even his friend the Earl of Oxford was fined £15,000 for breaking the Statute of Livery and Maintenance.
  - Gradually, Henry struck at the wealth of the nobles.
  - He took back all the land that had been given away by kings in the past.
  - With their power broken, Henry appointed nobles who he felt he could trust to important positions.
  - However, there was now an important difference. Henry was running the show not the nobles.
  - **Henry had once again achieved all he had set out to do.**
  - The nobles were now under control, less threatening and considerably less wealthy.
  - Henry was richer and safer.

#### **Henry's Foreign Policy (dealing with other countries).**

- The Hundred Years War and The War of the Roses had resulted in a breakdown of relationships and trade with Europe.
- Henry realised the importance of good foreign relations and healthy trade.
- Henry was poor and his position insecure.
- **Peace** reduced the threat of imposters and rivals finding support abroad and it **was cheaper than war**.
- Spain and France were the two powers in Europe and Henry was to play one off against the other.
- Support abroad would also ensure the continuance of the Tudor Dynasty.

- In 1501, he married his eldest son Arthur to **Catherine of Aragon**, thus establishing peace with Spain.
- The fact that Ferdinand of Spain allowed his daughter to marry a Tudor, clearly shows the growing respect that Spain had for Henry and England.
- After the death of Arthur in 1502, Henry arranged for his second son, Henry, to marry Catherine of Aragon, thereby **maintaining the peace with Spain**.
- With Scotland the long tradition of war and hostility was harder to overcome; but Henry eventually succeeded in concluding in 1499 a treaty of peace, and in 1503, he **married one of his daughters, Margaret, to James IV of Scotland**.
- This reduced the French influence in Scotland and therefore also made sure there was no rebellion from over the border.
- He agreed the Treaty of Etaples, in 1492 with Charles VIII of France and he made arrangements for his daughter **Mary to marry Louis the Dauphin (heir to the throne of France)**.

### Trade

- In 1485, he passed the **Navigation Act** in order to build up the **Merchant Navy**.
- Wines from France were only to be carried aboard ships manned by English, Welsh or Irish sailors.
- He made **treaties** with Italian States and **encouraged English** ships to trade in the Mediterranean.
- He made treaties with Denmark and the Port of Riga. This gave English ships valuable access to the Baltic Sea area and allowed them to compete for trade in northern Germany.
- In 1496, Henry agreed a treaty with Flanders (modern Holland and Belgium). This allowed the trade of English cloth and wool without a hindrance.
- In 1497, Henry paid for **John and Sebastian Cabot's** voyages of exploration. Newfoundland (part of modern Canada) was claimed for England. If these had paid off, Henry would have been considerably wealthier.

### In conclusion

- Henry was unattractive, hard-hearted, mean, crafty and often cruel yet he could be courteous.
- However, Henry appears to have achieved all he attempted to do.
- His success can be summed up in the important fact that when he died, his son Henry succeeded to the throne without any dispute or rivals.

- The House of Tudor had been established.
- Henry's methods may have appeared to be those of a gangster or thug. However, he lived in difficult times, surrounded by difficult people who would often not listen to reason and who were more concerned with themselves than the interests of the country.
- His achievements were beneficial to England and led to greater things.
- Many would argue that the '**end justified the means**'.
- The Masked Historian likes Henry VII's story and wishes that more books for school children would pay more attention to what he has described as "The Forgotten Tudor".

## YEAR 7 Henry VII essay notes/Revision Plan.

- A. Describe the problems faced by Henry VII during his time as King. (20)
- Large numbers of Yorkists around after the Battle of Bosworth.
  - France and Scotland were potential enemies. Spain was growing in power.
  - Henry had very little money. All spent on wars against France and The War of the Roses.
  - Complete breakdown of Law and Order. Soldiers acting like armed gangs of criminals.
  - Nobles very powerful. Very wealthy.
  - Country was split between York and Lancaster.
  - Nobles had big private armies.
  - Henry had to crush three rebellions. 1486, 1487, 1497.
  - Henry needed to make peace as he became king by killing his rival. The same could happen to him.
- B. Explain how Henry VII managed to make the monarchy strong, powerful and wealthy. (10)
- ❖ Dealing with the power of the Nobles: Banned private armies. Stronger- King now only person allowed to raise army. Makes Nobles weaker. Forced loans. Makes Henry wealthy and weakens nobles - poorer.
  - ❖ Making peace: Married Eliz. Of York. Tudor Rose. Pardon. Stronger- less risk of civil war, less risk of losing money, less chance of rebellion, less chance of losing throne.
  - ❖ Making money: Efficient tax collection-he checked it! Stronger-wealthy. Star Chamber-nobles punished with HUGE fines- stronger-wealthier and nobles poorer. Forced loans.
  - ❖ Law and order: created local judges (Justices of the Peace) with power to arrest, try and convict criminals. Brings stability.
  - ❖ Other countries: Made alliances with France, Spain and Scotland through royal marriages. Kept England out of wars abroad (not spending money!)

## HENRY VII TOPIC SUMMARY.

- First Tudor Monarch.
- Became King in 1485 after leading an LANCASTRIAN ARMY TO VICTORY at the BATTLE OF BOSWORTH, the last major battle of the WAR OF THE ROSES.
- King Richard III killed at Bosworth.

### **Henry's Problems during his time as King.**

- Became king by killing Richard III. Possibility that others could do the same to him.
- Nobles had become very powerful during the War of the Roses.
- Henry had no money. All Royal money spent on wars against France and the War of the Roses.
- Nobles had private armies....the king was not in control of these soldiers.
- A great need to make peace between the warring houses of Lancaster and York.
- France, Scotland and Spain were potential enemies and threats.
- After thirty years of war there had been a breakdown of law and order. Soldiers were roaming about committing crimes. No system to deal with these crimes.
- Henry had to face Rebellions in 1486, 1487 and 1497.

**So how did Henry VII solve these problems and make the monarchy stronger?**

### **1. Dealing with the Yorkists**

- He made the warring houses of York and Lancaster come together by marrying ELIZABETH OF YORK.
- The TUDOR ROSE became a symbol of this new unity.
- He gave a pardon to Yorkists in return for their loyalty. Many accepted.
- He locked up the Earl of Warwick (his closest Yorkist rival for the throne) to keep an eye on him and eventually executed him in 1497 after a Yorkist rebellion
- The Yorkist rebellions in 1486, 1487 and 1497 were met with force. They were crushed and their leaders treated harshly.
- Henry succeeded in breaking the Yorkist threat because in 1497 hardly any English nobility supported the Yorkist rebellion against him.

## 2. Dealing with the nobility.

- He banned private armies. Only the King could now raise an army. This gave him control of the military.
- He "borrowed" money from the Nobility. They were forced to loan him the money. Henry did not repay it. This made the King wealthier and nobility poorer.
- He created the Court of Star Chamber. This was a special Court of law for the nobility. The King was the Judge. Most of the punishments for nobles committing crimes were HUGE FINES. This made Henry wealthier and the nobility poorer.

## 3. Dealing with Money.

- Henry created an efficient system of tax collection and took a great personal interest in its workings. He signed records to show that they were correct.
- He kept England out of expensive foreign wars.
- He signed trade treaties (Medina Del Campo) that benefited English merchants.
- Borrowing "loans" from the nobility and fining wrongdoers in Star Chamber meant that money flowed into Henry's coffers ! This made him strong and the nobles weaker

## 4. Dealing with Law and Order.

- Henry created local judges called "Justices of the Peace". They had the power to arrest, try and convict criminals locally. They could try all cases except treason. This brought stability in the countryside.

## 5. Dealing with other countries.

- Henry signed trade treaties with Spain, the Netherlands and Portugal. This benefited English merchants and gave England allies abroad.
- Henry made alliances with France, Scotland and Spain through political marriages. He turned potential enemies into allies (friends).
- Henry kept England out of wars abroad.



Here endeth the section on Henry VII.

## Year 8 Common Entrance Revision Guide.

### Henry VIII and the changes to the Church -the English Refomation.

As you read the information within this section, you should make sure that you prepare revision notes on the following aspects of this topic:

- Catholic and Protestants - how/why were they different? What did each believe?
- Why did Henry VIII begin to make changes to the church - note each change and all the possible reasons Henry had for making these changes. Concentrate on "The King's Great Matter" and the Dissolution of the Monasteries.
- Learn the key events - dates and names are important- this shows that you know the history
- Learn how the Pilgrimage of Grace fits into all this (you may be learning about P.O.G. as a separate rebellion so here's a good opportunity to combine knowledge/efforts) - why did it happen? Who were the leaders? What did the rebels want? What were the key events? How did it end? Did the rebellion succeed or fail? Why?
- Was Henry VIII a Catholic or a Protestant? - What evidence is there to support the view that Henry was Catholic? What evidence to support the view that he was Protestant? Evidence to suggest he was both? What do you think? Why could the Act of Six Articles help you make up your mind?



Be Strong.

## HENRY VIII - THE KING'S GREAT MATTER and THE BREAK FROM ROME.

### What was the "THE KING'S GREAT MATTER"?

By the late 1520s, Henry VIII was attempting to get a divorce from his first wife, Catherine of Aragon.

### What was the "BREAK FROM ROME"?

Having failed to get a divorce from the Pope, Henry declared that the English Church was separate from the rest of the Catholic Church in Europe and that the Pope had no authority in England. Henry granted himself a divorce in 1533 and then made himself Supreme Head of the Church IN England in 1535.

### What Were the Causes of the Break from Rome?

- Henry strongly disapproved of the Protestants and had no wish to damage the Catholic faith.
- He had defended the Catholic faith against Martin Luther and the Pope had given him the title "**Defender of the Faith.**"
- His quarrel with the Pope was purely **personal and political not religious.**
- It was the need for a divorce that drove Henry to taking such action...he didn't do this lightly. He had tried to get the Pope to agree to a divorce for SIX YEARS before he broke from Rome.

### LONG TERM CAUSES OF THE BREAK FROM ROME.

- There was some dissatisfaction with the Catholic Church in England already. The wealth of the Church was criticised. Taxes had to be paid to the Church. Some Bishops and priests held more than one job (Cardinal Wolsey, Henry's Lord Chancellor, was a **CARDINAL, BISHOP** for Lincoln, Bath and Wells, Durham and Winchester; an **ABBOT** for St Albans and **ARCHBISHOP** of York).
- In the past, some **Popes** had abused their position of authority by becoming involved in **political** activities rather than religious. This has resulted in a loss of respect for the Papacy (the name given to the office of Pope).
- The ever-increasing **wealth of the Church** and in particular certain clergymen was a cause for concern. Henry was short of cash!
- Large sums of money had to be paid to the Pope. Henry could make better use of it! He could finance his foreign wars and support his lavish lifestyle.

- Henry VIII and Cardinal Wolsey wanted to make England a '**Sovereign nation state**' with no allegiance to any foreign authority. Henry was not the first English King to think like this, but he was the first to achieve it!

### **SHORT TERM CAUSES OF THE BREAK FROM ROME - THE KING'S GREAT MATTER - DIVORCE.**

- By 1527 Henry and Catherine of Aragon had been **married for 18 yrs.**
- That marriage had only produced one surviving child, a **daughter - Mary.** (5 children had died)
- **Male pride** and a fear of what might happen if no son was inherit his throne made Henry desperate for a male child.
- A daughter would not do, as there had been no Queens allowed up to this point in history.
- Sadly, **Catherine** at forty was now **passed child-bearing** age.
- Henry himself was now 34. Henry had a **riding accident** in which he nearly drowned. This made him even keener to have a son to take over if necessary.
- Henry began to believe that his **sonless marriage** was a **punishment from God** for marrying his dead brother's wife (Arthur and Catherine).
- The Book of **Leviticus** says "**If a man shall take his brother's wife, it is an unclean thing; they shall be childless.**" While not technically childless, Henry and Catherine had only one surviving daughter...and a girl was not good enough!
- Henry was having an **affair with Anne Boleyn** and wanted to marry her.
- In 1527, Henry sent **Cardinal Wolsey** to see the **Pope (Clement VII)** to **seek permission** for an **annulment (cancelation)** of his marriage to Catherine on the grounds that the **marriage was not legal** (it was against the laws of God) and that the Pope should not have issued a dispensation (special permission) to Henry VII, allowing the marriage between Henry and Catherine
- **Divorce was virtually unheard** of and only offered to kings as a **favour**, so an annulment was the only answer.
- **Pope Clement VII** was a **prisoner of Charles V**, nephew of Catherine of Aragon.
- The Pope was in a **no win situation** as he did not wish to offend either monarch.
- **Wolsey also didn't want to upset the Pope** as he possibly had ambitions to be the Pope himself one day!

- In 1528, the Pope played for time by sending a representative to England to hold a trial to look at the evidence and try to come to a solution. The trial lasted **TWO YEARS**
- The Pope hoped that during the delay, the situation might change. Henry might change his mind, Catherine might become pregnant or even die. **Henry was furious at the delay!**
- **The trial ended without granting Henry's request for annulment.**
- Henry blamed Wolsey for failure to get the result he wanted. **Wolsey was sacked** as Lord Chancellor and fell from power.
- **Wolsey summoned to London** to answer charges of treason but died on route.
- **Thomas Cromwell** was waiting in the wings to take over from Wolsey.

### **GETTING THE DIVORCE- HENRY DID IT BY MAKING LAWS IN PARLIAMENT.**

- **Thomas Cromwell** was the mastermind behind getting Henry a divorce.
- **Thomas Cranmer** advised Henry to seek **advice from the Universities of Europe**. These universities had Protestant sympathies. Their advice was that Henry could if he wanted, **take matters into his own hands**.
- Having failed with his attempts with Wolsey, Henry decided to exert more pressure on the Pope.
- Thomas Cranmer visited the Pope to try again to get a annulment/divorce. He failed.
- Henry decided to hurt the Pope by stopping all money that was paid to the Pope. Taxes paid to Rome went straight into Henry's own pocket! Still no success...
- On **25th January 1533**, Henry secretly married **Anne Boleyn**. (Anne was pregnant)
- In **March 1533**, Parliament passed the **Act of Appeals** that brought the Church Courts under the control of Henry. The Act made it illegal for anyone to appeal to the Pope if found guilty in a Church Court.
- On **May 23rd 1533**, Thomas **Cranmer**, the newly created Archbishop of Canterbury, **granted the divorce**.
- In **September 1533**, Elizabeth was born.
- In **1534**, Parliament passed the **Act of Succession**, which declared Henry's and Catherine's marriage illegal and supporting Henry's marriage to Anne Boleyn. The Act also restricted the succession to the children of this new marriage. Princess Mary Tudor was no longer heir to the throne. It also made it a treasonable offence to oppose or criticise the marriage.
- A **Treason Act** followed this, which said that anyone who wrote or spoke any criticism of Henry in his dealings with the Pope was guilty of treason.

Henry and Cromwell now had the ultimate weapon at their disposal. Opposition could be dealt with severely.

- In 1535, Parliament passed the **Act of Supremacy** which declared Henry the '**Supreme Head of the English Church**'.
- By law, the Pope no longer had any power in England. The Break from Rome was now completed.
- Emperor Charles V was occupied elsewhere with his own troubles fighting the French and he was unable to intervene to attempt to stop Henry.
- Ordinary people were horrified at the idea of the divorce. There was a feeling of sadness for Catherine of Aragon and Mary and the way that they had been treated.
- However, this had to be balanced against people's feelings towards the Church. The Church was not popular, it had become rich and greedy and the Pope was seen increasingly as a foreigner who was only interested in raising taxes.
- In the end, the majority sided with Henry. They had to...all this was now law and treason if you disagreed openly.
- The church services in English churches remained unchanged.

### **Countdown to Divorce**

1. Wolsey to Rome - 1527
2. Legatine Trial 1528-1530
3. Advice from universities
4. Secret marriage - 1533
5. Act of Appeals - 1533
6. Divorce granted - 1533
7. Act of Succession - 1534
8. Treason Act - 1534
9. Act of Supremacy-1535.

It is important to remember that although the Church of England had broken away

from Rome and that Henry VIII not the Pope was now head of the Church of England, there was **no change of religion**.

- Henry remained a **devout Roman Catholic** and was not influenced by Protestant ideas.
- In his eagerness to obtain a divorce, he created a situation that was to send some of his best friends to the block. Among them were **Thomas More and Cardinal Fisher** who refused to take the Oath of Supremacy and to accept Henry as Head of the Church.

- In 1535, many monks were arrested and then publicly hanged, drawn and quartered for refusing to take the Oath of Supremacy.
- In 1539, Henry VIII stated his Catholic beliefs by issuing the '**Act of Six Articles**' which was a list of what people were expected to believe. These beliefs were CATHOLIC.
- The Act of Six Articles led to the persecution of a number of Protestants.
  
- In his eagerness for a divorce, Henry unwittingly began the Reformation in England (the change from the Catholic religion to the Protestant).

## HENRY VIII

### The Dissolution of the Monasteries and the Pilgrimage of Grace

#### What Caused Henry VIII to Order the Dissolution (closing down) of the Monasteries?

- Henry VIII had **fallen out** with the **Pope** over his **divorce** with Catherine of Aragon. Henry felt let down by the Pope.
- The monasteries were a stronghold of the Pope's power in England
- Monks and Nuns recognised the Pope as the head of the Church in England. **Henry would not tolerate this.**
- The early monasteries had provided hospitals, charity, shelter and education amongst many other things. The wealth they had collected had led to **laziness and greediness** amongst many monks.
- Also there were rumours that nuns and monks were not following their vows of chastity (not having sexual relationships). These developments had resulted in a drop in the popularity of monasteries.
- The Church owned up to 30% of the land in England, and the monasteries took much of this up. They were **enormously wealthy**, and Henry believed he could put their wealth to better use.
- By the mid 1530s, Henry VIII had spent most of the vast fortune left to him by his father. He had become involved in wars abroad (with little real success) and he had a lavish lifestyle that was designed to show his power. By breaking away from Rome, Henry became the enemy of Spain and France (and the rest of catholic Europe). He needed money to maintain his lifestyle and prepare England for potential wars (against France in particular).
- **Thomas Cromwell** had different motives. He was an **Protestant and disliked monasteries.**

#### How did Henry go about the Dissolution?

##### Establishing the Facts... or Finding the Excuses?

- Early in 1535, **Thomas Cromwell was appointed Vicar-General.**
- Cromwell immediately ordered a survey to establish how wealthy the monasteries were.
- These results were compiled in July 1535 and a book called the "Valor Ecclesiasticus ('**Value of Church Property**') was published. The monasteries were valued at £100,000 a year from land and £25,000 from other means.

- Later in the year, Commissioners (inspectors) visited the monasteries to investigate the rumours about idleness, greed and bad behaviour.
- They reported back that the monasteries were 'idle, corrupt and useless'.
- There were allegations of monks fathering children and of monks getting married.
- Henry and Cromwell now had the evidence they needed to act. Some did however report back that 'religion is well kept and observed'.
- Cromwell had favourable reports re-written to place more emphasis on faults.

### **Dissolution of The Smaller Monasteries, 1536.**

- In 1536, Parliament passed an Act that permitted the dissolution of all monasteries that had an income of less than £200 a year.
- **376 monasteries were closed.**
- 2000 monks were pensioned off or sent to larger monasteries or nunneries.
- Henry and Cromwell were very cautious and calculating. They deliberately chose the smaller monasteries first in order to test public opinion and because they felt that the Tudor treasury was not yet ready to cope with the larger amounts of money that would come from the larger monasteries.
- There were few complaints and the closures passed relatively peacefully.

However... not everyone was happy to see the monasteries go. Henry faced a rebellion sparked by the closure of the smaller monasteries. **This was called the Pilgrimage of Grace.**

### **The Pilgrimage of Grace, 1536.**

- In the **south and east** of England **little opposition** was seen against the dissolutions.
- However in the **north** things were **different**.
- Two rebellions broke out, one in **Lincolnshire** and one in **Yorkshire**.
- The rebellion in Lincolnshire was easily dealt with, because it lacked leaders of any quality. **50 rebels were executed.**
- However, the **Yorkshire rebels** were a different matter. **Robert Aske**, a lawyer and landowner managed to get together an **army of 30,000**.
- They adopted a **banner** showing the **five wounds of Christ**.
- He referred to his followers as **pilgrims and not rebels**.
- Priests and monks joined the rebellion. They were doing God's work.
- Aske wanted no killing or stealing.

- By October 24th, Aske and his army had **captured York**, and were joined by the Archbishop of York, and Thomas Darcy, a powerful local Baron.

The Pilgrimage of Grace made the following demands:

1. The **return of the Pope's power** in England.
2. The **removal of Cromwell** from power.
3. The immediate **stop to the dissolution of the monasteries**.
4. **Parliament** was to be called to discuss **new laws** and to look into poverty in the north of England.
5. Princess **Mary Tudor** to be renamed as **heir** to the throne.
6. The punishment of those Commissioners responsible for writing bad reports on the monasteries.

- **Henry** had an army of only **8000 in the north** and this was not large enough to deal with the rebellion.
- He had to stall Aske and play for time.
- He sent Thomas Howard, the Duke of Norfolk to discuss terms with Aske.
- He agreed to all the demands that Aske made saying that nobody who took part in the rebellion would be punished.
- A few days later, Henry met Aske, and even gave him a gold chain as a sign of friendship and said that Aske could have everything he wanted so long as the Aske's followers went back to their homes.
- In truth, Henry had **no intention of keeping his side of the bargain**, despite the faith which Aske had put in Henry's word.
- Aske dismissed his army, and then Henry acted by sending his army into Yorkshire.
- **Aske was captured** and held in prison for 6 months. He was then dragged through the streets of York and then left to hang from a tree, loaded with heavy chains. He took three days to die.
- Henry ordered that one man should be hanged from every village that had taken part or supported the rebellion.
- Over 200 rebels including some monks were hanged.
- The other leaders were also executed.
- The **pilgrimage achieved nothing** and received no support from other parts of the country.

## What were the consequences of the failure of the Pilgrimage of Grace?

- It **sealed the fate of the monasteries** in England.
- The involvement of **monks in the rebellion** gave Henry and Cromwell further ammunition and excuses for their continued programme of dissolutions.
- A 'Council of the North' was set up to rule the north of England.
- No more rebellions took place in Henry's reign. He had dealt with the Pilgrimage of Grace with cunning, deceit and great brutality. The 200 executions were a warning to those that challenged Henry's authority.

## The Dissolution of The Larger Monasteries, 1539.

- in 1539, Cromwell and Henry ordered the closure of **645 larger monasteries**.
- The Abbots of Woburn, Glastonbury, Colchester and Reading all attempted to resist the closures. A mistake! All of them were hanged at the gates of their monasteries in order to teach a lesson to other would be troublemakers.
- The Abbot of Glastonbury was dragged through the town, hanged, beheaded and his head impaled on his abbey gates.
- The buildings on monasteries were stripped of doors, lead, timber, glass, art and literature, gold plate, silver, gold and jewellery. Livestock was seized.
- Land was sold to the wealthy who fell over themselves to buy it up. The buildings were bought by the wealthy who turned some into fine country houses. If buildings were not sold, they were used as quarries where individual stones were sold off to local builders.
- Thomas Cromwell was a ruthless man and the plans were carried out in a very efficient, if bullying manner.

## What Effect Did The Dissolutions have in England?

- Henry VIII now had an **enormous amount of additional money**. The Dissolutions provided him in an EXTRA £140,000 a year between 1536 and 1547. Henry's normal income was £100,000 a year.
- Much of this money went towards the construction of Henry's Royal Navy and the building of new fortifications on the south coast and the casting of new cannons for ships and forts.
- Henry gained an **enormous amount of land**. However, he needed money urgently to fund the war with France and Scotland. Therefore he sold the land to over 40,000 people including nobles, merchants and self-made men.

- Henry squandered the money on futile, fairly unsuccessful wars.
- If he had held on to the land it would have provided him with a larger amount of money over many years.
- Henry had, by accident, created a group of landowners who would always be opposed to the return of the Catholic faith. They would be unwilling to give up the monastery land they had bought.
- **7000 monks were pensioned off.** Even in 1551, this pension scheme was costing the treasury £44,000 a year.
- Most monks were treated well.
- **Abbots lost their seats in Parliament.**
- Some monks went to work in local parish churches.
- Other monks wandered around the country as vagabonds.
- Many of the people employed by monasteries found themselves without jobs and they too became vagabonds. **Unemployment and poverty increased.** This was worse in the north of England (where the Pilgrimage of Grace had started).
- The closure of the monasteries resulted in a reduction of hospitals, schools, places of accommodation, and care for the poor.
- In some places where the monastery was the centre of life, the **community collapsed.**
- **Sheep farming** increased, producing enormous profits for landowners.
- Sheep farming requires fewer workers and therefore this situation also added to the unemployment problem.
- The dissolutions resulted in the **loss of works of art and literature** that were destroyed.
- Beautiful **buildings were left ransacked and left** to scar the countryside for centuries.
- The last strongholds of the power of the Pope were destroyed. Henry now had complete control over the Church in England.

## **Henry VIII. Catholic or Protestant?**

### **What changes did Henry make to the Church?**

- He separated the English Church from the rest of the Catholic Church "The Break from Rome".
- Made himself Head of the Church IN England.
- He punished anyone who did NOT accept him as Head of the Church.
- He closed down all monasteries. Small monasteries in 1536, large monasteries in 1539.
- All lands and goods from monasteries were sold.
- Henry had a bible in English written in 1539 and placed inside EVERY English Church.
- In 1539 he passed the Act of Six Articles that set out the beliefs of the English Church. These beliefs were catholic.

### **What did Henry do that could be seen as catholic?**

- In 1539 he passed the Act of Six Articles that set out the beliefs of the English Church. These beliefs were catholic.
- He also punished William Tyndale for writing a bible in English in 1520s
- He wrote a book attacking Martin Luther (a Protestant) and was given the title "Defender of the Faith".

### **What did Henry do that could be seen as protestant?**

- He separated the English Church from the rest of the Catholic Church "The Break from Rome".
- Made himself Head of the Church IN England.
- He punished anyone who did NOT accept him as Head of the Church.
- He closed down all monasteries. Small monasteries in 1536, large monasteries in 1539.
- All lands and good from monasteries were sold.
- Henry had a bible in English written in 1539 and placed inside EVERY English Church.

### **What were the reasons behind Henry's actions?**

- He broke away from the Catholic Church because the Pope would not grant a divorce from Catherine of Aragon. Needed a male heir.
- He made himself Head of the English Church to grant HIMSELF a divorce. He then tried to decrease the power the Pope had in England.
- Closing the monasteries was motivated by Henry's need for money. Wars/lifestyle. Henry got an extra £140,000 per year.
- Closing monasteries meant that the Pope's main supporters (and funders) were crushed.

## Was Henry VIII a Catholic or a Protestant?

- Catholic. The Evidence: the Act of Six Articles laid down Catholic beliefs, Henry persecuted Protestants (Tyndale), the need for money motivated the closing of the monasteries, and the Break from Rome was about obtaining a divorce (not motivated by religious belief), Henry still used the title Defender of the Faith having attacked Martin Luther.
- Protestant. The Evidence: Henry closed down the monasteries using the excuse that they were not doing their jobs correctly, Henry had an English translation of the Bible placed inside every English Church, placed himself at the Head of the English Church.

Well? You decide...but tell me the reasons why you think the way you do.



Here endeth the section on Henry VIII

## YEAR 8 Common Revision Guide:

### Mary I.

As you read the information within this section, you should make sure that you prepare revision notes on the following aspects of this topic:

- What did Mary intend to do with religion once she became Queen?
- Why was this?
- Why did Mary believe that bringing Catholicism back to England was the best thing to do? (Remember, some of her plans sparked off **Wyatt's Rebellion**. Why did these men rebel?)
- How did she go about "convincing" English people to change back to Catholicism ("the smell of burning human flesh" as the Masked Historian would say). Who advised her to burn? Who advised her to make gradual changes?
- Why was burning so significant?
- Why did she target men like Thomas Cranmer?
- How many people were burned? Which parts of England did these people come from?
- Was Mary successful in returning England to Rome? Why not?
- Does Mary deserve her reputation as "Bloody Mary"? Why do you think the way you do. Why did she get this? Who's book played a big part in blackening Mary's reign?



BE STRONG!

## Mary Tudor 1553-1558

### (Mary I or "Bloody Mary")

- On the death of her brother Edward VI in 1553, Mary succeeded to the throne.
- She was the daughter of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon.
- During her reign she earned herself the name of 'Bloody Mary'.
- Her reign was dominated by four main events:

#### 1. Wyatt's Rebellion 1554

#### 2. The Spanish Marriage 1554

#### 3. The Persecution of Protestants 1555-1558

#### 4. The loss of Calais 1558

- Mary's childhood experiences, the treatment of her mother by Henry VIII, left her feeling very bitter towards Protestants.
- The combination of her father's divorce from her mother, the Act of Supremacy and the Act of Succession had made Mary illegitimate.
- She blamed the Protestant influences and particularly Archbishop Thomas Cranmer.
- She was a devout, sincere Roman Catholic.
- She wanted to **restore** the Roman **Catholic faith**.
- She wanted to **restore the Power of the Pope** in England (that is to make the Pope head of the Church in England and not the monarch.)

### Why Did Mary Enjoy Popular Support On Her Accession?

- The **Protestant reforms** made in the reign of Edward VI by Lord Protector Somerset, Archbishop Cranmer and the Duke of Northumberland, had been most **unpopular**.
- Mary was the daughter of Henry VIII, and had the **best claim to the throne**.
- The Pilgrimage of Grace in 1536 had shown how the majority of English people thought.
- They may not have been great supporters of the Pope, but they were still Catholics in belief and even in 1536, they had wanted Mary legitimised, so that her claim to the throne could be recognised.
- Many people disagreed with the way **Lady Jane Grey** had been chosen as Queen by Northumberland and were **suspicious** about what really happened. It was thought that Edward had been bullied into choosing Lady Jane Grey. Edward was very sick and weak, and obviously vulnerable and open to pressure.

- Many wanted to turn back the clock to before the Break with Rome and restore the Catholic faith in England, although most people did not favour the restoration of the Pope's power, particularly when it called for taxes paid to the Pope.

#### **How did Mary go about achieving her plan to bring back the Catholic faith?**

- Roman Catholic **priests were released from prison** and many became her advisers.
- Among them were Bishop Bonner and Bishop Gardiner, both had been locked up under Edward's reign.
- **Laws were passed** to punish anyone who did not follow the Roman Catholic religion.
- **The new Protestant prayer books written by Archbishop Cranmer were banned** and all services were to be held in Latin.
- However, the English Bible was to remain.
- **Priests were not allowed to marry.** 2000 married priests had to separate from their families.
- Leading English Catholics declared that **transubstantiation was true.** This is where the Catholics believe that bread and wine change into the body and blood of Christ after they have been blessed at communion.
- **Churches were to be decorated** again with wall paintings, statues and stained glass windows. Music was reintroduced into the church service (the mass). However, this proved difficult, as much of the old had been destroyed.
- **Protestant bishops** were imprisoned in the **Tower.** (Cranmer included).
- However, she was unable to introduce a total restoration of the monasteries because Parliament refused to pass a law that would return land that had once belonged to the monasteries.
- Surprisingly enough, many members of Parliament had bought monastic land from Henry VIII! She was able to re-open a few monasteries such as Westminster Abbey.

#### **Marriage to Philip of Spain.**

- Mary was desperate to get married and produce a male heir.
- She was getting on in years and soon it would be too late.
- She spoke to her cousin, Charles V of Spain about suitable candidates. A list of eight (8) possible men was reduced to one and in 1554 Mary proposed marriage to Philip of Spain, a leading European Roman Catholic and heir to the Spanish throne.
- Mary herself was half Spanish and was besotted with the younger Philip.

- In her defence, a marriage to an English noble would have caused great resentment amongst other English nobles.
- The marriage to Philip of Spain proved unpopular because:
  1. People **feared** that England would come under the **direct control of Spain**. A Queen was viewed as weaker than a King. Some feared that Phillip would wield political power in England while Mary got on with the task of having children!
  2. The brutal way in which **the Spanish Inquisition had persecuted Protestants** horrified the English who feared a repeat in England. Thousands of Protestants had been burnt in Holland.
  3. England would be dragged into an **expensive and protracted war against France**, the great rival of Spain.
  4. English people did not want a return of Papal control. (Popery)
  5. Any resulting children would become heirs to the thrones of both England and Spain. The possibility was that the royal children may have been brought up in Spain and on Mary's death, England would have been ruled from Madrid instead of London. England would become just another province in Spain's already vast Empire.
    - Clearly, Parliament had their own worries about the marriage and they passed a law that prevented Philip taking the title 'King of England'. This insulted both Mary and Philip.

### **Wyatt's Rebellion, 1554.**

- The unpopularity of the proposed marriage to Philip of Spain resulted in **Wyatt's Rebellion**.
- Sir Thomas Wyatt became the leader of the rebellion. (Protestant)
- The object was to **dethrone Mary** and replace her with Elizabeth her sister.
- The French Ambassador had made vague promises of military support for the rebellion.
- Elizabeth would then be married to Edward Courtenay, a member of an old noble family and a great-grandson of Edward IV.
- **Courtenay** himself **betrayed the plot** to Mary early in 1554.
- This forced the rebels' hand . They then had to act quicker than they would have wanted.
- The rebellion marched on London, from Kent with an army of 4000.
- They captured Rochester Castle and royal soldiers there joined the rebellion.
- Mary appealed to the people of London to remain loyal. They did! The citizens of London refused to open their gates.
- All boats had been taken and all bridges were closed.
- Wyatt's army deserted him and he was left with only 500 men.

- After a battle in which 100 men were killed, Sir Thomas Wyatt and the other leaders were captured in the "Bell Savage" inn.
- Wyatt was tortured for information about the rebellion and he was repeatedly questioned as to the involvement of Princess Elizabeth.
- Wyatt refused to implicate Elizabeth in the plot to dethrone Mary and he was executed. (hanged, drawn and quartered)
- **Lady Jane Grey, her husband Guilford Dudley and the Duke of Suffolk** followed shortly. They were now an unavoidable threat to Mary's security.
- Nearly **100 other rebels were hanged** in Kent and London.
- **Elizabeth** found herself **imprisoned** in the Tower of London, and Mary had to listen to many who suggested that Elizabeth should be executed too.
- There was insufficient evidence to implicate Elizabeth, although it has been suggested that Mary had written proof but Mary destroyed this proof deliberately.
- The plot seemed to make Mary even more determined in her plans to marry and Bishop Gardiner **married Mary and Philip** at Winchester in the summer of 1554.
- Mary followed this by the **restoration of full Papal power in England** when her cousin, Cardinal Reginald Pole arrived from Rome to become the Pope's representative in England. Pole had been an exile in Rome since the reign of Henry VIII.
- Cardinal Pole was to help Mary mastermind the revival of Catholicism in England. He later became Archbishop of Canterbury.
- Unfortunately, Pole had been in exile for 24 years and he was out of touch with peoples' feelings about Religion and the Papacy. All the **anti-papal laws passed by Henry VIII were repealed**. The Pope was made Head of the Church in England.

### **Mary's Persecution of the Protestants 1555-1558.**

- Mary wanted to **stamp out the Protestant** faith in England.
- Protestants were given the opportunity to "**turn or burn**" if they recanted (said that they were wrong to be Protestant) their faith then they might be spared death.
- **Cardinal Pole** appears to be the power behind all the burnings and seems to have persuaded a reluctant Mary that this was the only way to deal with heretic Protestants.
- The persecutions did not start immediately after Mary came to the throne.

- During the years 1555-1558 it was claimed that **270 Protestants** were burnt at the stake for their faith.
- 100 of these were clergymen and 80 were women.
- Most of these burnings took place in the south of the country, especially around London and the south eastern counties.
- The first to be burnt was John Rogers the author of Henry VIII's *Great English Bible*.
- Others included Bishop Hooper at Gloucester and the Oxford Martyrs, Latimer, Ridley and later Cranmer.
- Before Latimer was burnt at Oxford he turned round to Ridley and said, "**Be of good comfort. Play the man, Master Ridley, and we shall this day light such a candle by God's grace in England as I trust shall never be put out.**"
- Before he was burnt, Cranmer was beginning to change his mind and signed a recantation of his faith.
- However, as he was burning he thrust his hand into the burning flames as if to punish the hand.
- The bravery of the persecuted impressed the English people many of whom were as yet undecided about the right faith.
- Here, they saw people prepared to die for their faith.
- Mary's treatment of Protestants had the effect of strengthening the Protestant faith in England not weakening it.
- Mary's fanaticism was worrying the people.
- Religious tolerance was an unknown concept to Mary.
- Stories such as the one concerning the woman who gave birth before being burnt at the stake, and the fact that they threw her baby onto the fire to burn with her, did little for the Catholic revival in England.
- Even Simon Renard, the Spanish ambassador, wrote to Philip expressing his concern at the public reaction to the burnings.
- He asked Philip of Spain to intervene because Renard feared there was going to be a rebellion.
- A hatred of Mary, Philip and the Pope began to develop.

From 1554, everything started to go wrong for Mary culminating with the Loss of Calais to the French in 1558. Morale was dropping throughout the country.

#### **The Loss of Calais**

- In 1558, England became involved in a war with France and during the war England's last continental possession, the Port of Calais, was captured.
- The war was very unpopular in England.

- Although Calais was now of little importance and was expensive to maintain its loss was a blow to English pride and further damaged Mary's now rapidly dwindling popularity.
- The loss of Calais was to badly affect the English wool trade. This was not popular among England's merchants.

### **Death and Conclusion**

- Mary died later that year leaving no heir to succeed her.
- The throne passed to her Protestant sister Elizabeth.
- The intolerance and programme of persecution of Protestants under Mary's rule probably did more to damage the Catholic cause than good and strengthened the Protestant Reformation in England.
- On the day of her death (and coincidentally that of Cardinal Pole), the citizens of London celebrated and called the day '**Hope Wednesday**'.
- The policy of 'turn or burn' died with them.
- At Mary Tudor's funeral the Bishop of Winchester lamented that 'the wolves (Protestants) be coming out of Geneva and other places of Germany and have sent their books before, full of pestilent doctrines, blasphemy and heresy to infect the people.' Clearly, the Bishop of Winchester was no great supporter of Protestantism!

### **Does Mary Deserve the Title 'Bloody Mary'?**

She has earned the nickname 'Bloody Mary'. Whether she deserves this is debatable. Is there evidence or mitigating circumstances that could lessen the charge levelled against her?

- From the start of her reign Mary was ill and often lonely. She had had a difficult life. This combination made her very vulnerable.
- She appears to have disliked brutality. She pardoned 400 rebels after Wyatt's Rebellion.
- It has been suggested that Mary had written evidence of Elizabeth's involvement in Wyatt's rebellion, but that Mary destroyed this evidence, thus sparing her half-sister from execution. There was no love lost between the two sisters in the early days, but if this story is true it shows a very different side to Mary's nature.
- She allowed over 800 Protestant to emigrate to Europe.
- She was surrounded by Catholics like Cardinal Pole and Bishop Gardiner, who themselves had suffered under the Henry VIII and Edward VI. Did they want to get back at Protestants? The persecutions didn't start until 1555, when Pole arrived.
- Cardinal Pole believed that the only way a protestant could be saved was for them to be burnt at the stake. Again he appears to have influenced

Mary. Today we see the burnings as barbaric, but the Catholic Church at that time taught that burning was the only way to cleanse the soul of a heretic (religious criminal). If the soul was not cleansed then it could not enter heaven. So, in a rather odd way, the burnings were there to help heretics (Protestants) get into heaven.

- If Mary was so barbaric why did the bulk of persecutions not start until 1555? Surely someone with so much apparent resentment and hate would have acted earlier.
- In 1555, Mary thought that she was pregnant. This turned out to be false hope as it turned out to be a symptom of her illness (which may have been "Dropsy"- swellings of the abdomen caused by the body retaining water. This is a symptom of heart disease. Some medical historians suggest that the swelling was caused by cancer of the bowel)
- At the same time, Philip returned to Spain to rule his empire. Mary was desperately unhappy.
- At this stage her attitude to Protestants appears to have changed. Is it possible that Cardinal Pole persuaded Mary that her childless marriage was a punishment from God for allowing the Protestant heresy in England to go unpunished? She wouldn't have been the first Tudor monarch to worry about God's attitude towards a particular matter!
- Many of the accounts of the persecutions make it clear that the burnings took longer than expected. There is evidence to suggest that the faggots used were often damp and therefore burned slower. Also, the gunpowder placed around their necks was often damp and therefore death was delayed. A cynic might say this was deliberate.
- John Foxe in his 'Book of English Martyrs' claims that nearly 300 were burnt at the stake. Further investigation reveals that he occasionally counts the same person twice. Was this a mistake or deliberate? After all Foxe was a Protestant sympathiser and his book was excellent propaganda. It is thought that many of the martyrs who Foxe recorded were in fact Lollards who had been arrested, tried and sentenced to death during the reign of Edward VI. The backlog of executions had carried on into Mary Tudor's reign.
- Was Mary aware of the extent of the persecutions? Clearly she would have known about the high profile personalities such as Cranmer, but what about the other less important people? Was Mary kept in the dark by her ministers?
- At this time religious tolerance was not something that was common practice for any religious belief. Most religions believed that it was their duty to save souls by burning rather than allow someone to carry on committing heresy.

- Times were violent. In Henry VIII's reign hundreds had found themselves on the block, many of them without fair trials or on trumped up charges. To Mary's credit the Protestants were given a reasonably fair trial, offered the opportunity to recant their faith, (turn or burn) and in many cases avoided the stake. Cranmer was one exception, and ironically it was Cranmer who had persuaded Henry VIII not to execute Mary Tudor when she had at first refused to sign the Act of Supremacy.
- Only about 300 were burnt in England during her reign. In Holland over 1000 were being burnt every year. Were Charles V or Philip of Spain after him labelled 'Bloody'?
- There were now many wealthy landowners who has benefited greatly from the dissolution of the monasteries. They did not want the return of Catholicism, as it would possibly mean the restoration of the monasteries, which would in turn mean that the landowners might lose their lands back to the Church. This smacks of personal motivation rather than religious.
- For the great majority it was the marriage to Philip that turned people against Mary.
- Indeed it has been argued that Mary and her ministers would have got away with the burnings and the return of Catholicism in England had the marriage not gone ahead.
- Like so many characters in history who have been portrayed in a bad light, (King John, Richard III) when one looks closely at Mary Tudor's case there is certainly enough evidence to cast doubt on her acquired reputation.
- Mary's poor reputation also suffered further from her bad press (Fox's Book of Martyrs) and this clearly made it difficult for Catholicism to return to England with any significance.
- If she was aware of the true number of persecutions and they were motivated by her own feelings towards the Protestants, then the reputation would be deserved.
- Yes, she did suffer badly as a child and clearly and rightly felt enormous hatred towards the Protestants and in particular certain individuals (Cranmer in particular).
- However, if she was aware of this, it would be difficult to see the sheer extent of the persecutions as justifiable, particularly when one looks at the cross section of people burnt at the stake.
- In five years, Mary and her ministers had managed to turn Protestantism from being associated with church robbery, destruction and anarchy to being linked to virtue, honesty and loyal English resistance to a half foreign monarchy. Mary I's actions did more to advance the Protestant faith in England than her father's ever did!



Here endeth the section on Mary I.

## Year 8 Common Entrance Revision Guide.

### England at War with another country.

#### The Armada, 1588, and the Long War with Spain.

As you read the information within this section, you should make sure that you prepare revision notes on the following aspects of this topic:

- Why the Armada took place - Why did Phillip II send it? Why were England and Spain at war by 1588? Why was Spain such a threat to Elizabeth I? Why was England such a problem for Phillip II?
- Key events of the campaign from its planning stage to the Armada's final defeat- dates and names of individuals are important (this shows that you know the history) - what was Phillip's original plan of attack? How/why did it go wrong?
- Reasons why the Spanish lost the Armada campaign
- Reasons why the English were successful
- The consequences of the Armada for both England and Spain.



**BE STRONG!**

## Elizabeth I (1558-1603) the Spanish Armada (1588)

### The Causes of The Spanish Armada.

Philip had long been considering an invasion of England. However, the expense of mounting such an operation has made him hesitate.

### What factors influenced his decision?

- Philip of Spain wanted to gain **revenge for the execution** of the Roman Catholic, Mary Queen of Scots in 1587.
- Philip had been married to Mary Tudor and like her still wished to see England returned to the Roman Catholic faith and the Pope as the head of the Church in England. Spain was the strongest Catholic nation in Europe. The idea of a Roman **Catholic Crusade** against a protestant country appealed to Philip and in he fact gained support from the Pope Sixtus V to depose the "Heretic Elizabeth".
- All attempts to **assassinate Elizabeth had failed**. An invasion and forceful removal were the only remaining options.
- The activities of the English '**sea dogs**' Drake, Raleigh and Hawkins who were continually attacking Spanish ports and Spanish galleons, stealing their treasure had greatly angered the Spanish. Even, when they complained to Elizabeth, she did nothing, except knight Francis Drake!
- In 1585, Elizabeth helped the **Protestants in the Netherlands** when they revolted against their Spanish overlords led by the Duke of Parma. Firstly, she had supplied money and supplies and later 12,000 men under the command of the Earl of Leicester. With Elizabeth out of the way, Philip could crush the Dutch Protestants.
- The final straw was the incident in 1587, when Sir Francis Drake is said to have '**Singed the King of Spain's beard**'. Four English vessels calmly entered the harbour of Cadiz and fired on the Spanish fleet, sinking thirty ships and damaging many of the ships that were there awaiting the invasion of England. Considerable amounts of stores were also damaged.

### The Plan

- On 20th May, 1588, Philip's Armada of 132 ships carrying 8,000 sailors and 20,000 marines eventually sailed from Spain under the command of the Duke of Medina Sidonia. Santa Cruz, the original leader of the planned Armada, had died earlier in 1588
- The plan was to sail to Calais. There they would meet with the Duke of Parma

and his 30,000 soldiers.

- Parma had ordered the construction of flat-bottomed barges that were to be used to transport his troops across the channel in order to invade England. The Armada was to provide protection using their crescent formation with the barges in the centre.
- The Spanish soldiers would then land in Kent and march on London where they would be met by an army of 25,000 English Catholics. London would be captured.
- Elizabeth was to be removed from the throne and replaced with a Catholic monarch, originally, Mary Queen of Scots.
- It must be remembered that this was Philip's plan. Both Parma and Sidonia were unhappy with it, but their proposed plans had been turned down.

### **The Events of the Armada**

- On 20th May 1588, The Armada set sail but immediately ran into bad weather. Ropes broke, food went rotten or was lost. Water went bad. The ships had to return to port for repair and re-supply. They eventually left Corunna Harbour on the 12th July.
- On the 19th July, the Armada sailed past Plymouth and from there was pursued up the Channel by the English fleet under the command of Lord Howard of Effingham and Drake.
- The Armada covering an area of 11km, formed themselves into a crescent shape which made it difficult for the English to attack successfully.
- Fighting took place all week with additional English ships sailing out from harbours along the south coast and attacking the Spanish.
- On 27th July, the Armada put into Calais Harbour to await Parma's troops. On arrival they found that the troops had been delayed by the Dutch Navy who were blockading the coast and stopping Parma sailing his barges along to Calais. They had to find an alternative route overland and were not expected to arrive for another two weeks. Once the Spanish ships were inside the harbour, Drake sent in eight fire ships loaded with barrels of tar and gunpowder.
- This caused panic and confusion amongst the Spanish and many tried to leave the harbour, breaking their crescent shape and sailing straight into a volley of fire from the awaiting English fleet. The Battle of Gravelines then took place.
- With the Armada scattered, the Spanish were badly defeated and attempted to escape. 4 Spanish ships were sunk and many damaged. Fortunately for the Spanish, the English ran out of shot.
- Escape up the Channel was thought to be too risky as they would be picked off

by English ships. They began to sail up the east coast of England intending to sail

round the North of Scotland, down the west coast of Ireland and back to Spain.

- Bad weather hit then in the north of Scotland.
- The bad weather continued for many days and 23 ships were wrecked off the coast of Scotland and Ireland. It is believed that only 53 ships managed to return to Spain and only half the men.
- Many Spanish seaman who swum ashore were killed by the inhabitants.
- The English ships took shelter in English ports. They had lost less than 100 men and not one ship!

## **Why Did The Armada Fail?**

### **Leadership**

- The death of the Spanish Admiral Santa Cruz had left the Armada under the command of a seasick prone and very inexperienced seaman called Duke of Medina

Sidonia. He was a good soldier, but terrible sailor. He didn't even want the job.

- Compared to this the English leaders were men of great skill and experience in naval matters. Other Spanish officers were nobles and soldiers and not trained for sea.

### **Delays**

- Drake's attack on Cadiz in 1587, had caused damage to the Armada. Philip had ordered repairs of ships and equipment to be done very quickly. However, this meant that barrels used to keep water and food in were not properly finished and

the food and water went off. This was to cause a shortage later on. Disease followed.

### **Unsuitability of Port**

- Calais was not an ideal port to embark troops, but there was no alternative.
- The storms had prevented the Spanish from returning to Calais to pick up Parma's soldiers. These soldiers were vital if the invasion was going to succeed.

### **Philip's indecision**

- Philip had known about Parma's problems and delay, yet did nothing.

### **Design and Weapons**

- The Spanish fleet was built mainly for transporting and not fighting.
- The English ships were much smaller, more manoeuvrable and faster than the vast Spanish galleons.
- The size of the Spanish ships made them easy targets
- The English battery guns could fire longer distances.
- The English gunners could fire quicker and more accurately. Loaded easier
- The Spanish Ships had many of their guns on the lower decks. They could not

use them in the Channel as water entered the ship as the ship rolled.

### **Tactics**

- The tactics used by the Spanish were outdated. They relied on damaging an enemy ship with close quarter firing then sailing up to the ship, throwing on grappling hooks, pulling the ship towards them and then boarding the ship with large numbers of soldiers.
- The Spanish were not used to the rough seas they experienced. They were used to fighting in calmer waters.
- The English had altered and fine-tuned their tactics. They now relied on the use of long-range guns. Therefore, they never allowed the Spanish to get close enough to board them. The English sailors were better trained.

### **Bad Luck - Weather**

**Other Factors** - Elizabeth inspirational leader. English Catholics did not rebel.

### **What Were The Consequences of The Defeat of The Armada?**

- The threat of a Spanish invasion had now completely disappeared. Philip would never be able to contemplate another invasion after this disaster.
- England would remain a Protestant country, with the monarch the Head of the Church. Papal control was denied. The Counter-Reformation was now in decline in Europe.
- England was starting to become the greatest naval power in Europe. The expertise of her sailors and the tactics used were to revolutionise naval warfare.
- The Netherlands were encouraged by the failure of the Armada and felt more inclined to keep up their fight against their Spanish overlords.
- This was a heavy blow to Spain's pride. Spain had lost its status of "Super Power".

## Armada Timeline

**18 July 1588:** Armada sighted out at sea. A fast ship went back to pass on the news; a series of beacons were lit to pass the news as quickly as possible along the coast.

**19th July:** Armada sighted off Cornwall's coast. English fleet sailed out of Plymouth.

**20th July :** Armada got into its fighting formation. English fleet behind the Armada.

**21st July :** Each ship in Armada given its instructions; messenger sent to Parma in the Netherlands to arrange to collect the army. English still unable to attack properly.

**22nd-23rd July:** The Spanish tried to get close to English ships so that their soldiers could board them. The English ships were more able to manoeuvre and they relied on firing their cannons at the Spanish as they quickly sailed past.

**24th July:** The Spanish were doing well until the wind changed. The Armada was now heading towards the Isle of Wight so they turned back to the Channel. The English divided into 4 squadrons to try to attack the Spanish ships.

**25th July:** Medina-Sidonia sent messages to the Duke of Parma telling him to be ready to meet the Armada at Dunkirk and asking him to bring lots of cannon balls because they had used so much ammunition. The English ships sent messages to the government asking for gunpowder and ammunition as well as food. (but nothing was sent).

**26-27th July:** The Armada anchored at the port of Calais. A number of old ships were stuffed full of things that would burn and then they were set alight and sent into Calais. The Spanish began by pushing the fireships out of the way with long hooks but the guns that had been left on board began to explode and they panicked, all trying to get out of the way. Reinforcement ships had arrived to join the English and it was decided to act quickly before the Duke of Parma could arrive with his army. A number of old ships were stuffed full of things that would burn and then they were set alight and sent into Calais.

**28th-29th July:** The Spanish ships tried to regroup while the fighting continued but they were being blown along the coast towards the port of Gravelines in the Netherlands and the ships were almost wrecked on some sandbanks. The wind changed at the last moment and saved them. They also managed to get back into formation and agreed that if the wind changed, they would attack the English, but if the wind continued to blow them northwards, they would have to give up and sail around the coast of Scotland and then back to Spain. The English attacked fiercely, sailing close to the Spanish so that they didn't waste their ammunition. At this point it was not clear whether the Armada had been defeated and Hawkins continued to ask for more food and ammunition.

**30th July:** The wind continued to blow against the Armada, preventing them from sailing back to the English Channel. Eventually they began to sail up the coast to Scotland and around to go past Ireland to get back to Spain. Bad storms wrecked many ships on the coasts of Scotland and Ireland - only about half the ships managed to return to Spain. The English followed at a distance - they didn't really have enough ammunition to attack. Once it became clear the Spanish were leaving, the English returned to port.

## Elizabeth I and Her War with Spain

### Why did Elizabeth I quarrel with Spain?

Spain was the richest and most powerful European country in the Middle of the 16th Century. King Philip ruled not only Spain but also the Netherlands, Sicily, Naples, Milan, Sardinia. Spain also had colonies in Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America and Peru. In 1580, he became King of Portugal.

Compared to Spain, England was a small, poor and unimportant island. However, both countries had shared a friendship and a common hate and suspicion for France.

Henry VIII had married Catherine of Aragon. Philip had been married to Mary I, and after her death, Philip had proposed marriage to Elizabeth in 1554/5.

Why then did England and Spain go to war in 1585?

#### 1. Religious Differences

- **Philip II was a devout Catholic** and saw it his duty to protect the Catholic faith.
- The Reformation has divided Europe between the Protestant and Catholic faiths.
- Philip also felt threatened by the growth of Islamic religion and believed that a united Catholic Europe was the only way to stop the Islamic spread.
- Elizabeth was Protestant but was tolerant of other beliefs. However, there were many English Catholics who wanted her out of the way and replaced by Philip or Mary Queen of Scots.
- There were to a number of attempts to assassinate Elizabeth, but all failed and Mary was eventually executed in 1587 after being implicated in one of the plots. The Spanish ambassador was also found to have been involved in some way.
- There were also attempts by Irish Catholics supported by the Pope and Philip to undermine Elizabeth's position. In England, the Jesuits secretly trained priests.

- Meanwhile the Pope was doing his utmost to destabilise Elizabeth's position and in 1570 he issued a Papal Bull (Bulla = seal) which stated "Peers, subjects and People of the Kingdom are freed from their oath of loyalty to Elizabeth and all manner of duty and obedience. They shall not dare to obey her, or any other laws, directions or commands."
- Elizabeth retaliated by increasing the fine for failure to attend a Church of England service from 5p a week to £5 a week. The fine for going to a Roman Catholic service was £60. Some Catholic priests were tortured and some like Edmund Campion were executed.
- The Protestant faith was growing rapidly in **the Netherlands** and Philip wanted to stamp it out. Eighteen Thousand (18,000) Dutch Protestants had been arrested and over 1000 were burnt to death. English Protestants urged Elizabeth to help in the Netherlands, but she realised the danger on a head-on conflict with Spain. However, many of the Protestants who fled the Netherlands fled to safety in England. Elizabeth delayed her decision until in 1584, William the Silent, the Leader of the Dutch Protestant was assassinated. In 1585, she signed an alliance, agreed to become the protector of the Dutch Protestants and a small force was sent under the command of the Earl of Leicester. England and Spain were in a state of undeclared war. This was of limited success.

## 2. Trading Rivalry

The Spanish regarded themselves as 'Masters of the Seas'. In 1577-80, Francis Drake had sailed around the World. In his travels, he attacked Spanish ships and ports in the Caribbean and South America. Drake returned to England with his ships laden with gold and silver. Encouraged by Drake's success other English sea captains carried on after Drake's example. It did little to harm Philip's enormous wealth but it was a dent to his pride and reputation. Philip complained but Elizabeth said that she had no control over the English sea captains.

### Outline of the War 1585-1603

- The war in The Netherlands was indecisive and eventually Leicester fell out with the Protestant leaders and returned home in 1587.
- By 1585, Philip of Spain had seized all English ships in Spanish ports.
- Elizabeth gave backing to Drake's plan to seize Philip's treasure fleet as it

sailed from America to Spain, and having done that to plunder Spanish ports in the

Caribbean. Unfortunately, he missed the treasure ships but ransacked the important Cape Verde Islands and carried out a very successful raid in the West

Indies. Many Spanish galleons were sunk

• After the death of Mary Queen of Scots, Philip decided to invade England with an Armada. See separate notes.

### **The War at Sea 1589-1603**

• With the failure of the Armada Elizabeth thought it time to try her luck. A counter-Armada was sent to Spain to 1. Destroy the surviving Spanish ships. 2. To place Don Antonio on the Portuguese throne. 3. To pick up as much booty as possible.

• The Counter-Armada failed. a) an attack on Corunna failed and wasted valuable

time and munitions b) There was no support in Portugal c) Drake made a mess of attack on Lisbon.

• Philip changed his tactics. His treasure ships were now escorted to Spain by a convoy of warships. English pickings dropped.

• English expedition to the Caribbean in 1595 failed. Both Drake and Hawkins killed.

• In 1596, another expedition set off for Cadiz. Essex and Lord Howard attacked and ransacked a well-defended port, but the booty was limited much to Elizabeth's annoyance.

• In 1597, Elizabeth ordered another expedition to capture Philip's treasure ships in the Azores. As with Drake, Essex and Lord Howard missed the treasure ships and went home empty handed.

• Elizabeth now refused to finance any more ventures at sea.

### **War in the Netherlands 1587-1603**

• No one was really a match for the Duke of Parma. Only when he was side-tracked

with the Armada or fighting in France did the Dutch and their allies make any real advances.

• Parma died in 1592 and gradually the Spanish were driven out of Northern Netherlands.

### **War in France 1589-1603**

- In 1589, Henry III of France was assassinated. The Huguenot (Protestant) Henry of Navarre was crowned Henry IV. Philip refused to recognise him as King.
- In 1590, Philip invaded Brittany. Elizabeth sent a force under 'Black' John Norris and it stayed there for six years. She sent further forces to assist Henry.
- Henry changed religion and gained the support of the whole French people and the hated Spanish were driven out of France.

### **War in Ireland 1595-1603**

- Hugh O'Neil, Earl of Tyrone rebelled in 1595.
- Elizabeth sent forces over under John Norris. Norris died and was replaced by Sir Henry Bagenal who was then defeated at Yellow Forge. This was the only major defeat in Elizabeth's reign.
- Elizabeth sent over more forces under the command Essex.
- Tyrone delayed his actions waited for reinforcement from Philip II. However, Essex made a truce with Tyrone and then returned to England. Elizabeth had spent a lot of money and she was furious. Charles Blount was sent back to finish of the job. The Spanish garrison was captured and Tyrone fled to the mountains where he was eventually starved into submission late in 1603.
- Elizabeth was the first monarch to rule all Ireland. However it had cost lots of money and the country remained Catholic and very loyal to the Pope.
- The Irish were treated savagely, persecuted for their religion and had their lands confiscated. All this did was to create bitterness towards the new Protestant settlers brought in by Elizabeth and her successors. This is very much the cause of today's problems.

### **Success or Failure?**

- Elizabeth I carried out wars in Ireland, France and Netherlands despite having very little money.
- She maintained a well-equipped fleet.
- Soldiers were regularly paid.
- Ventures were paid for by investors who got a share of the booty along with Elizabeth I.
- She ignored pleas to always attack Spanish treasure ships, preferring to protect England.
- England was independent and could now be classed as a 'Sovereign Nation State'.

Her father's dream had been achieved.

- England's Anglican Church was secure from Catholic interference.
- Spain remained a major power, but Europe regarded both Elizabeth's and England's achievements little short of remarkable.



Here endeth the section on Elizabeth I and her war with Spain.

## Year 8 Common Entrance Revision Guide.

### Charles I: Government and Parliament/War and Rebellion.

As you read the information within this section, you should make sure that you prepare revision notes on the following aspects of this topic:

The Causes of the English Civil War.

- How did Charles I treat Parliament before 1641? Why did he do this?
- How did RELIGION contribute to the causes of the war?
- How did POLITICS contribute to the causes of the war?
- How did MONEY contribute to the causes of the war?
- What did Parliament demand in the Grand Remonstrance and Nineteen Propositions?
- Learn some detail....names, dates, statistics, events.
- Who is to blame for the outbreak of Civil War? Charles I or Parliament? What evidence will you use to back up your argument?

As an extra, you could learn about a battle. The battle of Marston Moor is in the Charles I pack in your pink file.



Be Strong!

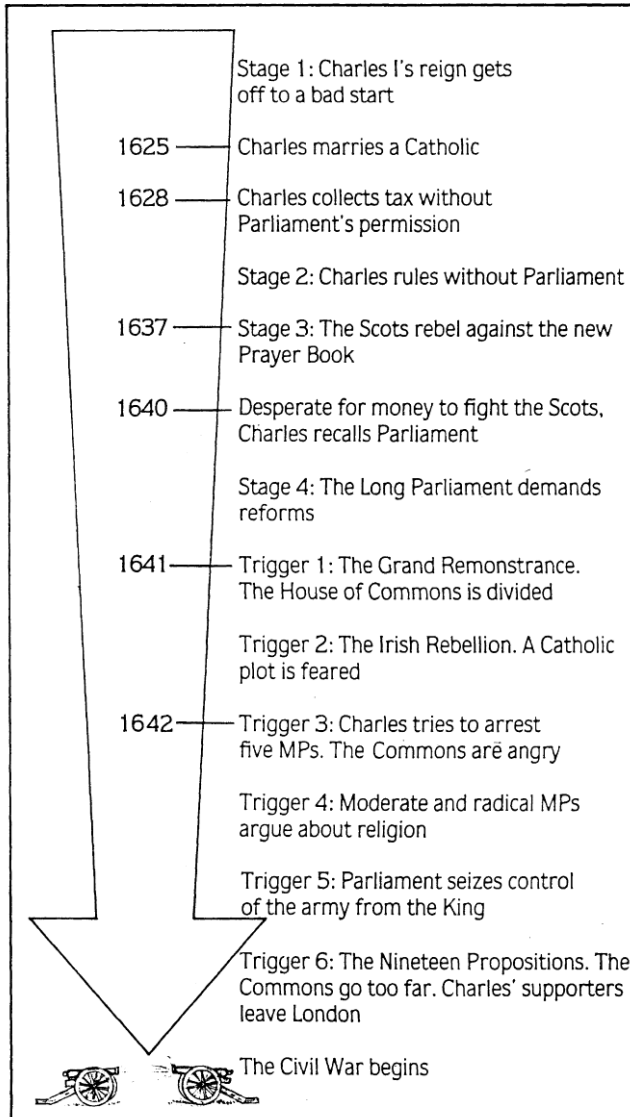
## Charles I and the causes of the English Civil War.

Shortly after his succession to the throne, The new King Charles I described himself as being "the happiest king in Christendom". He reigned over a country that was prosperous and content. Yet within twenty years of his accession to the throne, England was to tear itself apart in a bitter and bloody civil war that would claim the lives of one tenth of the population and leave thousands more starving, piecing together lives shattered by warfare. The war engulfed not only England, but all the "three kingdoms" (England, Scotland and Ireland).

How could a country so obviously at peace slide into a catastrophe that would make the King fight Parliament, Englishmen fight each other, Scots fight against themselves, Englishmen fight the Scots and Irishmen fight everyone? How could friends and families find themselves divided by what Sir William Waller, Parliament's Major-General in the West, described as;

*This war without an enemy.*

## A timeline of causes of the Civil War, 1625 – 1642.



This timeline shows some the important events that led to the Civil War. If we lay out the events like this, the impression is given that war looked to be inevitable.

This is not how people saw events at the time. The majority of people in England – even those most closely involved in the events that led to it - had no idea that a civil war was on its way until it had started!

## The background: King and Parliament.

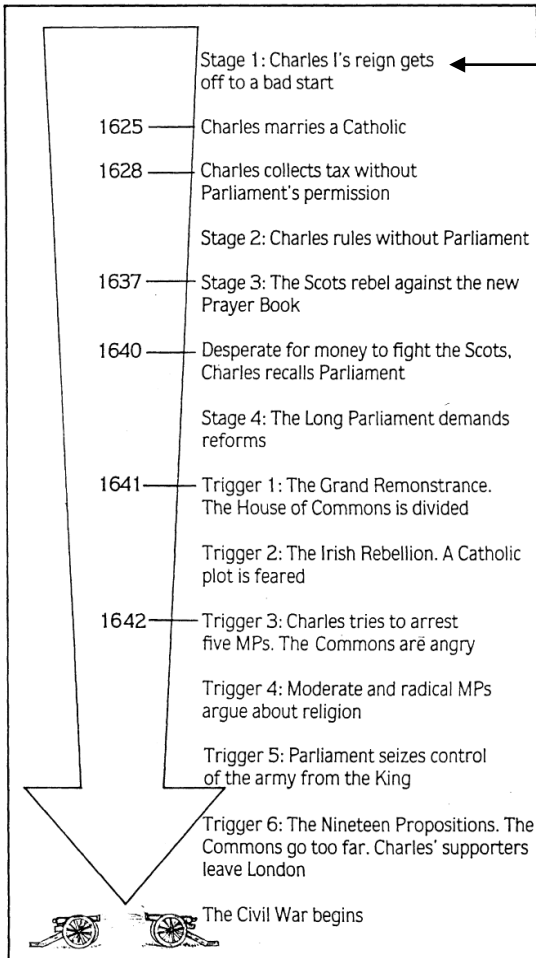
**B**y the seventeenth century the King of England could no longer rule the country by himself. He needed Parliament to help him.

Parliament contained the most powerful people in the country. In the House of Lords there were the nobles and bishops. In the House of Commons there were elected Members of Parliament (MPs) who were mostly rich landowners but also a few rich merchants.

New laws had to be passed by both King and Parliament, so the King needed Parliament on his side.

If the King needed money for emergencies, such as war, he had to ask Parliament to vote him a tax which people all around the country would have to pay. When the king asked Parliament for a tax, Parliament had the chance to demand that he took some notice of their ideas before they agreed to allow it.

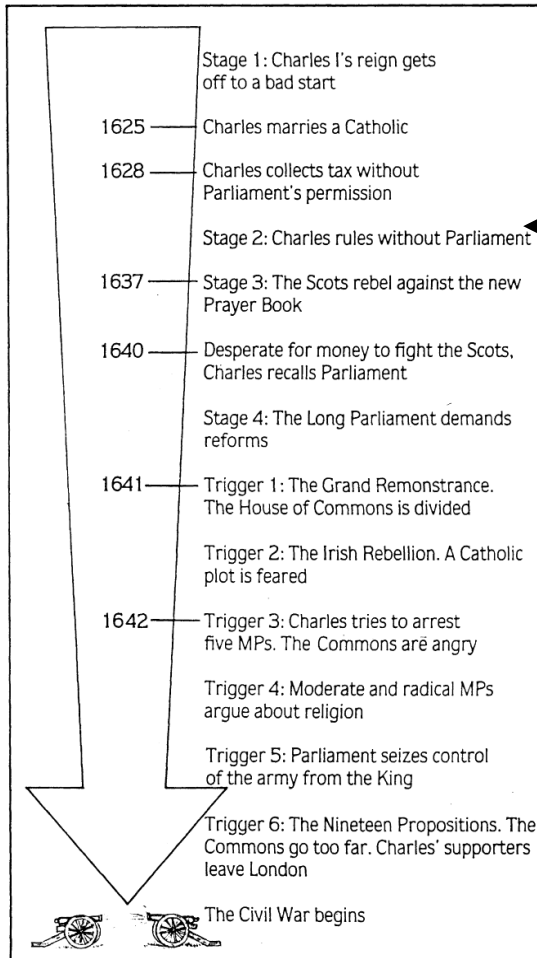
During the hundred years before the war began, the power of Parliament had been gradually growing and the people of England had become used to a system whereby when Parliament was called, their grievances would be heard.



**STAGE 1:**

**Charles I's reign gets off to a bad start.**

- In 1625 Charles married a French catholic Princess, Henrietta-Maria. This was unpopular with Parliament.
- Parliament also distrusted Charles' main adviser, the Duke of Buckingham. In 1626 Parliament tried to punish him for bungling a naval expedition against Spain. Charles sent two MPs to prison because of this.
- Then there was the question of money. When a King or Queen came to the throne, Parliament usually voted to give the monarch the income from customs duties for life. When Charles became King, Parliament voted to grant him the customs duties for only one year. They were trying to force him to call Parliament regularly. But Charles carried on collecting the customs duties anyway, without Parliament's permission.



**STAGE 2:**  
**Charles rules without Parliament.**  
 In 1629 Charles I dissolved (closed down) Parliament. He then ruled without Parliament for eleven years, until 1640. Some historians say that his policies in this period – particularly his taxes and religious reforms – were very unpopular and brought civil war very close. Other historians say that England was ruled and governed well during this period and most people were very happy. Depending on their points of view, historians refer to this time as either “The Eleven Years Tyranny” or “The Personal Rule of Charles I”.

## Money

**N**ow that Charles did not have a Parliament he had to find new ways of raising money.

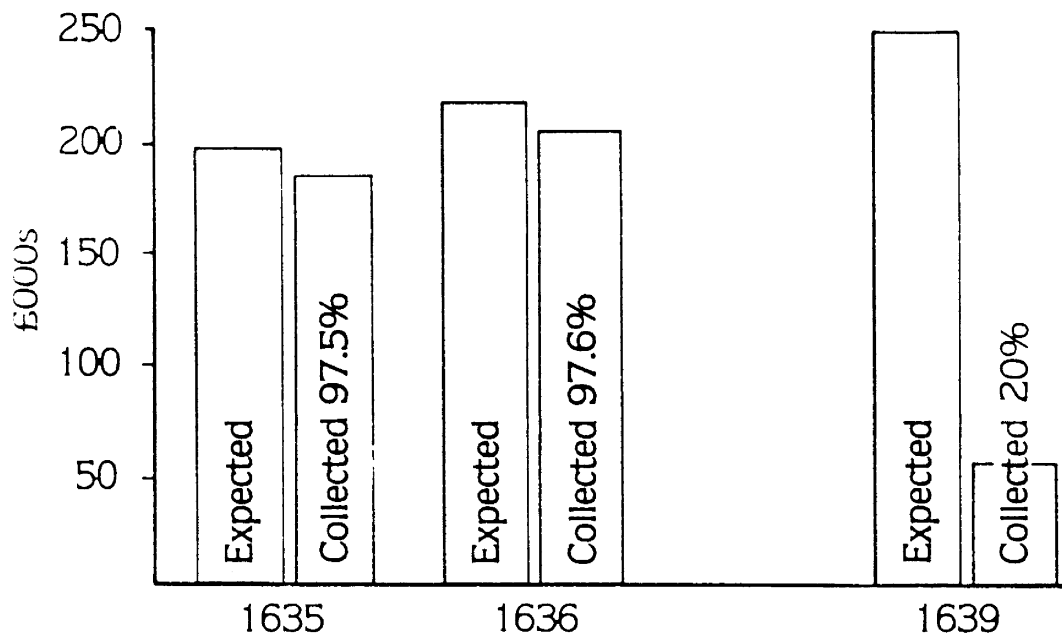
One method he used was “**Ship Money**”. This was a tax that was normally used to improve the Royal Navy in times of war. Only people who lived in coastal counties usually paid this tax. In 1634, Charles asked the coastal counties for Ship Money even though England was not at war and he had no real need to improve the Royal Navy. The following year, 1635, Ship Money was demanded from *all* English counties. It seemed that Charles intended this tax to be permanent, paid every year.

Technically, the collection of Ship Money and its extension to inland counties was illegal because it had not been agreed by Parliament (*remember...Charles was ruling without them in 1635 and 1636*).

When the tax was imposed on inland counties in 1636, the MP for Wendover, John Hampden, refused to pay. Hampden argued that the tax was illegal and that he would pay if the King recalled Parliament and they agreed to the tax being collected. Hampden was tried in court for his refusal to pay. The judges decided that the King *did* have the right to collect the tax and that Hampden should now pay or face a fine or imprisonment.

Was Hampden alone? Did others see the tax as illegal? Just how unpopular was the Ship Money tax?

One way of finding out if a tax is unpopular is to see whether people paid it or not.



**Source 1.** A graph to show the statistics for the collection of Ship Money in England in the years 1635, 1636 and 1639.

**Source 2.** From a news broadsheet written by a Cambridge don in October 1637. This broadsheet kept Englishmen living abroad up-to-date with the news and events back home.

*All things are calm. There appears no change either in court or affairs. Although taxes are great, people only privately breathe out a little discontent and then they lay down their purses, for I think the great tax of Ship Money is so greatly accepted.*

**Source 3.** From a recent history book written about the reign of Charles I.

*Ship money was a financial success. But the political cost was immense. Charles offended every class in the country - the Lords, the gentry and the merchants.*

Charles did not only use Ship Money as a means of raising funds. Like his father, he sold monopolies and he sold titles, although Charles made it compulsory to purchase a baronet's title if an individual earned over a certain amount of money each year! If anyone refused, then they could be fined first and then forced to buy the title later!

Charles also used other "illegal" taxes. When war with Scotland looked inevitable in 1638, rather than call Parliament to agree a tax to allow him to raise money to pay for an army to fight the Scots, Charles imposed an ancient tax called "**Coat and Conduct Money**" on the country. Now look back at the graph above. What happened the following year when Charles tried to collect another round of Ship Money?

## Religion.

**I**n the 1630s, Charles and his Archbishop of Canterbury, William Laud, began to make changes to the Church of England. They claimed that they were trying to improve it. They believed that people would feel closer to God if churches were decorated and beautiful. They disapproved of the clergy preaching sermons about the Bible. They re-introduced special clothing for the clergy, richly decorated alters and alter-cloths were encouraged, music was to be played in church again and in some churches incense was burned. Such things had not been seen in English churches since the end of the reign of Mary I.

These ideas upset many people, particularly Puritans. Many Protestants feared that Charles and Archbishop Laud were attempting to bring back the Catholic Church. Charles' wife was a Catholic and she had her own Catholic chapel and priest. Some people were concerned that Charles may have secretly been a Catholic.

Pamphlets began to be written attacking the Church, Laud and the King.



**Source 4.** *An illustration from a pamphlet showing King Charles (on the left) and his advisors attempting to cut down and attack the roots of a tree representing the Church of England.*

The King punished some of the authors of such pamphlets. In one famous case in 1637, William Prynne, a Puritan who was highly critical of the King and Laud, was tried in the Court of Star Chamber and sentenced to be branded on both cheeks with the letters "SL" (seditious libeller). He then had his ears hacked off with a knife.



*William Prynne  
With or without ears?*

**Source 5.** *An eyewitness account of the punishment of William Prynne.*

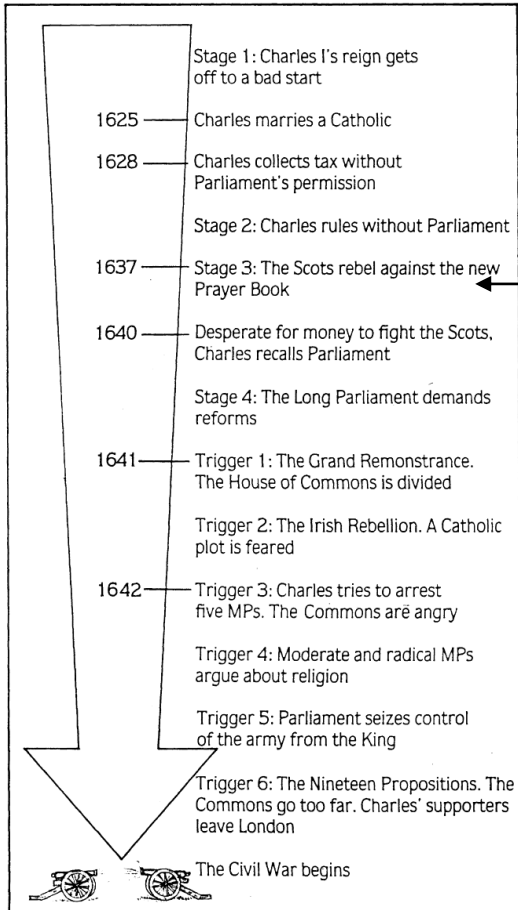
*Mr. Prynne's cheeks were seared with an iron made exceeding hot, after which the executioner cut off one of his ears and a piece of his cheek; then hacking the other ear almost off, left it hanging.*

Supporters of Prynne were quick to attack the King and Archbishop for their brutality. Source 6 is a famous contemporary woodcut that shows Laud (on the left wearing a distinctive Canterbury cap) making a meal of Puritans' ears.



Source 6.

William Laud wrote a new Prayer Book in 1637. This set down how church services should be carried out. The Prayer Book was considered by many in England to be far too catholic in nature to be acceptable. Those that protested met similar treatment to that meted out to William Prynne.



**STAGE 3:**  
**The Scots rebel against the new Prayer Book.**

Perhaps Charles could have continued to Rule without Parliament. But in 1637 he did something that many historians think was a terrible mistake.

Charles was King of both Scotland and England. Scotland was more radically Protestant than England. The Scots had never accepted the English Prayer Book. To them it was too close to Catholicism. They rejected any services that contained anything that looked like a catholic practice and they did not even want bishops! Charles was determined to spread Laud's reforms into Scotland. In 1637 he ordered that all Scottish churches should use the new English Prayer Book. He did not negotiate with the Scots. He simply ordered them to obey. The reaction of the congregation of the Cathedral of St. Giles, Edinburgh, when the Prayer Book was used for the first time can be seen in Source 7.



**Source 7.** *When the congregation at St. Giles heard the new Prayer Book for the first time, a woman called Jenny Geddes threw her stool and yelled "Don't thou say Mass in ma lug!" The rest of the people then shouted loudly to drown out the minister and then began to hurl things towards the pulpit. Afterwards, the trouble spilled out onto Edinburgh's streets and there was rioting.*

More riots followed. Scots nobility and gentry signed a declaration called "*The Solemn League and Covenant*" in which they promised to defend the Protestant Scottish Church against any attempt to change it. They pledged to do this by force of arms if necessary. Some began to arm themselves and their supporters. King Charles' response was to raise an army to fight the Scots in what became known as "The Bishops' Wars". Charles made the English pay the "Coat and Conduct Money" tax to pay for the army's uniforms, training and transport.

Coming on top of Ship Money, it produced a taxpayers strike in 1639-1640. The gentry refused to pay or collect the tax. In Wiltshire, soldiers broke open the county gaol to release those imprisoned for not paying Coat and Conduct Money.

Events now moved very quickly and King Charles got deeper into trouble as the months went by.

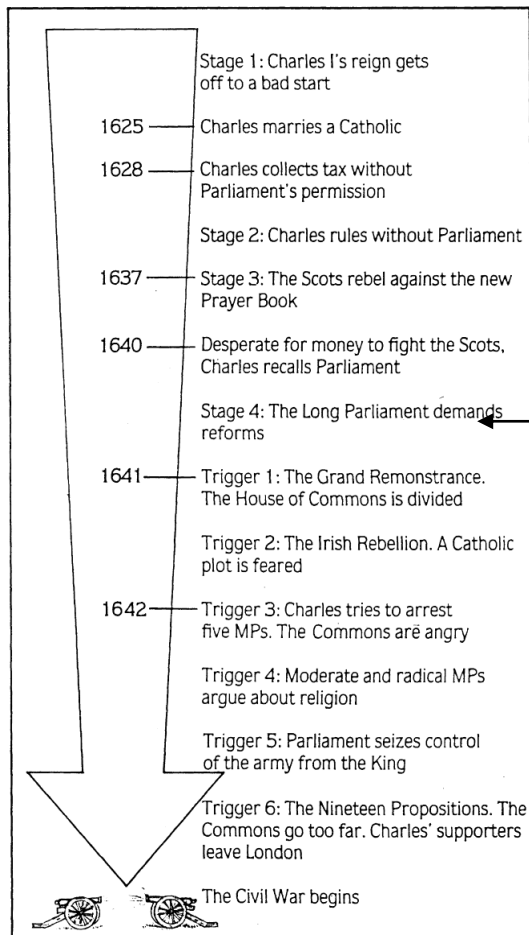
**SUMMER 1639:** The Earl of Strafford, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and a hated and feared adviser of the King, was recalled to Whitehall. In Ireland he had used brutal methods to crush Irish Catholic rebels the previous year. He commanded a large army in Ireland. Many feared that he might bring the army back to England and use it to silence those that were speaking out against the King. Strafford himself was very outspoken about how the King should act harshly against anyone who opposed the Royal will.

**APRIL 1640:** Desperate for money in the face of a tax payers strike, Charles called what became known as *The Short Parliament* because Charles dissolved it after only three weeks. Parliament refused to grant the King any money for the war in Scotland unless he stopped Laud's reforms to the Church and abolished the unpopular illegal taxes. The King refused and sent the MPs home.

**SUMMER 1640:** The English army in Scotland was defeated and a Scottish army invaded the North of England. Charles agreed to pay the Scots £850 a day until a peace settlement was reached. He promised to pay with money he did not have!

**NOVEMBER 1640:** Once again, desperate for money, Charles called Parliament again. This Parliament became known as *The Long Parliament* because it sat continuously for the next thirteen years. The King asked for taxes and again Parliament demanded an end to unpopular taxation, unpopular changes to the

Church and the removal of advisers, such as Strafford, from their positions of power.



#### **Stage 4. The Long Parliament demands reforms.**

Charles now appeared to be at the mercy of Parliament. Nearly all the MPs in the House of Commons were against him.

Yet even now, when Parliament met in November 1640, nobody thought that a civil war was close. The possibility was not in anyone's mind. In any case, the King had so little support that there was virtually no one to fight on his side. Almost everyone in Parliament agreed that the King needed to change his policies and methods of government.

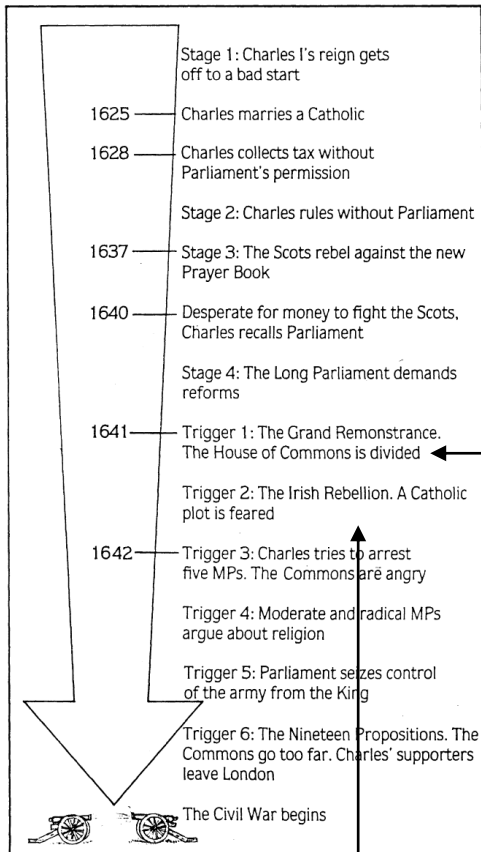
**Source 8.** A list of Parliament's demands made in November 1640:

- Charles' hated and mistrusted advisers should be punished
- Ministers should be appointed in their place. They will advise the King on sensible policies. Some of these Ministers should come from the Parliament.
- The King must get rid of courts such as the Court of Star Chamber, which allowed him to lock up his opponents.
- Regular meetings of Parliament must be held.
- There must be no further taxation of the people of England without Parliament's agreement.
- The changes to the Church of England made by Archbishop Laud should be immediately reversed.

**Source 9.** A list of concessions made by King Charles by the summer of 1641:

- The Triennial Act was passed. This meant that, by law, Parliament must meet at least once in every three years.
- The King agreed that the Long Parliament could not be dissolved without its agreement.
- Following the demands made by John Pym, MP for Tavistock in Devon, the acknowledged leader of opposition to the King in Parliament, the Earl of Strafford was arrested, charged with treason and executed in May 1641. Strafford himself had urged the King to agree to this as he feared an armed rebellion would take place if he did not.
- Other ministers, including Archbishop Laud were arrested and imprisoned.
- The Tunnage and Poundage Act was passed which meant that Charles could only collect customs duties for two more months.
- The Court of Star Chamber was abolished.
- Ship Money was made illegal.
- Some of Charles' critics within Parliament were appointed as his new advisers.

Most historians agree that in the summer of 1641 most Englishmen did not think that there would be a war. The most influential man that had such fears, the Earl of Strafford, had gone to the block. It seemed that both sides had sorted out most of their differences. Yet, in less than twelve months time, war had begun. Why did this happen? What was to trigger off the war?



**TRIGGER 1:**  
**November 1641.**  
**The Grand Remonstrance.**

This was a new list of demands made by the House of Commons under the leadership of John Pym. The demands included reducing the power of the bishops and that Charles should employ councillors and ministers whom Parliament would approve because they could be trusted.

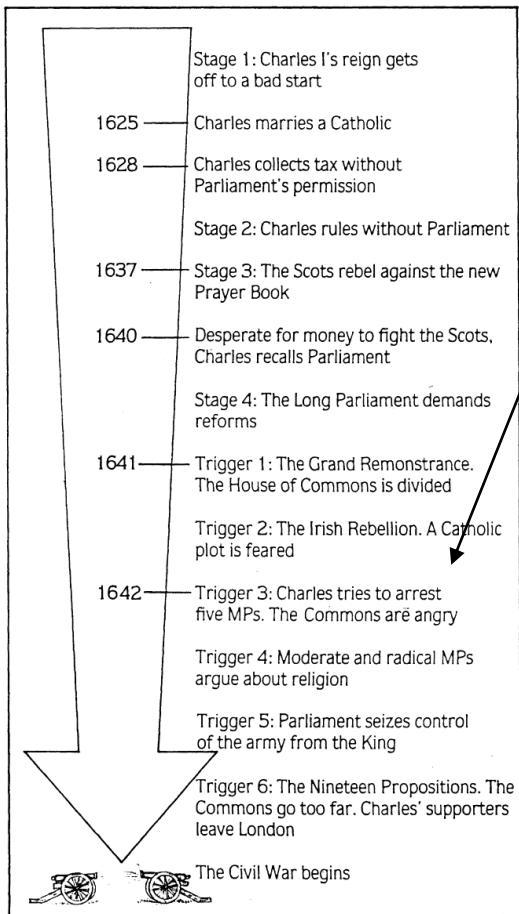
When the Remonstrance was put to the vote, the House of Commons was divided. 159 MPs voted in favour of the demands, 148 voted against. For the first time since 1640, the King had got some support in Parliament.

When some MPs called for the Remonstrance to be printed and sold to the public on the streets of London, some MPs became very worried. They did not wish to involve ordinary people in politics.

The King refused to accept these demands.

**TRIGGER 2:**  
**November 1641. An Irish Rebellion.**

On 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1641, news reached London of a rebellion in Ireland. Catholic rebels had risen up against their Protestant rulers when they got news that Strafford, their old enemy, had been executed. Wild rumours spread through London that 200,000 Protestants had been brutally murdered. Other rumours claimed that the King was behind the rebellion and this was the beginning of a plan to make England Catholic again!



**TRIGGER 3:**

**January 1642: Charles attempted to arrest five MPs.**

Many historians think that the civil war was brought closer by Charles himself. MPs did not trust him. They feared that he was planning to get rid of Parliament and rule by himself again. In January 1642, Charles did something that made MPs believe that their fears were justified.

Charles burst into the House of Commons with 400 soldiers and demanded that five leading MPs be handed over for arrest. He attempted to arrest John Pym, John Hampden, Denzil Holles, Sir Arthur Haselrig, and William Strode. Charles also issued a warrant for the arrest of the Earl of Manchester. Hampden, Holles, Haselrig and Manchester would all later become senior officers in Parliament's army.

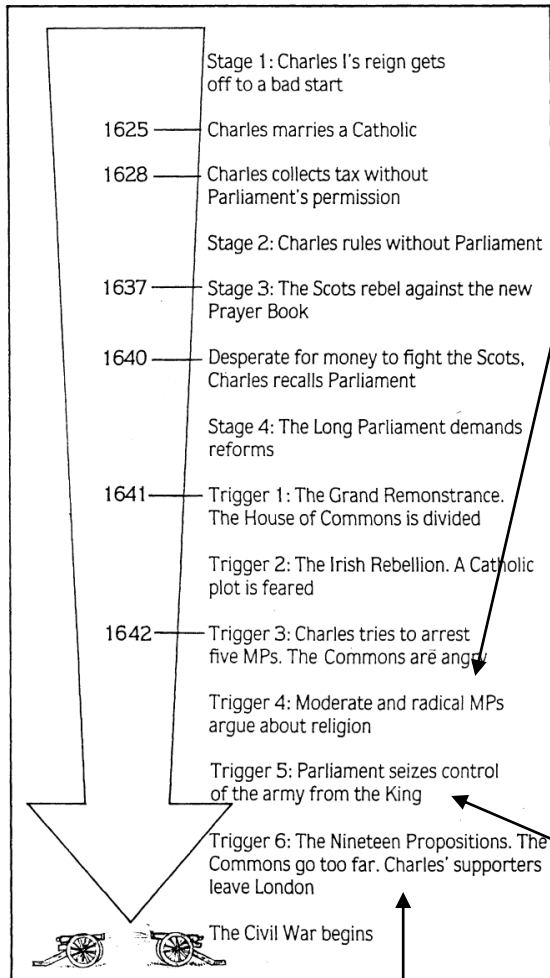
However, these MPs had all been warned and had fled by boat down the Thames. They were hidden by the City and Corporation of London and treated like heroes.



**Source 10.** *A Victorian painting of the moment King Charles asked Speaker Lenthall for the whereabouts of the five MPs he wished to arrest.*

**Source 11.** Written by John Rushworth, a clerk in the House of Commons, from shorthand notes he made at the time.

*The House was informed that His Majesty was coming with a guard of soldiers... When the King was looking about the House, he asked the speaker whether any of the five persons were in the House. To which the Speaker, falling to his knees answered, "Your Majesty, I have neither eyes to see nor tongue to speak in this place but as this House is pleased to direct me."*



**TRIGGER 4:**  
**February 1642: religious divisions.**

Whenever Parliament debated the question of religion there were always disagreements.

Some MPs wanted to get rid of Archbishop Laud's reforms. Others wanted to get rid of bishops. Some even wanted to abolish the Church of England.

In February 1642, Parliament voted to throw bishops out of the House of Lords. Moderate MPs became more and more worried and began to think about supporting the King. They believed that if the bishops and the Church of England were to be abolished, and then there would be religious chaos.

**TRIGGER 5:**  
**March 1642: arguments about the Army.**

England needed an army to fight the rebellion in Ireland. Who should control it? Kings had always controlled the army in the past but the King had left London a short time before and MPs were distrustful of a monarch that had marched soldiers against them in January. Would the King use this new army against Parliament? To prevent this, some MPs believed that Parliament should control the army. Charles disagreed. In March, Parliament simply took control of the army without the King's agreement.

**TRIGGER 6:**  
**1<sup>st</sup> June 1642: The Nineteen Propositions. The Commons goes too far.**

On 1st June, 1642, Parliament passed a set of demands known as the Nineteen Propositions. This finally divided the Commons into two sides: those that were for the King, and those that were for Parliament. The House of Commons broke up, those supporting the King left London.

**Source 12.** Some of the Nineteen Propositions.

- All affairs of State, including foreign policy, religion and finance, must be agreed by Parliament.
- All the King's ministers must be approved of by Parliament.
- Parliament must control the education of all the Royal children. The King's children cannot marry without Parliament's approval.
- Laws against Catholics must be enforced.
- The Church must be reformed as Parliament thinks fit.
- Parliament was to control the army.

MPs who supported the King felt that the Nineteen Propositions were the last straw. King Charles also felt the same. He claimed that such demands would make him a 'mere phantom of a king'. Charles' supporters left London.

In June 1642, Parliament ordered every English county to begin to raise troops and to organise an army. King Charles issued the same order. In many places around the country people were now being forced to make a choice they did not want to make - between their King and their Parliament.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1642, King Charles raised his standard at Nottingham Castle - a symbolic act to call all those who would fight for their King to gather together in the same place. There were now two armies in England. One commanded by the King, the other by Parliament.

## **The Civil War had begun.**



Here endeth the section on Charles I and the Causes of the English Civil War.

Year 8 Common Entrance Revision Guide.

**Government and Parliament: A Government Minister.  
Thomas Cromwell.  
Lord Chancellor to Henry VIII.**

As you read the information within this section, you should make sure that you prepare revision notes on the following aspects of this topic:

- Learn about this government minister.
- Learn about his life and career.
- What were his main achievements?
- What was his greatest failure?
- Why did he fall from power?
- How did he help the monarch achieve their aims?



**BE STRONG!**

*Thomas Cromwell was an English statesman and adviser to Henry VIII. He was responsible for writing the laws that allowed Henry VIII to gain his divorce from Catherine of Aragon, to break away from Rome and to carry out the Dissolution of the Monasteries.*

- Thomas Cromwell was born in Putney in southwest London in around 1485, the son of a blacksmith and brewer (although some say his father was a cloth worker).
- He spent much of his early adulthood in Europe as a soldier, accountant and merchant, but returned to England around 1512 and studied law.
- His time abroad would have been very good experience for his later work as Lord Chancellor. He was well travelled and had experience of commerce.
- He was also influenced by the writings of Martin Luther and he would have described himself as a "Church Reformer" (someone who wanted to change the church), an early name for Protestants.
- In 1520, in a career move, he became legal secretary for Cardinal Wolsey who was then Henry VIII's Lord Chancellor.
- When Cardinal Wolsey fell out of favour with the king for his failure to arrange a divorce from Catherine of Aragon, Cromwell survived and in 1523 he became a member of parliament.
- Cromwell earned the king's confidences and rose swiftly. By 1532 he was Henry VIII's Lord Chancellor.
- Between 1532 and 1536 Cromwell gained numerous offices. He was made Master of the King's Jewels (1532), Clerk of the Hanaper (1532), Chancellor of the Exchequer (1533), Principal Secretary (1534), Master of the Rolls (1534) and Lord Privy Seal (1536).
- **The speed of Cromwell's rise in power and influence can be seen by this short timeline of the jobs he held:**
  - 1531** - member of the privy council
  - 1532** - Master of Court of Wards and Master of Jewel House
  - 1533** - Lord Chancellor
  - 1534** - King's Secretary and Master of the Rolls
  - 1535** - Vicar-General
  - 1536** - Lord Privy Seal and Baron Cromwell of Oakham
  - 1537** - Knight of the Garter and Dean of Wells
  - 1539** - Lord Great Chamberlain
  - 1540** - created Earl of Essex
- He was a leading figure amongst those who suggested Henry make himself head of the English church to gain a divorce.

- Anne Boleyn was a great supporter of Cromwell but in 1536, he turned against her when it became clear that Henry VIII wanted rid of her. In the rough world of Tudor politics, friendships were lost in the struggle for prestige and survival. Cromwell turned to Mistress Jane Seymour and her relatively obscure family for support and patronage.
- Cromwell organised the dissolution of the monasteries with great efficiency and as a reward was created earl of Essex in 1540. Henry gained an average of an extra £140,000 per year from the sale of monastic property between 1536 and his death in 1547. This was perhaps Cromwell's greatest task and his greatest achievement for Henry VIII.
- Cromwell was deeply unpopular in England.
- Cromwell worked at a time when all government officials took payments or bribes. With the large number of official jobs he had, Cromwell gained great wealth. It was said that his income when Lord Chancellor was £12,000 a year (worth £4.5 million in 2010)
- In 1536, Catholics in the north of England rebelled in a series of uprisings known as the Pilgrimage of Grace and one of the targets of their anger was Thomas Cromwell.
- In 1540, Cromwell persuaded Henry VIII to agree to marry Anne of Cleves, in the hope of securing the support of the Protestant north German princes against the Catholic Holy Roman Emperor.
- The marriage was a disaster and the alliance failed. Henry withdrew his support from Cromwell, who was charged with treason.
- He was executed at the Tower of London on 28 July 1540.

### **Ability not Nobility:**

- Cromwell was given rapid advancement in Tudor government because he was ruthless in achieving what his royal master wanted. He did have exceptional ability and this was recognised by both Cardinal Wolsey and Henry VIII.
- Cromwell also promoted similar men to himself. Men with ability not necessarily men from the nobility.
- Cromwell created a system of departments to carry out the tasks of government instead of handing out jobs to English noblemen.
- Like other Tudor government officials in the sixteenth century, Cromwell took bribes and made a lot of money.
- Members of the nobility saw Cromwell's advancement and growing wealth as an insult and Cromwell became the target of their hostility.

- Led by the Dukes of Suffolk and Norfolk, the nobility turned on Cromwell following the disastrous marriage Anne of Cleves.
- Time had come to search for a convenient scapegoat - the person responsible for the disastrous union. Henry railed against his ambassadors who had so misled him with descriptions of Anne of Cleves' beauty - though, in truth, the ambassador's descriptions had been honest. It was soon alleged that Cromwell had kept them from the king, for fear of discouraging the union. Now, Cromwell was arrested on 10 June 1540, at 3pm on a Saturday, while at a Privy Council meeting. This was a full month before the marriage was nullified. Henry and Cromwell's enemies were in the midst of finding scapegoats for the marriage, while not yet assured of its outcome. Henry, in a fit of temper and pique, complained bitterly that Cromwell had betrayed him while trying to further his own influence; the nobility were only too happy to encourage such thoughts. They urged Henry to arrest Cromwell and teach the upstart his final lesson - namely, that it does not pay to mislead a king. After hearing anti-Cromwell gossip for years, Henry finally gave in and ordered Cromwell's arrest.
- Cromwell was not accused of misleading Henry on matters of policy, he was not held responsible for the disastrous marriage, and he was not charged with leading England into an unwanted Protestant alliance. Instead, he was charged with selling export licenses illegally, granting passports and commissions without royal knowledge, freeing people suspected of treason and - of course - that he, base-born and ignoble, had usurped and deliberately misused royal power.
- Most significantly, however, he was charged with heresy (crimes against the catholic faith) and this swayed Henry decisively. The Duke of Norfolk, allied with the Catholic bishops Cromwell had forced from power, engineered this charge.
- Cromwell, they charged, had encouraged and spread protestant literature, allowed protestants to preach, released them from prison, and allied himself against their enemies. Significantly, it was reported that in March 1539 Cromwell said that, even if Henry turned from Protestantism, 'yet I would not turn, and if the king did turn, and all his people, I would fight in this field in mine own person, with my sword in my hand *against him* and all other'. That was treason. Cromwell went to the block.
- In truth, Henry was a victim as well - of a determined group of nobles and clerics, led by Norfolk, who hated Cromwell and carried the king along on their path of destruction. Events were rapid and deliberately confused. By the time Henry realized what had happened, it was too late. He could only bemoan his loss, while never understanding exactly why it happened.

Sample CE essay questions by Subject: Making of UK 1485 - 1750.

### War And Rebellion

Choose any one rebellion, such as the Pilgrimage of Grace of 1536, the Northern rebellion of 1596, the Monmouth Rebellion of 1683, the Jacobite rebellions of 1715 or 1745, or another within this time period that you may have studied.

- a) Describe the main events of the rebellion. (15)
- b) Explain why the rebellion failed. (10)

*Choose any one failed rebellion, such as the Pilgrimage of Grace of 1536, the Northern rebellion of 1596, the Monmouth Rebellion of 1683, the Jacobite rebellions of 1715 or 1745, or another within this time period that you may have studied.*

- a) Describe the main aims of the rebellion. (15)*
- b) Explain why the rebellion failed. (10)*

Choose one military or naval commander, such as Robert Dudley (Earl of Leicester), Sir Francis Drake, Oliver Cromwell, Prince Rupert, the Duke of Marlborough, the Duke of Cumberland or another from this time period.

- a) Describe the main features of this commander's life and career. (15)
- b) In which ways do you think that this commander's career affected the history of England or the United Kingdom? (10)

*Choose a monarch, such as Henry VIII, Mary I, Elizabeth I, or William III or any other from the period you have studied.*

- a) Describe the main wars this monarch fought against other countries. (15)*
- b) What were the effects of these wars on England or the United Kingdom. (10)*

Choose a plot such as the Lady Jane Grey Plot (1553), the Ridolfi Plot (1571), the Babington Plot (1586) or the Gunpowder Plot (1605) or any other you have studied.

- a) Describe the main features of the plot. (15)
- b) What were the main effects of the plot. (10)

*Choose ONE battle, such as Flodden Field, Naseby, Culloden or another from the period you have studied.*

- a) Describe the main events of that battle. (15)*

*b) In which ways do you think the outcome of that battle, affected the history of England or the United Kingdom. (10)*

Choose a monarch from the period you have studied such as Henry VII, Mary I, Charles I, James II or George I or any other.

- a) Describe the main features of the rebellions of this monarchs reign. (15)
- b) Why do you think that the rebellions of this monarch's reign failed or succeeded. (10)

*Choose any rebel leader, such as Thomas Wyatt, the Duke of Monmouth, the Old Pretender, the Young Pretender, or another you have studied.*

- a) *Describe the main reasons why the leader rebelled.(15)*
- b) *Explain how much of a threat the rebellion was to the government of the time. (10)*

Choose from this period a major English or British war with another country, such as Henry VIII's war with France, Elizabeth I's war with Spain, the Dutch Wars of the Commonwealth or Charles II, William III's wars against France or any other you have studied.

- a) Describe the main events of the war. (15)
- b) In which ways do you think the result of this war affected the history of England or the United Kingdom. (10)

*From this period choose a major English or British victory in a war against France or Spain.*

- a) *Describe the main features of the battle. (15)*
- b) *In which ways do you think victory affected the history of England or the United Kingdom? (15)*

### **Government and Parliament**

Choose a royal minister such as Cardinal Wolsey, Thomas Cromwell, William Cecil (Lord Burghley), the Duke of Buckingham, Robert Walpole or another from this time period.

- a) Describe the main features of this minister's life and career. (20)
- b) What do you think was this person's greatest success or failure? Explain your answer. (10)

*Choose a royal minister such as Cardinal Wolsey, Thomas Cromwell, William Cecil (Lord Burghley), the Duke of Buckingham, Robert Walpole or another from this time period.*

- a) Describe the event or action for which he is best remembered. (20)*
- b) Explain whether this minister was a success or a failure. (10)*

Choose a royal minister such as Cardinal Wolsey, Thomas Cromwell, or the Duke of Buckingham, or another from this time period.

- a) Describe how this minister tried to carry out the monarch's wishes. (20)
- b) How successful was the minister in running the government for the monarch? (10)

*Choose an important Act of Parliament, such as the Act of Supremacy under Henry VIII, the Bill of Rights 1689, the Act of Union 1707 or another Act from this time period.*

- a) Describe the main reasons for the passing of the Act of Parliament. (20)*
- b) How did the passing of this Act of Parliament affect the history of England or the United Kingdom. (10)*

Choose a monarch that disagreed with Parliament such as Elizabeth I, James I, Charles I or any other monarch in this period that you have studied.

- a) Describe the main events of this disagreement. (20)
- b) Explain the importance of the consequences of the disagreement. (10)

*Choose a monarch, such as Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, Charles I or James II from the time period you have studied.*

- a) Describe the relations between this monarch and his or her Parliaments. (20)*
- b) How did this relationship (good or bad) affect the history of England or the United Kingdom. (10)*

Choose an event during this time which caused Parliament's power to grow, such as Henry VIII's changes to the church, the Civil Wars, the Glorious Revolution or another event you have studied.

- a) Describe the actions taken by Parliament. (20)
- b) How did this lead to the growing power of Parliament? (10)

*Choose from this period an Act of Parliament, such as the 1487 Star Chamber Act, the 1534 Act of Supremacy, the 1567 Poor Law, the 1628 Petition of Right, one of the Clarendon Code, the Septennial Act of 1715 or any other you have studied.*

- a) Describe the main reasons why this Act was passed. (20)*
- b) How do you think that this Act of Parliament changed English history? Explain your answer. (10)*

From the time period you have studied choose a group which wanted reform of Parliament such as the Puritans, Levellers or the Whigs.

- a) Describe the main reasons why the group wanted reform. (20)*
- b) How successful was the group in getting reforms carried out. (10)*

## **Religion**

*Choose a monarch from the period you have studied such as Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I, Elizabeth I, James I, Charles I, James II or any other monarch.*

- a) Describe the main events concerning religion in the reign of this monarch. (20)*
- b) Explain what you think was the single most important event affecting religion in the reign of this monarch. (10)*

Choose an important religious leader or figure, such as Cardinal Wolsey, Archbishop Cranmer, Archbishop Laud, John Bunyan or another from this time period.

- a) Describe the main features of this religious leader's life and career. (20)*
- b) Explain what you think was this person's greatest success or failure. (10)*

*Choose an important event in England's development of anti-catholic feeling, such as Henry VIII's Reformation of the Church, Mary Tudor's reign, Catholic rebellions during Elizabeth I's reign, the Glorious Revolution or any other you have studied.*

- a) Describe what happened during this event. (20)*
- b) Explain how this caused anti-catholic feelings to grow. (10)*

Choose an important religious leader or figure, such as cardinal Wolsey, Archbishop Cranmer, Archbishop Laud, John Bunyan or another from this time period.

- a) Describe the religious reforms or changes he or she wanted to make. (20)
- b) Explain how successful he or she was in achieving his or her goals. (10)

*Choose an important religious leader or figure, such as cardinal Wolsey, Archbishop Cranmer, Archbishop Laud, John Bunyan or another from this time period.*

- a) Describe the main aims of that religious leader. (20)*
- b) How successful was that religious leader in his or her aims? Explain your answer. (10)*

Choose an important religious leader or figure, such as cardinal Wolsey, Archbishop Cranmer, Archbishop Laud, John Bunyan or another from this time period.

- a) Describe the greatest successes and failures of that religious leader's life. (20)
- b) Explain why that person is remembered. (10)

*Choose a monarch from the period who oversaw major religious change, such as Henry VIII, Mary I, Charles I, James II or any other you have studied.*

- a) Describe the religious changes attempted during the reign of this monarch. (20)*
- b) How successful were these religious changes?(10)*

Choose a religious movement which started in this period, such as Puritans, Baptists, Quakers or any other you have studied.

- a) Describe what caused the movement to start. (20)
- b) How did this movement affect English or British life. (10)

*Choose from the period you have studied a monarch, such as Henry VIII, Mary I, Elizabeth I, James I, Charles I, Charles II or James II.*

- a) Describe the religious opinions of and the religious influences on that monarch. (20)*
- b) Explain the most important consequence of that monarch's beliefs and actions. (10)*

Choose from the period you have studied a monarch, such as Henry VIII, Mary I, Elizabeth I, James I, Charles I, Charles II or James II or any other you have studied.

- a) Describe the most important religious change which occurred in the reign of that monarch. (20)
- b) How did that change affect the future of religion in England or Britain. (10)

### **Social History**

- a) *Describe how the Great Fire of London began and why it destroyed so much of London in 1666. (20)*
- b) *Explain the main effects of the fire on London's later development. (10)*

- a) Describe the main features of the Elizabethan Poor Law. (20)
- b) What were the effects of the Elizabethan Poor Law on the English people? (10)

- a) *Describe the main features of medicine in either the sixteenth or the seventeenth centuries. (20)*
- b) *How effective were doctors in the period you have chosen? (10)*

Choose a famous English sailor from the period you have covered, such as Francis Drake or Walter Raleigh, or any other.

- a) Describe the main features of the sailor's career. (20)
- b) How did the life and work of this sailor benefit England or the United Kingdom. (10)

- a) *Describe the start of the Great Plague of London and say why it killed so many in London in 1665. (20)*
- b) *What were the effects of the plague on London (10)*

- a) Describe how the Great Fire of London began and spread so rapidly in 1666. (20)
- b) What were the effects of the Fire on the life of the population of London?(10)

- a) *What were the main developments in travel by sea in the period you have covered? (20)*
- b) *How did these developments help the growth of England as a power. (10)*

- a) Describe a major agricultural or industrial change which affected England in this period. (20)
- b) What were the effects of the agricultural or industrial change on England or Britain's development. (10)

- a) *Describe the conditions of poor people who lived in towns in the period you have studied. (20)*
- b) *Explain how the government tried to help poor townspeople in this period. (10)*

- a) Describe the conditions of poor people in the period you have studied. (20)
- b) How did the government try to help poor people in this period? (10)

- a) *Describe a major disaster which affected England in this period, such as the Plague of London, the Great Fire of London or any other you have studied. (20)*
- b) *What were the effects of the disaster on England's or Britain's development? (10)*

### **General Topics**

- a) Describe the main features of any famous historical building from the period you have studied. (20)
- b) Explain why you think it is important for historians to study changes in architecture. (10)

- a) *Describe the main features of the lives of women in either the sixteenth century or the seventeenth century or the first half of the eighteenth century. (20)*
- b) *What do you think was the most important difference in women's lives in the period that you have studied compared with those of women today. (10)*

- a) Describe the main events of the life of a famous woman during this time period such as Bess of Hardwick, Katherine of Aragon, Nell Gwyn or any other you have studied. (20)
- b) How difficult was it for her to live in a man's world? (10)

- a) *Describe the main features of any famous town from the period that you have covered. (20)*
- b) *Explain why you think it is important for historians to study the changes in town and city life. (10)*

Choose a European war which affected England or Britain at this time, such as the Thirty Years' War, the Dutch Wars, the War of Spanish Succession or any other you have studied.

- a) Describe the ways in which England or Britain were involved. (20)
- b) Explain how the results of the conflict affected England or Britain. (10)

*Choose an important artist who worked in England or Britain in the sixteenth or seventeenth centuries or the first half of the eighteenth century, such as Hans Holbein, Rubens, Van Dyck or any other you have studied.*

- a) *Describe his work. (20)*
- b) *How much influence did he have on his time period? (10)*

- a) Describe the main achievements of any musician from the period you have studied. (20)
- b) Explain why you think it is important for historians to study the history of music and musical instruments across history. (10)

- a) *Describe the main features of health and medicine in the period you have studied. (20)*
- b) *What do you think was the most important difference in health matters in the British Isles in the period you have studied compared with today? Explain your answer. (10)*

- a) Describe the main features of any famous invention from this period. (20)
- b) Explain why you think it is important for historians to study changes in science across history. (10)

- a) *Describe the main features of the lives of children in the sixteenth century, the seventeenth century or the beginning of the eighteenth century. (20)*
- b) *In this period what do you think was the most important difference in children's lives in the British Isles, compared with those of children today. (10)*



**Here endeth the MASKED HISTORIAN'S ULTIMATE COMMON ENTRANCE  
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