

Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509 – 1540

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Home revision question and answer booklet

The purpose of this booklet is to support your child with their revision for their GCSE examination.

This booklet is a summary of all the content that your child needs to know and will assist them with regards to preparation for the subject knowledge that they need to apply in the examination. Although the booklet is by no means a guarantee, it will make a significant contribution to their success.

This booklet should be used as a question and answer test booklet so that you can help coach your child into answering content correctly with accuracy. Ideally questions should be worked through at random and use a priority red, amber, green system to prioritise areas to work on.

This booklet is the **minimum**/basic amount of work that your child needs to complete based on the knowledge that they need to have.

I hope that you enjoy using this booklet to help check your child's understanding of the topics that they have completed. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact a link within the faculty using the following email address: humanities-faculty@whickhamschool.org

Many thanks and good luck from the Humanities faculty.

Topic 1: Henry and Wolsey, 1509 - 29

1.1 Young Henry and England in 1509

What were Henry and England like in 1509?

- Gained the throne in 1509 aged 18
- Inherited a stable and wealthy country
- The throne was secure as there were no rival contenders but he needed an heir and a spare as his brother dying is what made him king
- England was a Catholic country which acknowledge the authority of the pope. It was the pope, not the king, who controlled the church and the Church was very powerful

What was Henry's character and what he was like?

- He was very stubborn and had a fiery temper
- He was strong and athletic. He hunted, practised archery, wrestling and jousting
- He spoke French, Spanish and Latin
- He was a musician. He sang, played many instruments and composed
- He was a good dancer

What was Tudor Society like?

- Was very rigid and based on inequality and social hierarchy where everyone knew their place
- There was a social hierarchy in the countryside and in towns
- Many people believed that God had given them their place in society and they had to respect those above them and care for those below them
- This meant there were few opportunities for people to improve their position eg. they couldn't become a lawyer if they were a skilled craftsman. Many people accepted this and made no attempts to better themselves
- London was the most important city in the UK as it was the biggest city and a growing centre of trade

Who was in Henry's government and what was their role?

- The King
- Privy Chamber- the king's closest friends

The Royal Household – nobles and servants who advised the king

The Royal Council – nobles and churchmen who helped govern

The court – nobles who entertained and advised the king

Parliament – passed laws proposed by the king

Justices of the Peace – nobility who kept law and order in different areas of the country

What was Henry's approach government?

- Used the Royal Council and the Privy Chamber to help him make decisions
- Increasingly made use of one personal adviser or chief minister
- Delegated (gave) power as routine tasks bored him – increasing the power of his key advisers

Was Henry's attitude to being king?

He believed

- ...he had been appointment by God – this was known as the divine right of kings.
- ...believed people had a duty to obey him.
- ...the monarchy and the court were at the centre of life in Medieval England.
- ...in what he thought and said, and it was difficult to convince him otherwise.

What were Henry's aims as a king?

- To create a government where the king decided the policy and his ministers carried it out
- To achieve victory in battles abroad and to become a major force in European affairs
- To win back lands from France
- To create a dazzling royal court and to enhance his prestige
- To be an effective monarch, governing well and maintaining law and order

Give some of Henry's strengths and weaknesses

Strengths: he was popular & handsome; had a team of experienced advisers; England was stable; his wife had strong connections to Spain (a powerful country) and England was a stable country not in debt.

Weaknesses: he was naïve and had little experience of government, he had an idealistic view of kingship and was disinterested in government. He was also overconfident and egotistical.

1.2 Rise of Wolsey and Domestic policies

Wolsey's rise to power

What was Wolsey's background?

- Was not a member of nobility
- Slowly worked his way into power, especially as Lord Chancellor

Give some traits of Wolsey's character

- Extremely ambitious
- Very intelligent
- Charming and persuasive which enabled him to build working relationships with the king and other rulers
- Was happy to carry out the king's wishes
- Was ruthless with anyone who threatened him or government
- Known as 'Alter Rex' because of his great power influence

Wolsey's domestic reforms (domestic reforms = policies in the country):

What did Wolsey do with Justice?

- As Lord Chancellor tried to create a fairer system where the rich weren't above the law
- Strengthened the star chamber – a royal court that decided justice for the king
- Encouraged the poor to bring cases to court
- Increased the court's work rate
- Supported cases of the poor against the rich
- Oversaw cases himself

What happened with Enclosures?

- This was where landowners were unfairly fencing off land used to graze sheep
- Wolsey set up an enquiry in 1517 and this resulted in 260. However, it was unsuccessful as enclosures continued to take place

What did Wolsey do with Finance?

- Need to raise money for Henry's wars. He used old and new methods of taxation

- Fifteenths and tenths – on movable goods
- Crown lands – where he recovered land from the nobility for the crown's income. Raised £1,000 in 1515 alone
- Subsidy – a tax on incomes. Was progressive and fair, the more you earned the more you paid
- Forced loans – major landowners were forced twice to lend money to government – 1522 and 1523
- Clerical taxation – this was a 'voluntary' gift from the Church to the king, They had to pay it or face consequences

What were the Eltham Ordinances, 1526 and what did Wolsey do with them?

- They were a list of rules to make court better – was 79 chapters long
- Included cutting spending, laying off sick or unneeded servants, reducing the amount of money paid to people for expenses, banning dogs

What was Amicable Grant, 1525 and what happened with it?

- A tax for people to pay for the war with France. It was passed without being approved by parliament but by royal decree and people only had 10 weeks to pay it
- People refused to pay and in Lavenham, Suffolk a riot broke out.
- It led to the tax being abandoned and Henry postponing his campaign against France
- Also humiliated Wolsey and started to call his position into power, especially in Henry's eyes

1.3 Wolsey's foreign policy

Who were Henry's European rivals?

- Francis I of France
- Charles V of the Holy Roman Empire who also ruled Spain [both of these together were known as the Habsburg Empire]

What were Wolsey's aims *often contradictory*?

- To create better relationships with France and the Habsburg Empire. To prevent England being isolated and vulnerable diplomatically
- To play Europe's biggest powers off against each other to England's advantage
- To provide opportunities for Henry to gain military glory, enhancing his prestige and reputation but making sure it was not too expensive
- To allow Henry to be seen as a peacemaker which would enhance his prestige without long and expensive wars

What happened in each event?

- Battle of Spurs 1514 – final battle in first war of France which Henry Won
- Treaty of London, 1518 – A pact of 20 European powers and the pope to keep peace. Brought prestige to Henry and Wolsey but only lasted 3 years
- Field of the Cloth of Gold, 1520 – a splendid showcase of meetings between Henry and Francis and impressive display. Though, nothing was decided at the meeting
- War with France 1522 – 25 - In 1521 Wolsey tried to create a peace deal. He failed.
 - England had to choose who to ally with – Francis I of France or Charles V of the Habsburg Empire. Henry chose Charles as Europe's most powerful leader and declared war on France in 1522. To start with England was not that involved with the war, but slowly that increased. England suffered setbacks and difficulties along the way – this lessened enthusiasm for the war. In 1525 though Charles fought in the Battle of Pavia and defeated Francis and took him prisoner
 - Henry and Wolsey hoped to gain France land out of the victory, but Charles had other ideas. He released Francis and made him promise never to seek revenge. Wolsey and Henry were left having spent £430,000 and gained no land. Many think they were used by Charles
- The Treaty of More, 1525 - After Charles betrayed England in 1525 Wolsey set up this treaty with Francis and France. The countries agreed peace and Henry gave up his claims on French land in return for an annual payment
- The Treaty of Westminster, 1526 - In 1526 Wolsey set up the League of Cognac which allied France, the pope, Venice & Florence with the aim of preventing further conquests by Charles and the Habsburg Empire. England didn't join to start with but when the league had little success in 1527 Wolsey signed the Treaty of Westminster threatening Charles with invasion if relations didn't improve with his neighbours
- The Treaty of Cambrai, 1529 - in August 1529, following his defeat, Francis made peace with Charles in the Treaty of Cambrai. Wolsey was only informed of this peace negotiation at the last minute. England was no longer being treated as an equal by either France or the Habsburg Empire

1.4 Wolsey, Catherine, the succession and the annulment

Who was Catherine of Aragon and what was the problem with her and the succession?

- Catherine was popular and was Henry's first wife
- She was a popular Queen
- She had acted as Regent when Henry was away fighting
- Catherine was pregnant at least 6 times. Only one child survived
- Henry was desperate to have a son
- Catherine was six years older than Henry
- Henry blamed Catherine for not producing a healthy son
- Henry had turned his attention to Anne Boleyn
- Henry thought the marriage to Catherine was against God's wishes as in the old testament it states: 'If a man shall take his brother's wife...they shall be childless'

What were the initial attempts from Wolsey and Henry to get the annulment?

- Henry sought to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon but was opposed by Pope Clement VII
- The Pope did not want to anger Charles V who was Catherine's nephew.
- Cardinal Campeggio was called to hear the case in England but failed to come to a decision

How was Wolsey's fall linked to the annulment?

- The failure to get the annulment was blamed on Wolsey. He was accused of treason and stripped of his wealth. He died on his way to London to face trial

What were the other reasons for his downfall?

- Failed foreign policy – failure to create an alliance with Charles V. Henry lost confidence in him
- The failure of the Amicable Grant was blamed on Wolsey.
- His reforms created enemies at court
- The Boleyns plotted against him. They persuaded Henry he had to go

Topic 2: Henry and Cromwell, 1529 - 40

2.1 Cromwell's rise to power, 1529 – 34

What was his early life like?

- Born in 1485, son of a blacksmith
- In 1503 he travelled to France and joined the French army. He fought in Spain.
- He lived in both Florence and Antwerp which helped develop his trading knowledge and business contacts
- In around 1514, Cromwell returned to England and married Elizabeth Wykes (who came from a wealthy family)
- He became a successful London merchant. Although he lacked formal legal training, he also developed a thriving legal practice

What was the relationship between Cromwell and Wolsey?

- Cromwell was ambitious, as well as running his legal business he entered the household of Thomas Wolsey
 - He gained a lot of respect and opportunities
 - By 1519 he was a member of Wolsey's council
 - The two men got on well - they were both self-made men
- Over the 1520s, Cromwell made a name for himself at Henry's court and took on more complex legal cases
 - Wolsey often sent Cromwell to deliver news to the King
 - Cromwell was deeply upset by Wolsey's death

What work had Cromwell in Parliament?

- In 1523 Cromwell became an MP
- Wolsey's fall from power in 1529 put Cromwell in a difficult position. However, he used in position as an MP to defend Wolsey
- Though he did not save Wolsey, his loyalty and skills in managing legal affairs was noticed by the King
 - Cromwell was appointed to the Royal Council

How did Cromwell become important to Henry and get him a divorce?

- Cromwell was vital for Henry being able to divorce Catherine of Aragon
- Cromwell thought the power of annulment should be given to the King from the Pope
 - He used Parliament to pass laws to transfer the power
- In March 1533 the **Act of Restraint of Appeals** was passed. This said the King was the 'Supreme Head' of England
- A divorce hearing in May 1533 said the Henry and Catherine had never been legally married, making his marriage to Anne legal

2.2 Cromwell and government, 1534 – 40

Cromwell's reforms and laws

For each problem – explain why it was a problem and what Cromwell did to reform it (make it better)

Problem 1 – The Royal Council:

What was the problem?

- An important advisory body to the King and played a key role in the day to day running of the country
- Issues: *often dominated by one man and very few attend meetings*
No rules on how meetings should be organised.
Discussions and decisions were not recorded.

How did Cromwell reform it? - The Privy Council:

- Cromwell created a simpler version of the Royal Council
- The Privy Council was to be made up of 20 advisors
- They would be made of professional administrators rather than untrained members of the nobility
- A clerk was also employed to record decisions

Problem 2 – system of government

What was the problem?

- There was not one system of government covering the kingdom
- The North had a long tradition of independence and Wales was not formerly part of England

How did Cromwell reform it? – The Council of the North and The Act of Union 1536:

- Under the 1536 Act, the North came under royal control
- The Council of the North, which had been set up in 1472 to improve how the North was governed, was also strengthened
- The Act of Union meant that Wales was now formerly a part of England

Problem 3 – the King's Chamber:

What was the problem?

- Officials in the chamber were in charge of keeping track of income and spending.
- Issues: *Henry did not get involved in tracking money.*
There were no formal rules on how it should be ran.
The dissolution of the monasteries led to more money for the crown and the chamber could not cope.

How did Cromwell reform it? – The Court of Augmentations and the Court of First Fruits and Tenths:

- The Court of Augmentations. Dealt with property and income gained from the dissolution of the monasteries.

- The Court of First Fruit and Tithes. Collected tax that used to be sent to Rome.
- Each court received money from a specific source and only paid out money for pre-approved reasons
- Each court was carefully checked to make sure they acted properly

Problem 4 – Parliament:

What was the problem?

- Henry reached decisions with his chief minister and trusted advisors, and new laws were usually made by royal protection so he did not need parliament
- Cromwell wanted to use Parliament to pass more statute laws (written laws)

How did Cromwell reform it? – increased parliament's role

- Cromwell realised he could make lots of changes by using Parliament to pass statute laws
- Parliament began passing an increasing number of laws and met more often
- Cromwell used various strategies to make sure MPs were well managed and did exactly what he and the King wanted

2.3 Cromwell and the king's marriages

What happened with Anne Boleyn's downfall?

What was Cromwell's early relations with Anne Boleyn like?

- Cromwell was one of the key reasons Henry could marry Anne as he helped make the annulment possible

What were the main reasons for Anne Boleyn's downfall?

- Anne had made enemies at court and they believed Anne was interfering too much in political and religious affairs
- Henry had taken an interest in Jane Seymour who was described as gentle and loving
- She had not given him a son

What was the Role of Cromwell in Anne Boleyn's downfall?

- There were rumours that Anne had been secretly engaged to Henry Percy, which would make her marriage to Henry void
- King Henry asked Cromwell to investigate the apparent relationship but he found no supporting evidence
- Cromwell took a leading role in building a case of adultery against Anne
- Cromwell made sure that Anne's ladies in waiting spied on her
- Some believe that Anne and Cromwell disagreed on political matters meaning he wanted to remove her

How did no male heir have an effect?

- Anne had given Henry a child, his second daughter Elizabeth but no son
- Henry believed that having a male heir would secure the Kingdom, especially from foreign threats

What happened with the charges against her – charged of adultery?

- On 30 April Mark Smeaton, a court musician was arrested and taken to Cromwell's house. He was probably also tortured. He confessed to having an affair with the Queen.
- The Queen was charged with five other cases of adultery too. These men were all nobles and as such were exempt from torture. They all denied the charges.

What happened with the Anne of Cleves marriage?

What were the causes of the marriage?

- *Alliance*: the Cleves family ruled a small kingdom which had broken away from Rome. It was also feared Catholic Spain and France would invade England – this provided England with an ally
- Henry was desperate for more sons
- Cromwell also supported the marriage. He believed he could push for further religious reforms

Why did the marriage fail?

- Henry believed Anne was not as beautiful as he had been told, shouting 'I like her not'
- Anne was not trained in the ways of the English court. She did not skills that were expected of her
- The international situation changed. Relations between France and Spain had broken down so there was less of a threat of invasion
- Henry had fallen in love with Catherine Howard and pursued her in the spring of 1540
- Henry annulled his marriage and married Catherine Howard

2.4 The fall of Cromwell

How and why did Cromwell fall from power?

What happened with Cromwell's fall from power?

- Cromwell had made enemies at court, especially the Duke of Norfolk
- The Duke of Norfolk hated Cromwell because of his low birth and religious views
- The Duke used Catherine Howard to influence the King in removing Cromwell
- Cromwell was arrested for treason, and stripped of his titles
- On June 29th 1540, Parliament passed an Act of Attainder. This meant a person could be declared guilty of treason without a trial
- This sentenced Cromwell to death. He wrote to the King pleading his innocence but the King did nothing
- On 28th July, Cromwell was executed. This was the same day the King married Catherine Howard
- The Duke of Norfolk became the second most powerful man in England

What were reactions to Cromwell's fall?

- Conservatives at court, such as the Duke of Norfolk, were delighted
- Foreign Catholic leaders were delighted also, the French King said it was a miracle from God
- Many ordinary English people were pleased as Cromwell had changed much of their life through religious reforms eg. Closing of the monasteries
- Henry grew to regret the decision as he realised how able Cromwell had been. He accused his councillors of bringing the fall of Cromwell through false charges

Topic 3: The Reformation and its impact, 1529 – 40

3.1 The break with Rome

Religion at the time

Give some examples of what the Catholic faith was like:

- The pope was head of the Church
- The central function of the Church was to deliver the seven sacraments as an outward display of devotion to God (sacraments were special Church ceremonies, including baptism and marriage)
- During the Eucharist, it was believed that the bread and wine were actually turned into the body of Christ. This process was called transubstantiation
- Church services and the Bible were in Latin
- Special prayers for the dead could be said to help people get into heaven. Pieces of paper signed by the pope could also be purchased to help. These were called indulgences
- Images and statues of saints were worshipped in churches
- Completing a pilgrimage was seen as a good Catholic duty and a way of gaining God's approval
- Because of their unique role in the Eucharist, priests had a special status, which was reflected in their ornate clothing – known as vestments

What were some of the problems with the Catholic faith?

- The Pope and his bishops were a wealthy men who seemed to care more about money and power than about God.
- Some monks were known to be drinking, gambling and sleeping with women.
- The Bible was written in Latin. Very few people could understand this language and had to rely on their priest to explain it to them.
- The Church used people's fear of what would happen after they died to control them and make money.

Give some examples of what the Protestant faith was like:

- There should be no pope. Instead rulers, such as monarchs, should lead and protect their own churches
- The Church was there to preach the 'Word of God' through the Bible. Only the three sacraments mentioned in the Bible were valid: baptism, the Eucharist and penance
- During the Eucharist, bread and wine remained as bread and wine. The service was about remembering Jesus Christ
- Service and the Bible should be in English to allow the ordinary people to understand it for themselves
- Praying for the souls of the dead was seen as a waste of time. Indulgences were labelled as corrupt
- Images and statues were seen as superstitious
- Pilgrimages were seen as a waste of time
- Priests were regarded as just ordinary men and did not wear special clothing

Martin Luther and the Reformation

Who was Martin Luther?

- A man called Martin Luther

- He was a German priest
- He could read Latin, Greek and Hebrew
- Whilst comparing the Latin Catholic Bible with the original Greek & Hebrew texts he found that certain parts were incorrectly translated
- He believed that the Catholic Church was not teaching people the right things
- He wanted the Church to change

What did he believe?

- You can be forgiven directly by God – you don't need a priest to do it.
- The Church was wrong to sell Indulgences- it was taking advantage of people's fear of what would happen when they died.
- The Bible should be translated into different languages so that everyone has a chance to read it for themselves.
- The Church was too rich and its leaders did not act like men of God.

What did he do?

- He wrote down all the things which he thought needed to be changed in the Catholic Church. He called this document the '95 Theses'
- He nailed it to the door of a church in Wittenberg, Germany, in 1517

What was the reaction to this?

- Martin Luther was made an outlaw
- He was excommunicated by the Pope in 1521
- But this just encouraged Luther
- In the 1520s he published a German translation of the Bible, and set about organising his own church – this became known as the Protestant Church, as it was for those who 'protested' about what was wrong with the Catholic Church at that time

What do we call this period of change in history?

- Every period of major change in history has a special name. The period of change in the church that we have studied today is known as the **REFORMATION**
- This is because the church was 'reformed' by Luther

The Reformation in England

Reasons for Henry's campaign against the Pope and the Catholic Church, 1529–33?

- Henry VIII and the succession

Henry wanting a divorce from Catherine of Aragon because she could not give him a son. He had also fallen in love with Anne Boleyn, and was convinced that God disapproved of his marriage to Catherine

- The Impact of Protestantism – new Protestant ideas partly influenced Henry and others close to him such as Anne Boleyn. He was also greatly influenced by William Tyndale's book which claimed that God always intended the Church to be run by Kings not the pope

Why were the Act of Succession and the Act of Supremacy 1534 significant?

- Act of Succession meant Henry's marriage to Catherine of Aragon was declared invalid and Anne Boleyn was Henry's lawful wife and queen. Henry had now totally rejected the authority of Rome to decide whether he could divorce and remarry

- Act of Supremacy made Henry, and not the Pope, head of the Church of England
- Cromwell was also made the King's Vicegerent with day to day responsibility for running the church

What was Cromwell's role in the enforcement?

- Cromwell's role – introduced the Oath of Succession meaning when asked people had to swear to support Anne Boleyn as queen
- He also reformed the Treason Act to stop opposition as it promised death to anyone denying royal supremacy

3.2 Opposition to, and impact of, the Reformation, 1534 -40

How did Elizabeth Barton, the Nun of Kent oppose the Reformation?

- Claimed the Virgin Mary cured her of an illness in a vision
- She entered a convent and thousands flocked to see her continue to have her visions
- This became a problem for Henry as she started to attack his plans for a divorce from Catherine of Aragon, and Protestant ideas in general
- In July 1533 Henry ordered Cromwell to act and she was executed for treason in April 1534

How did John Fisher oppose the Reformation?

- He was the Bishop of Rochester, but could not support Henry as he believed Catherine of Aragon was Henry's
- His links to Elizabeth Barton meant that Henry could arrest him and fine him
- However when he refused to take the Oath of Succession he was arrested for treason and executed

How did Thomas More oppose the Reformation?

- More was appointed Henry's Lord Chancellor in 1529, but he was a devout Catholic and by 1532 felt he could no longer work for Henry
- He wanted to retire from public life and remain silent about the divorce and Break with Rome

- Henry would not allow it and asked More to take the Oath of Succession. He refused and was executed

What steps were taken to enforce the Reformation?

1. July 1536, Act of Ten Articles issued which meant people should only believe three of the seven sacraments; baptism, the Eucharist and penance.
 - Important because: This was the first attempt to set out the beliefs of Henry's new church. It represented a partial move towards Protestantism by reducing the sacraments
2. August 1536, the first set of Royal Injunctions issued to the clergy by Cromwell. The clergy were ordered to speak in favour of the Royal Supremacy and Ten Articles. Priests were ordered to discourage pilgrimages and the number of Holy Days dedicated to saints was reduced.
 - Important because: This was an attempt to ensure all clergy delivered the same message. Many Catholic practises seen as superstitious were attacked
3. July 1537, Bishops book published. The four sacraments ignored by the Ten Articles were declared valid, although of lesser value. It stated the main duty of a priest was preaching.
 - Important because: This was a second major attempt to outline what the Church believed. The re-inclusion of the four sacraments was a slight set-back for reformers. Overall, it was a further move towards Protestantism: it deliberately lessened the importance of some core Catholic beliefs which Protestants believed had no value.
4. September 1538: The Second set of Royal Injunctions issued to the clergy by Cromwell. An English translation of the Bible was to be placed in all churches within two years. Priests were to actively discourage pilgrimages, and religious images, statues and relics were to be removed from churches.
 - Important because: This was far more detailed than the set of instructions issued to the clergy in 1536. An English Bible was a major victory for religious reformers who wanted the Bible to be read by ordinary people. It was a direct attack on how Catholics worshiped and led to the disappearance of shrines, statues and relics from the Churches. For example, St Thomas Becket's Shrine, one of the most famous sites in Europe, was destroyed.

At the end of the decade, Henry decided that religious reform had gone too far and decided in 1539 to try to return to some traditional Catholic values

What were some of the things Henry did to return to Catholicism?

- 1538 – Henry has the priest John Lambert burned for denying transubstantiation. Henry looked on, robed in white to show the purity of his Catholic faith
- 1539 Henry published the Six Articles again and included:
 - supports for transubstantiation
 - supports for purgatory
 - that priests must remain celibate
 - Failure to follow these Six Articles could lead to imprisonment, confiscation of property or even death
- After 1540 generally any reformist ideas made very slow progress only – particularly due to Henry's own opposition to Protestantism
- On his deathbed Henry was read his last rites – a Catholic tradition

Why did Henry return to Catholicism?

- His break from the Church had been very much about wanting a divorce and a son, not religious reasons like the Reformation in Europe was about

3.3 Dissolution of the monasteries

Give a summary of the dissolution:

- There was about 800 monasteries in England before the Reformation
- The purpose of these monasteries had been to pray for the dead. They also carried out charitable, artistic and educational work
- In the 4 years between 1536 and 1540 all of England's monasteries were closed down
- Henry's primary concern for this was money
- Dissolution impacted heavily upon those who relied on the monasteries. Nuns suffered the most as many monks found new employment

What was the role of monasteries?

- Education
- Helping the poor
- Haven for travellers
- Treatment of the sick
- Religious and spiritual guidance
- Production of books

What were the reasons for dissolution?

- Cromwell's commissions visited monasteries and found evidence of morally and spiritually poor behaviour by the monks
- Religious reformers felt that monasteries were not useful and spiritually corrupt
- Henry doubted the loyalty of the monks as they were catholic and opposed the Break with Rome
- Henry's main motivation was money – the monasteries were very wealthy

What was the process of dissolution?

- The Act of Dissolution 1536 closed 300 smaller monasteries with an income of less than £200 a year
- In 1537 the decision was taken to close the larger monasteries. Each individual monastery was targeted in another series of visits from Cromwell's commissioners
- In 1539 the second Act of Dissolution was passed

What was the impact of dissolution?

- The winners were Protestants who had seen a powerful symbol of Roman Catholicism destroyed. Henry had a huge financial gain. Also many merchants and lawyers bought land and gained that way
- The losers were the monks and nuns who had to readjust to life without the monasteries. Also many poor suffered and led to a rise in poverty at this time

3.4 The Pilgrimage of Grace, 1536 (a big rebellion)

What were the causes of the uprising?

- Religious factors:
 - The North was mainly Catholic and many believed their faith was under threat
 - The dissolution of the smaller monasteries was seen as an unforgivable attack on religion
 - The work of monks and nuns was important for the whole community
 - The dissolution led to fears that the parish churches would be the next target
- Social factors:
 - The monasteries provided healing for the sick, help for the poor and refuge for travellers. The fact that this was all under threat through the dissolution angered many
- Political factors:
 - The Northern nobility felt that Henry's court was too much under the influence of Cromwell
 - They disliked Cromwell for his low birth and reformist religious views
 - They hoped the uprising would increase their power in court and weaken Cromwell's
- Economic factors:
 - The 1534 Subsidy Act was still being collected in 1536. This was usually only raised in wartime. As England was at peace, it was deeply resented
 - Poor harvests in 1535 and 1536 made times even harder
 - Commoners had complaints about rising rents and enclosure of common land
 - Gentry and nobility were opposed to the 1536 Statute of Uses, a tax on landed inheritances

What happened?

- The rebellion started in Lincolnshire, October 1536 – many there were unhappy at the work of the King's commissions but were defeated by 11th October
- A larger rebellion started after in Yorkshire with 40,000 men and was led by Robert Aske
- The rebels made quick progress and Henry sent an army under Thomas Howard the Duke of Norfolk, who chose to negotiate with the rebels
- Henry agreed to further negotiations, the pilgrims accepted the King's offer of a full pardon and a promise to stop the closing of monasteries.
- These terms were not written down and Henry never intended to keep the agreement. The Pilgrim ringleaders were rounded up and executed