



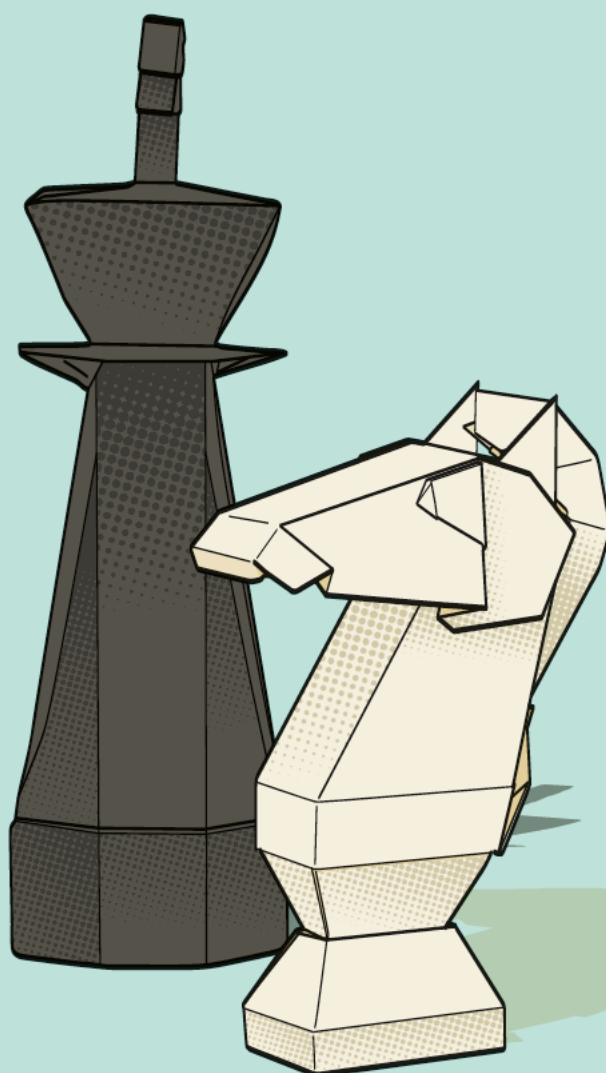
Pearson
Revise

Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1)

History

**Henry VIII and his ministers,
1509–40**

Revision Guide and Workbook



Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1)

History

**Henry VIII and his ministers,
1509–40****Revision Guide and Workbook**

Series Consultant: Harry Smith

Author: Brian Dowse

A note from the publisher

In order to ensure that this resource offers high-quality support for the associated Pearson qualification, it has been through a review process by the awarding body. This process confirms that this resource fully covers the teaching and learning content of the specification or part of a specification at which it is aimed. It also confirms that it demonstrates an appropriate balance between the development of subject skills, knowledge and understanding, in addition to preparation for assessment.

Endorsement does not cover any guidance on assessment activities or processes (e.g. practise questions or advice on how to answer assessment questions), included in the resource nor does it prescribe any particular approach to the teaching or delivery of a related course.

While the publishers have made every attempt to ensure that advice on the qualification and its assessment

is accurate, the official specification and associated assessment guidance materials are the only authoritative source of information and should always be referred to for definitive guidance.

Pearson examiners have not contributed to any sections in this resource relevant to examination papers for which they have responsibility.

Examiners will not use endorsed resources as a source of material for any assessment set by Pearson.

Endorsement of a resource does not mean that the resource is required to achieve this Pearson qualification, nor does it mean that it is the only suitable material available to support the qualification, and any resource lists produced by the awarding body shall include this and other appropriate resources.

For the full range of Pearson revision titles across KS2, 11+, KS3, GCSE, Functional Skills, AS/A Level and BTEC visit:

www.pearsonschools.co.uk/revise

Contents

SUBJECT CONTENT	The Reformation and its impact, 1529–40
Henry VIII and Wolsey, 1509–29	20 Henry and the Catholic Church
1 Society and government	21 The Acts of Succession and Supremacy
2 Henry's accession	22 Elizabeth Barton and John Fisher
3 Henry's strengths, weaknesses and aims	23 Opposition from Thomas More
4 Wolsey's rise to power	24 The impact of the Reformation on the Church
5 Wolsey's reforms	25 The role of religious houses
6 The Amicable Grant	26 The dissolution of the monasteries
7 Wolsey's foreign policy aims	27 Beneficiaries and losers
8 Foreign policy outcomes	28 Pilgrimage of Grace: reasons
9 Catherine of Aragon and the succession	29 Pilgrimage of Grace: key events
10 Attempts to gain an annulment	30 Failure of the uprising
11 Wolsey's fall from power	SKILLS
Henry VIII and Cromwell, 1529–40	31 Exam overview
12 Cromwell's early career	32 Question 4(a): Describing features 1
13 Cromwell and the king's annulment	33 Question 4(a): Describing features 2
14 The fall of Anne Boleyn	34 Question 4(b): Explaining why 1
15 Jane Seymour	35 Question 4(b): Explaining why 2
16 Cromwell's reforms	36 Question 4(c): Making a judgement 1
17 The management and use of parliament	37 Question 4(c): Making a judgement 2
18 Anne of Cleves	38 PRACTICE
19 Cromwell's fall	50 ANSWERS

.....

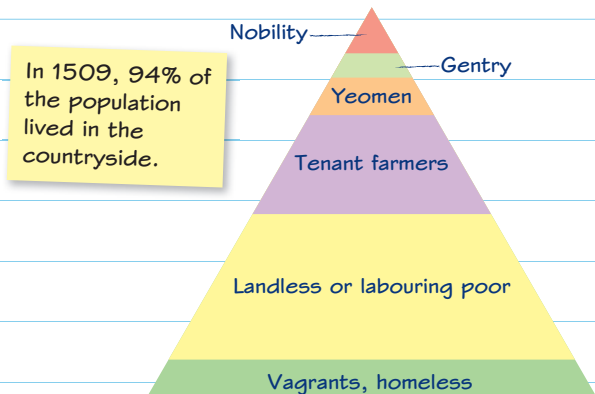
A small bit of small print
Edexcel publishes Sample Assessment Material and the Specification on its website. This is the official content and this book should be used in conjunction with it. The questions in *Now try this* have been written to help you practise every topic in the book. Remember: the real exam questions may not look like this.

Had a look ☐Nearly there ☐Nailed it! ☐Henry and
Wolsey,
1509–29

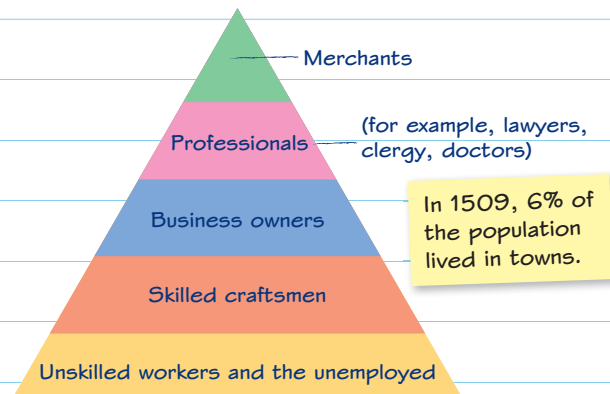
Society and government

English society in 1509 was very rigid, based on inequality and a social hierarchy where everyone knew their place. This was the England Henry VIII inherited when he became king in 1509.

The social hierarchy of the countryside



...and of towns

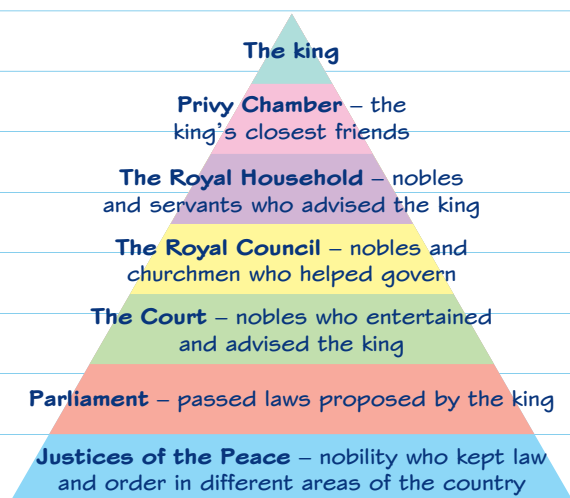


Many people believed that God had given them their place in society and that they had to **respect** those above them and care for those below them. This meant there were few opportunities for people to improve their position, e.g. becoming a lawyer if they were a skilled craftsman. Most people accepted this and made no attempts to better themselves.

The significance of the wool and cloth trades in England, 1509

Wool trade	Cloth trade
<p>👍 This was a source of wealth for gentry and nobility who owned large flocks of sheep.</p> <p>👍 Wool was exported, in particular to the Netherlands. This increased the wealth of merchants in port cities like London and Bristol.</p> <p>👍 Exports increased the wealth of the king and the crown as they levied a tax on each sack of wool exported.</p> <p>👎 Landowners enclosed land to graze their flocks, reducing the common land available to ordinary people.</p>	<p>👍 Most cloth was woven in Yorkshire, the south-west and the south-east of England. The industry brought wealth to these areas, particularly areas that could also benefit from closeness to the London markets.</p> <p>👍 The cloth trade was run by merchants who organised themselves into guilds. This enabled them to control the quality of fabrics produced and keep prices high.</p> <p>👍 The cloth was exported to Europe, especially the Netherlands and Belgium, and England became the major European cloth producer. By 1540, up to 83% of cloth in Europe came from England.</p>

Structure of government in 1509



The importance of London

- London was England's biggest city with a population of 60 000. Other large towns included Norwich, Exeter, York and Coventry.
- London was a growing centre of trade, especially weaving and the wool trade. It was also where the king and the royal court were frequently based. Merchants from London traded with Europe including the Netherlands, Spain and Russia.

Now try this

Explain **two** features of English society in 1509.

Henry's accession

Henry VIII gained the throne in 1509, aged 18, and inherited a stable and wealthy kingdom. He had strong views about how he wanted to rule the country, was fit and athletic and had a keen intellect.

The kingdom inherited by Henry

There were no rival contenders to the throne when Henry's father died. This made the throne **secure**. Henry was the second son but his elder brother, Arthur, had died in 1502 and Henry became heir to the throne.

Henry VIII

Henry VII had taxed the nobility heavily and the government coffers were full, but this meant he was unpopular with noblemen who now welcomed a new and less experienced monarch.

The country was a Catholic country, which acknowledged the authority of the pope. It was the pope, and not the king, who controlled the Church and the **Church was extremely powerful**.

Henry the Renaissance Prince

Henry styled himself as a **Renaissance man**, picking up on the revival of culture based on the ideas of ancient Greece and Rome that were sweeping through Europe. Henry had many talents and skills, and also had a keen intellect.

He was a strong athlete. He hunted and practised archery, wrestling and jousting.

He was a musician. He sang, played many instruments and composed.



He spoke French, Spanish and Latin.

He was a good dancer.

Henry VIII, painted by Joos van Cleve.

Henry's views on sovereignty and monarchy

Henry believed:

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

Henry's personal style of government

- Henry used the Royal Council and the Privy Chamber to help him make decisions.
- Henry increasingly made use of one personal adviser or chief minister. Up until 1529 this was Cardinal Wolsey, from 1529 to 1540 it was Thomas Cromwell.
- Henry **delegated** (gave) power as routine tasks bored him – increasing the power of his key advisers, such as Wolsey and Cromwell.

For more on Cardinal Wolsey, see pages 4–11.
For more on Cromwell, see pages 12–19.

Now try this

Give **two** characteristics of Henry's style of government between 1509 and 1529.

Look at Henry's views on sovereignty as well as his style of personal government.

Had a look ☐Nearly there ☐Nailed it! ☐Henry and
Wolsey,
1509–29

Henry's strengths, weaknesses and aims

Henry had many strengths but also many weaknesses. When Henry inherited the throne in 1509, he had a number of aims.

Henry's strengths

- **Popular:** he was young and different from his father, who was disliked by noblemen and merchants for imposing high taxes.
- **Popular:** he was handsome and looked like a king.
- **Strong:** he had a team of experienced advisers around him who helped him to rule the country.
- **Strong:** England was stable – there was an established system of government and little threat of rebellion or civil war.
- **Strong:** his wife, Catherine of Aragon, gave Henry strong connections to Spain – a growing European power.
- **Rich:** England was rich and the Crown was not in debt.



A woodcut showing King Henry VIII and his court, possibly by the artist Hans Holbein the Younger.

Henry's weaknesses

- **Naïve:** aged only 18, he had little experience of government.
- **Naïve:** his vision of kingship, based on heroic legends, was simplistic and required him to spend large amounts of money on expensive wars and on his court.
- **Disinterested:** he had little interest in day-to-day government and was happy to delegate power to others. This allowed his ministers to accumulate large amounts of power.
- **Risk taker:** he took part in dangerous sports, such as jousting, which were risky when there was no male successor to the throne.
- **Egotistical and overconfident:** he would not heed advice, leading to costly mistakes.



Henry jousting, with Catherine of Aragon watching on.

Henry's aims

To create a government where the king decided 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 through dress, architecture and entertainment, comparable with the courts in France and Spain.

To enhance his prestige by attracting great men to his court, including scholars and artists.

To be an effective monarch, governing well, maintaining law and order, being committed to the Church and producing a (male) heir who would reduce the risk of civil war on his death.

Now try this

Give **two** advantages that Henry had when he became king.

Look at Henry's strengths on becoming king.

Wolsey's rise to power

Thomas Wolsey was Henry VIII's Lord Chancellor during the first half of his reign.

Timeline

Thomas Wolsey

1498 He gained a degree at Oxford University and became a priest.

1515 Became Lord Chancellor and Henry's chief minister, and a cardinal.

1518 Became Papal Legate (pope's representative), becoming the most powerful and senior churchman in the country.

1473 Born in Ipswich – father was a butcher and a cattle dealer.

1509 Became a member of the Royal Council as Royal Almoner (in charge of giving money to the poor).

1514 Became Bishop of Lincoln and Archbishop of York.



Wolsey started work on rebuilding Hampton Court in 1515. It was taken over by Henry VIII in 1529.

Wolsey's personality

He was:

- not a member of the nobility
- extremely intelligent
- very ambitious
- charming and persuasive, which enabled him to build working relationships with the king and rulers of other countries
- willing to carry out the king's wishes
- ruthless with anyone who threatened him or the king's government
- known as **Alter Rex** (second king) because of his great power and influence.

Wolsey's wealth

Wolsey's power, both in Church and state, and his many jobs allowed him to accumulate enormous wealth. He was 10 times richer than his nearest rival, allowing him to build opulent homes at York Place and Hampton Court where he entertained lavishly.

Wolsey's roles

Wolsey was both Lord Chancellor and a cardinal by 1515. This strengthened his power, as he was able to exert influence over the king and the Church.

The reasons for Wolsey's rise to power

Henry did not involve himself in day-to-day government. This increased Wolsey's power as he was left to carry out the boring but important tasks that Henry wished to avoid.

Wolsey's appointment as Royal Almoner in 1509 made him a member of the Royal Council giving him access to the king. This gave him opportunities to exert influence over Henry and to dominate government by 1515.

Henry disliked many of his father's advisers who he saw as too cautious and unpopular. This removed potential rivals and eased Wolsey's path to power.



Cardinal Wolsey

The war with France in 1512 enabled Wolsey to prove his worth to Henry by organising a well-equipped and well-supplied army by 1513. Wolsey demonstrated skills that Henry later relied on, increasing his power and influence.

Wolsey's persuasive personality and his ability to flatter enabled him to exert influence over the king, while making him an **effective negotiator** on Henry's behalf. His ruthlessness and willingness to financially ruin his rivals deterred any challenges to his position.

Now try this

Explain why Wolsey had become Henry's chief minister by 1515. Give at least **two** reasons in your answer.

Had a look ☐Nearly there ☐Nailed it! ☐Henry and
Wolsey,
1509–29

Wolsey's reforms

Wolsey carried out a series of important reforms, including laws against enclosure and the reform of the finance and justice systems. He also compiled the **Eltham Ordinances**, which suggested reforms to the Royal Household. Not all of Wolsey's reforms were popular.

Wolsey and enclosure

- Enclosure involved using fences to divide land into fields that were often used to graze sheep, allowing landowners to make money through the wool trade.
- This reduced the land available to tenant farmers (farmers who rented land) and the poor who had less common land to graze their animals.
- Wolsey set up an inquiry in 1517 to investigate this practice and reduce its effect on ordinary people. His work resulted in 260 court cases being brought against landowners.

Wolsey's policies achieved very little as enclosures continued to take place. The policy also angered many landowners, creating enemies for him at court.

Wolsey and the justice system

As Lord Chancellor, Wolsey sought to create a fairer system of justice that ensured the rich (the merchants, gentry and nobility) were not above the law. To achieve this he:

- 👍 strengthened the **Star Chamber** – a royal court that dispensed justice for the king
- 👍 encouraged the poor to bring cases to court
- 👍 increased the court's work rate
- 👍 supported the cases of the poor against the rich
- 👍 oversaw cases himself.

Like the enclosure policies, this reform angered many landowners who accused Wolsey of victimising them.

The Eltham Ordinances, 1526

To tackle the misspending and bad management of the palaces, Wolsey compiled a list of rules 79 chapters long. These included:

- cutting spending on meals and servants
- laying off sick or unneeded servants
- reducing the amount of money paid to people for expenses such as food, fuel and lodgings
- reducing the number of gentlemen in the Privy Chamber from 12 to six.

The Eltham Ordinances were largely unsuccessful, mainly because Wolsey lost interest in them once he had reduced the size of the Privy Council – his main aim.

Wolsey and finance

Wolsey needed to raise money for Henry's battles abroad. There were a combination of old and new methods of taxation used that raised significant amounts of money.

Fifteenths and tenths – these were taxes on moveable goods; 1/15th of their value in rural areas and 1/10th of their value in urban areas.

Crown lands – Wolsey recovered Crown lands from the nobility increasing the income to the government. This raised £15 000 in 1515 alone.

Wolsey's financial measures

The subsidy – this was a tax on incomes (what people earned). This was a progressive tax; the more you earned the more you paid.

Forced loans – Wolsey forced major landowners to lend the government money in 1522 and then again in 1523.

Clerical taxation – this was a voluntary gift made by the Church to the king.

Now try this

Describe **two** ways in which Wolsey improved royal finances up to 1529.

Look at how Wolsey helped the king raise money.

The Amicable Grant

The Amicable Grant was a tax levied on the king's subjects in 1525 to pay for an invasion of France.

Why was the Amicable Grant introduced?

- The King of France had been defeated by Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor, in 1525.
- Henry wanted to take advantage of this by invading France and recovering lands lost by the Crown in the 15th century.
- The Amicable Grant was to help pay for this invasion. It was a tax of a third on the property of priests and of a sixth on the property of ordinary people.

Why was the Amicable Grant controversial?

- Other taxes, including the subsidy, the fifteenth and the tenth had all been approved by parliament. The Amicable Grant had not been approved in this way and was being collected by Royal Decree.
- People only had 10 weeks to pay the tax. Many people resented this demand and could not afford to pay it. There was a risk that people would refuse to pay and the possibility of a rebellion against the king.

For more on the different taxes, see page 5.

The short- and long-term consequences of the Amicable Grant

Short-term consequences

- Many people refused to pay the tax, claiming that they had no money.
- In Lavenham, Suffolk, a full-scale rebellion broke out with 10000 men gathering in the town expressing their loyalty to the king but demanding he be aware of their anger at having to pay the tax. On the arrival of the Duke of Norfolk and Duke of Suffolk, the rebels surrendered but were pardoned by the king.
- The tax was abandoned.
- Henry postponed the French campaign and made peace with France.

Long-term consequences

- Wolsey was humiliated and his reputation badly damaged. He, rather than the king, had to take responsibility for the tax and its failure.
- Wolsey was unable to raise any further taxes while he remained the king's first minister.
- Henry began, perhaps for the first time, to doubt Wolsey's judgement, beginning a process that would result in Wolsey's fall from power.
- The position of Wolsey's enemies in the royal court was strengthened. Wolsey's introduction of the Eltham Ordinances was perhaps an attempt to reduce their influence over the king.
- The failure of the Amicable Grant demonstrated that there were limitations on the king's power, as he could no longer raise taxes without the consent of parliament.



Wolsey's Amicable Grant failed, damaging his reputation

For more on the Eltham Ordinances, see page 5.

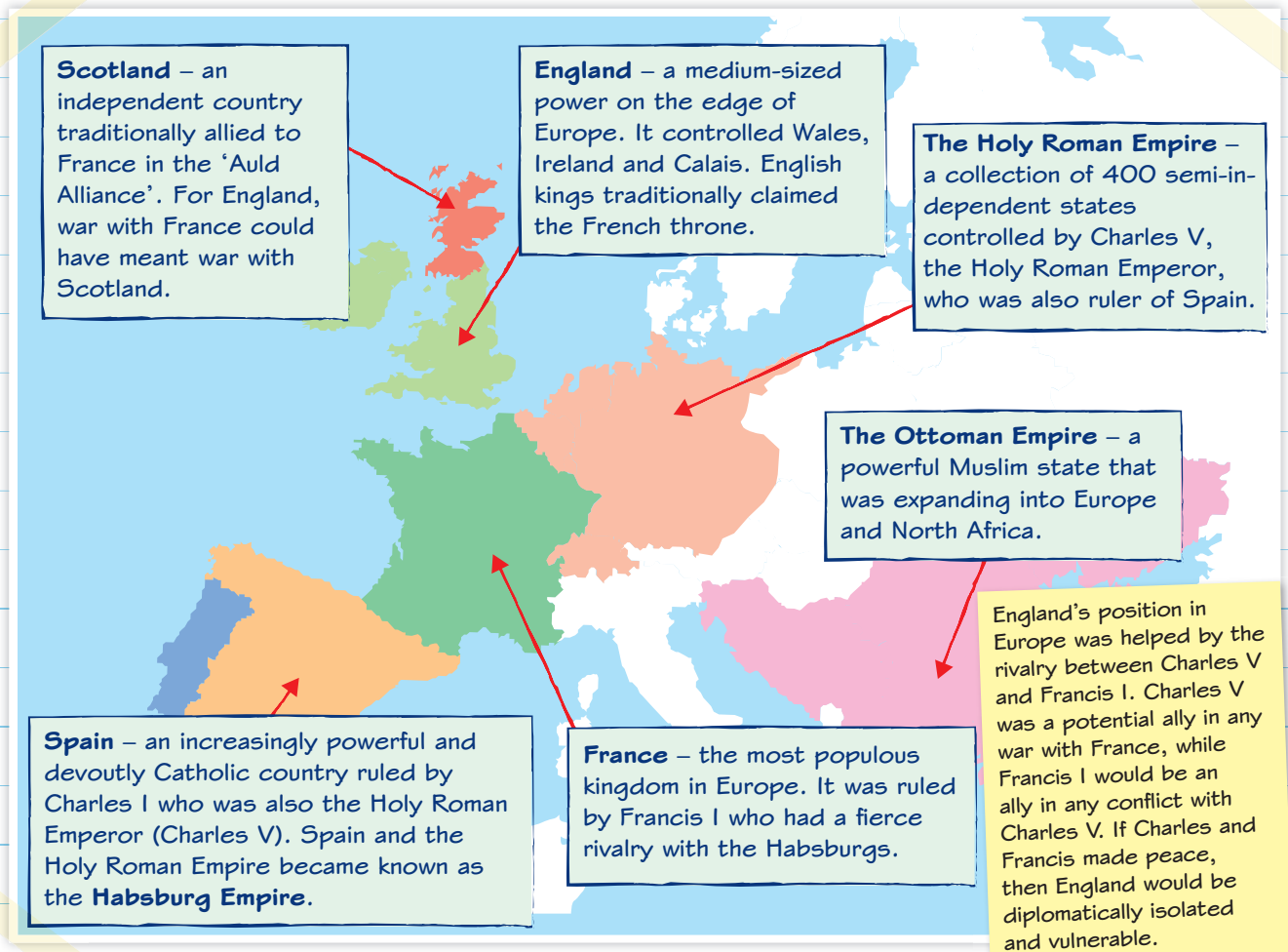
Now try this

Explain **one** short-term and **one** long-term consequence of the Amicable Grant in 1525.

Wolsey's foreign policy aims

Wolsey had a number of policy aims in a Europe dominated by France and Spain. His main aim was to carry out the king's wishes and act as a **peacemaker** between European states.

Europe in the time of Henry VIII



Wolsey's aims abroad

- To create better relationships with both France and the Habsburg Empire. This would prevent England being **diplomatically isolated and vulnerable**.
- To play Europe's two major powers (the Habsburg Empire and France) off against each other to England's advantage.
- To provide opportunities for Henry to gain military glory, enhancing his prestige, while making sure that wars did not become too expensive.
- To allow Henry to be seen to be a major peacemaker. This would enhance his prestige without the expense of long wars.

Henry was desperate for military glory, but wars were expensive and required taxes that undermined the king's popularity. They were also risky as the king's reputation could be at stake if armies were defeated and land lost.

For more on taxes, see pages 5 and 6.

Now try this

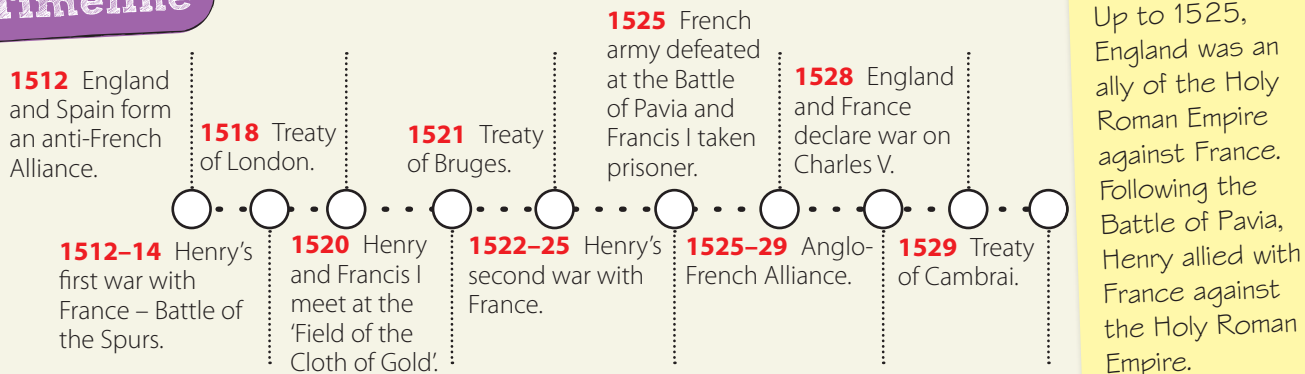
Why was Wolsey cautious about involving England in a long war in Europe?

Think about the cost of any conflict in which England might become involved.

Foreign policy outcomes

Initially, Wolsey's foreign policy was successful. However, after 1522, it began to run into difficulties as both Charles V and Francis I proved to be unreliable allies.

Timeline



Wolsey's successes 1514–22

At the start of his time as Henry's chief adviser, Wolsey had successes:

- 1** **1514** The Battle of the Spurs was the final battle in the first French war that ultimately gave victory to Henry.
- 2** **1518** The **Treaty of London** was a diplomatic triumph for Wolsey as he initiated it. It promised universal peace by proposing that each state followed a non-aggressive foreign policy by not attacking each other. If one power did go to war, they would be at risk of other countries coming to the aid of the country being attacked. The treaty:
 - was signed by 20 European leaders and the pope
 - brought prestige to Henry
 - placed Henry and Wolsey at the centre of European politics.This only prevented war for three years.
- 3** **1520** The 'Field of the Cloth of Gold' was one of a series of diplomatic meetings arranged by Wolsey. Francis I and Henry met near Calais. It was a splendid showcase for the two kings and an impressive display of English power and wealth, putting Henry at the centre of European diplomacy. Nothing was decided or agreed at the meeting.

Wolsey's failures, 1522–29

During the 1520s, Wolsey experienced increasing difficulties in foreign affairs with France and the Holy Roman Empire.

- 1** **1522–25** French war and alliance with Charles V failed because Wolsey's support for Charles V against France, in the **Treaty of Bruges**, was based on the idea that Charles would help him seize French territory and the French throne. This did not happen. Charles gave Henry little military support. After the Battle of Pavia, Charles ignored Henry's suggestion that France be divided between England and the Holy Roman Empire with Henry getting the French throne. Instead, Charles released Francis from captivity. The war was unpopular, cost £430 000 and achieved little.
- 2** **1525–29** An alliance with France to fight Charles V failed because the French were again defeated by Charles and received little help from England, damaging Henry's reputation as a reliable ally.
In 1529, Francis I negotiated a peace deal with Charles V in the **Treaty of Cambrai**, only notifying Wolsey of the negotiations when it was too late. This was a snub to Wolsey and Henry and left them diplomatically isolated.

The unreliability of Francis I and Charles V was a key factor in Wolsey's disastrous foreign policy.

Now try this

Explain, in fewer than 150 words, how Wolsey's diplomacy ran into difficulties after 1522.

Catherine of Aragon and the succession

Henry's marriage to Catherine of Aragon in 1509 initially worked well. However, Catherine's failure to provide him with a son meant that Henry became uncertain of his marriage.

Henry's marriage to Catherine

The marriage was successful because:

- ✓ Henry was a loving and affectionate husband
- ✓ Catherine was a popular queen due to her charitable work
- ✓ Catherine was supportive of Henry; she acted as regent when Henry was fighting the French between 1512 and 1514. She even dispatched an army to Scotland to defeat and kill James IV, sending Henry James' bloody shirt as a gift.
- ✓ it strengthened Henry's relationship with Spain and the Holy Roman Empire. This improved England's prospects in any war against France as it would have the support of Spain and would not be isolated in Europe.

For more on the French war, 1512–14, see page 8.

Catherine's failure to provide Henry with a son

Catherine was pregnant at least six times between 1509 and 1520, but only one child, Princess Mary, survived. Catherine's failure to provide Henry with a male heir was a growing concern to him because:

- it reflected badly on Henry's manhood and reputation, and suggested that Henry was incapable of producing a male heir
- it threatened the succession as the absence of a male heir encouraged others from both inside and outside the kingdom to consider claiming the throne – this raised the prospect of invasion and civil war
- Catherine was six years older than Henry and by 1527 was 42 years old, making another pregnancy and a male heir unlikely.

All Catherine's fault?

Catherine's failure to provide Henry with a male heir led him to question his marriage.

- 1 Henry blamed Catherine for not giving him a healthy son – he had had an illegitimate son by his mistress, Bessie Blount, so it couldn't have been his fault.
- 2 Henry had lost interest in Catherine and had turned his attentions to younger women, including Anne Boleyn.
- 3 By marrying his dead brother's wife (Catherine had briefly been married to Prince Arthur), Henry thought God was punishing him by not giving him a male heir, as in the Old Testament it states: 'If a man shall take his brother's wife it is an impurity... they shall be childless.'



Catherine of Aragon, painted c1530.

How to end the marriage

The only way that Henry could end his marriage was through an **annulment** leading to a divorce. This was a problem.

- Only the pope could approve an annulment.
- An annulment/divorce would upset Charles V who was Catherine's nephew.
- Catherine would resist an annulment because it would imply that she was no more than the king's mistress, while her daughter, Mary, would lose her claim to the throne.

An annulment is a legal term suggesting the marriage was never valid and had never existed.

Think about the consequences of the failure to provide Henry with a son.

Now try this

Why was the issue of the succession important to Henry VIII?

Attempts to gain an annulment

Henry sought to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon but was opposed by Pope Clement VII, Catherine and her nephew, Charles V.

In 1527, Henry instructed Wolsey to persuade Pope Clement VII to grant an annulment on the grounds that the marriage was ungodly (against scripture) and that the original papal dispensation allowing the marriage to happen was incorrectly worded.

Pope Clement VII was reluctant to grant the annulment as he did not want to offend Charles V whose troops were close to Rome.

In 1528, Wolsey proposed that, as Papal Legate, he would rule on the case along with the pope's representative, Cardinal Campeggio. This failed because, under the pope's instructions, Campeggio dragged out proceedings. In July 1529, the case was **adjourned** without a decision being reached.

Throughout this time, tremendous pressure was placed on Catherine to **renounce** her marriage to Henry. It was suggested that she give up the crown and become a nun, and she was accused of hating the king. Henry also threatened to ignore their daughter, Princess Mary, excluding her from the succession.

A case is **adjourned** when it is stopped without a decision being reached.

The court case and opposition to the annulment

The court case was held at Blackfriars court, London, between June and July 1529.

Catherine had the support of Thomas More, adviser to the king.

Catherine was popular with ordinary people due to her charitable work.

Catherine had the support of John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester.

Henry recognised Catherine's support and had to tread carefully in his dealings with her, making it difficult to annul the marriage without papal approval.



Catherine was resolutely opposed to the annulment and even publicly begged the king not to cast her aside. This made it hard for Henry to make a convincing case for annulment.

Cardinal Campeggio engaged in delaying tactics, frustrating Henry and Wolsey by refusing to come to a decision on the issue and, in the end, saying it was for Rome to decide after all.

Now try this

Give **two** reasons why Wolsey failed to annul Henry's marriage to Catherine of Aragon by 1529.

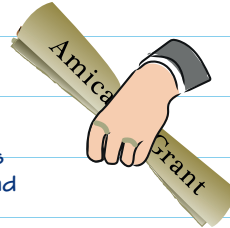
Wolsey's fall from power

Wolsey fell out of favour with Henry for a number of reasons, the main ones being the failure of the divorce proceedings in London, in 1529, and the growing influence of the Boleyn family at court.



Amicable Grant

Wolsey's decision to introduce the Amicable Grant tax in 1525 damaged his reputation as it led to a rebellion and the failure to collect the tax. Henry was forced to distance himself from Wolsey's actions, undermining his power and influence over the king.



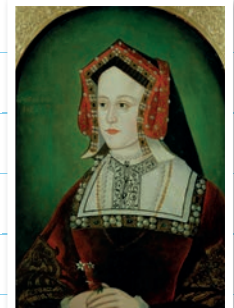
Wolsey's reforms

Wolsey's reforms to the justice system, his opposition to enclosure, his willingness to reclaim land held by the nobility for the Crown and his high-handed nature had made him many enemies at court. These people were more than happy to conspire with the Boleyns to undermine Wolsey.

Wolsey's fall from power in 1529

Annulment

Wolsey's failure to secure an annulment of Henry's marriage to Catherine angered Henry. He became increasingly impatient with Wolsey and began to believe that he was working with the pope to prevent an annulment from happening.



The Boleyns

Henry's infatuation with Anne Boleyn gave the Boleyn family, especially her father Thomas Boleyn and her brother, George, increasing influence at court. Wolsey's failure to secure an annulment led them to plot against him by suggesting to Henry that Wolsey was siding with the pope and not interested in securing an annulment. Anne hated Wolsey and, together with her brother and other nobles who were unhappy with Wolsey, persuaded Henry to get rid of him.



Foreign policy

Wolsey's failure to build an alliance against Charles V was frustrated by the Treaty of Cambrai, leaving England isolated and vulnerable in Europe. Henry was prepared to get rid of Wolsey because he no longer had confidence in his skills as a diplomat.

For more on the Amicable Grant, see page 6. For more on Wolsey's foreign policy, see pages 7 and 8. For more on Wolsey's reforms, see page 5. For more on the annulment, see pages 9 and 10.

Wolsey's dismissal

- In October 1529, Wolsey was stripped of most of his powers and possessions and exiled to York.
- In July 1530, Wolsey was summoned to London on charges of **praemunire** (working in the interests of the pope and not the king), but died on his way down to London to face trial.

Court politics

- Wolsey had remained in power for so long because he was able to ensure that other courtiers had little influence over the king.
- However, Henry's infatuation with Anne Boleyn ended this. It allowed a rival camp, the Boleyns, to emerge in court.
- The Boleyns were able to work with Wolsey's other enemies to **undermine** his authority and influence over the king.

Now try this

Read through the reasons why Wolsey fell from power. Put the reasons in order, starting with what you think was the main reason.

Cromwell's early career

Thomas Cromwell, who was not a member of the nobility, rose from very humble beginnings to become the king's chief minister by 1534.

Timeline

Cromwell's background and early career

- **1485** Born in Putney. His father was an innkeeper.
- **1503–14** Travelled and worked in Europe, mainly Italy, and then as a cloth merchant in Antwerp.
- **1514–19** Returned to England and married Elizabeth Wyckes. Became a successful merchant and lawyer in London.
- **1519** Became a member of Wolsey's council and became a trusted adviser.
- **1529** Became MP for Taunton.
- **1531** Became a member of the **Privy Council**.

Having travelled and lived in Europe, Cromwell became increasingly influenced by Protestant (Reformist) ideas, which shaped his thinking on the annulment, the Church and the monasteries.

Cromwell's personality

- 👉 Cromwell is often seen as a ruthless and unprincipled figure who was prepared to do the king's 'dirty work', such as organising the execution of members of the nobility and dissolving the monasteries.
- 👍 In reality, Cromwell was capable of great loyalty to his friends and, indeed, to his predecessor, Wolsey.
- 👍 Cromwell had a vibrant personality and could be witty, charming and persuasive when he wanted or needed to be.



Thomas Cromwell, painted by Hans Holbein the Younger. Cromwell is often seen as a dark figure in history, although in reality he had a warmer side to his personality.

Loyalty

Cromwell remained loyal to Wolsey, defending him in parliament and even in audiences with the king. This loyalty impressed Henry who was prepared to promote Cromwell on the grounds that he would be equally loyal to Henry, as a servant of the king.

Wit and charm

Cromwell's wit and charm won him many supporters at court, including the king.

The reasons for Cromwell's rise to power

Ruthlessness

Cromwell's ruthlessness meant that the king was prepared to rely on him to manage violent and controversial acts and discouraged rivals and opponents from challenging his power.

Efficiency

As Henry began to involve himself more in day-to-day government after 1530, Cromwell was there to carry out his instructions quickly and efficiently and as the king's loyal servant.

Now try this

Was Cromwell's ruthlessness the real reason why he secured Henry's confidence? Write a paragraph to explain your ideas.

Think about Cromwell's strengths and not just his ruthlessness.

Cromwell and the king's annulment

Cromwell became the king's chief minister in 1534. His handling of the annulment of Henry's marriage to Catherine of Aragon played a key part in Cromwell's success.

How Cromwell managed the annulment of Henry's marriage to Catherine

- 1 Cromwell quickly realised that Pope Clement VII was not willing to annul Henry's marriage to Catherine as he did not want to upset Charles V.
- 2 Cromwell, therefore, changed tactic, arguing that the power to grant an annulment should be taken from the pope and given to Henry instead.
- 3 Henry and Anne Boleyn were secretly married by Archbishop Cranmer in January 1533. This was important because Anne was already pregnant and there was a need for the child to be a **legitimate heir** to the throne.
- 4 Parliament passed the Act in Restraint of Appeals in March 1533, asserting that England was an empire and not subject to any form of foreign rule. Henry was now head of the Church and only he, and not the pope, could annul his marriage to Catherine.
- 5 A divorce hearing began in May 1533 in a court led by Archbishop Cranmer. The court announced that:
 - the pope's legal dispensation allowing Henry to marry Catherine was invalid
 - Henry and Catherine had never been legally married
 - Henry's secret marriage to Anne was valid because he had been a bachelor at the time.
- 6 Anne was crowned as Henry's queen in a royal coronation and gave birth to a daughter, Elizabeth, in September 1533.



Anne Boleyn in 1534

By arranging these events, Cromwell had shown that he had huge influence over Henry.

Cromwell's roles and responsibilities after 1534

After the success of the annulment, Henry entrusted Cromwell with further powers. As Henry's chief minister, Cromwell's influence over the king increased.

In charge of the Church

Became Vicar-General in 1535, with power to institute Church reform.

Influential role in law
Had become Master of the Rolls in 1533.

Cromwell 1534–40

In charge of king's personal seal

Became Lord Privy Seal in 1536, a senior position in the Privy Council with unlimited access to Henry's documents.

In charge of finances

Had become Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1533.

In charge of Henry's household

Became Lord Great Chamberlain in 1540.

Now try this

Describe how the success of the annulment was beneficial to Cromwell's career.

Think about the relationship between Cromwell and Henry.

The fall of Anne Boleyn

Anne Boleyn was executed in May 1536, only three years after her coronation as queen. Cromwell played a major role in her downfall.

Timeline

The events leading up to Anne's execution

1534 Anne had a miscarriage.

2 May 1536 Following an investigation by Cromwell, Anne was charged with adultery and treason and taken to the Tower of London. She was accused of having affairs with Mark Smeaton (a court musician), courtiers Sir Francis Weston, Sir Henry Norris and Sir William Brereton and her brother, George Boleyn.

17 May 1536 Anne's marriage to Henry was annulled.

September 1533 Anne gave birth to a daughter, Elizabeth. This disappointed Henry as it was not the son and heir he wanted.

January 1536 Anne had another miscarriage and the foetus was thought to be deformed, convincing many in the court that Anne was a witch.

15 May 1536 Anne was found guilty.

19 May 1536 Anne was executed.

Only Mark Smeaton admitted to an affair with Anne. His confession is unreliable as he was almost certainly tortured, possibly in Cromwell's presence.



The execution of Anne Boleyn at the Tower of London in 1536. Anne was in fact executed by a sword and not by an axe as this image suggests.

Reasons for Anne's fall

- 1 By early 1536, Henry was becoming infatuated with Jane Seymour and saw her as his queen and not just his mistress. Anne would have to be removed to make way for Jane.
- 2 Henry was becoming increasingly exasperated with Anne. She had failed to provide him with a male heir, while her assertive personality and flirtatious behaviour in court may have become an embarrassment to him, making him want to be rid of her.
- 3 Anne had strong opinions about foreign policy and religion that were not considered seemly and this increasingly irritated Henry.
- 4 There was a poisonous atmosphere in court with gossip circulating. Anne had many enemies who may have been prepared to peddle allegations of adultery, which Henry was more than happy to believe.

Cromwell's role in Anne's fall

Some historians believe that Cromwell deliberately conspired to bring down Anne:

- Cromwell was aware of Anne's role in the downfall of Wolsey and did not want to share his fate.
- Anne and Cromwell had differences of opinion on foreign policy and how the income gained from the **dissolution of the monasteries** should be spent.
- Cromwell built the case for adultery against Anne, interviewing and torturing witnesses and using spies in the queen's own bedchamber to unearth any evidence of adultery. Cromwell was able to use this evidence to persuade Henry and the court that Anne was guilty.

However, others believe it was unlikely that Cromwell conspired to end Anne's time as queen as they had much in common. It would seem that by Cromwell building a case against Anne he was simply carrying out Henry's wishes to be rid of her.

Now try this

Giving **two** reasons, explain why Anne Boleyn was executed in 1536.

Jane Seymour

Jane Seymour married Henry and became queen on 30 May 1536, 11 days after Anne Boleyn's death. She gave birth to a male heir, but died shortly afterwards.

The marriage

Henry was keen to marry Jane as quickly as possible because he needed a child (and preferably a son) to become the **legitimate heir** to the throne. Without this, there was a risk that if Henry died, the succession would go to someone outside of the family.

There was no longer an heir to the throne because:

- Princess Mary and Princess Elizabeth had been declared illegitimate – both their mothers' marriages to Henry had become invalid
- Henry Fitzroy, Henry's illegitimate son, had died soon after the **Act of Succession** had been passed in 1534, this was unfortunate because the Act allowed Henry to appoint any successor he liked and he could have appointed Henry Fitzroy.

For more about the Act of Succession of 1534, go to page 21.



Jane Seymour, 1536, painted by Hans Holbein the Younger. Henry was genuinely attracted to her – she was kind and obedient and was disinterested in politics (unlike Anne).

The heir

- ✓ Jane fulfilled her royal duty on 12 October 1537 by giving birth to a son, Edward (later to become Edward VI).
- ✓ This strengthened the succession and there was less chance of **competing claims** for the throne on Henry's death.
- ✓ The birth also strengthened Henry's authority because it suggested God had blessed Henry with a son, implying that his marriage to Jane and the events that preceded it (the execution of Anne and the annulment of his marriage to Catherine) were acceptable to God.

See pages 9 and 10 for more about Henry's marriage to Catherine of Aragon and its annulment. For more about the execution of Anne Boleyn, turn to page 14.

The death

Less than two weeks after giving birth to Edward, Jane died. Henry went into a state of mourning and refused to marry again for another two years.

In spite of this, the search to find a new wife for Henry started once more. He needed to marry again to produce more male heirs. A new marriage would also form the basis of an alliance with other European powers, helping to challenge the combined threat posed by Francis I and Charles V.

Jane's marriage to Henry gave the Seymour family a higher status within the royal court. Jane's brothers made the most of this, in particular Edward, who was appointed to the Privy Council. After Jane's death, the brothers, as uncles to Henry's heir, continued to be influential in court. Edward became an adviser to Henry, as well as first Earl of Hertford and later Duke of Somerset.

Now try this

Give **two** reasons why the birth of Edward VI was important.

Consider the importance of the succession to Henry.

Cromwell's reforms

Cromwell made a number of changes to government and finance, including reform of the Royal Council; reform of the Council of the North; improvements to the government of Wales; and financial reforms.

Reform of the Royal Council

Cromwell argued that the Royal Council was too big as it contained up to 100 members.

- Cromwell replaced it with a new, simpler body known as the Privy Council, made up of about 20 permanent advisers.
- The Privy Council was increasingly composed of lawyers and professional administrators, rather than noblemen.
- Cromwell hoped that this would stop one person dominating, as all would have equal status and working experience.
- A clerk to the Privy Council was appointed to record decisions.

Reform of the Council of the North

- The Council of the North had existed since 1472 and aimed to improve how the North of England was governed. It contained members of the nobility and churchmen. It had met from time to time under previous kings.
- Cromwell made it into a permanent institution, which from 1537 was responsible for maintaining law and order in the North.
- The Council was an important means by which rebellion was prevented and the government's authority maintained. This was especially important after the Pilgrimage of Grace, which challenged Henry's authority.

For more on the Pilgrimage of Grace, see pages 28 and 29.

Financial reforms

Traditionally, the **King's Chamber** was used to record the income (taxes, rents, etc.) and expenditure (money spent) of the king and his government. With the increase in income from the dissolution of the monasteries, Cromwell decided the Chamber couldn't cope with the increased work, so he created six departments. Four dealt with the king's traditional income, and two dealt with the increased work created by the dissolution:

- 1 **The Court of Augmentations**, which dealt with property and income from the dissolution of the monasteries.
- 2 **The Court of First Fruits and Tenths**, which collected taxes from the clergy previously sent to the pope in Rome.

Each department had the power to settle financial disputes and was given its own budget. They were run by well-trained officials who were monitored by others to ensure that they were doing their jobs properly.

For more on the dissolution of the monasteries, see page 26.

The importance of the reforms

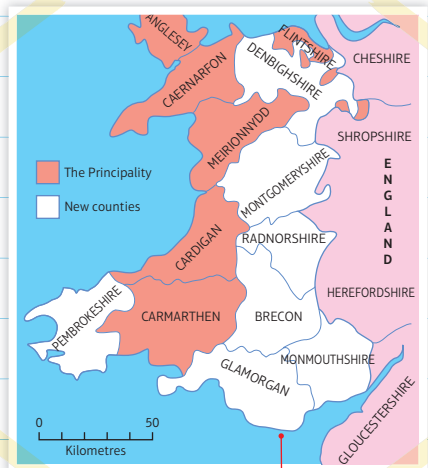
- ✓ He created a professional civil service, no longer run by nobles and clergy.
- ✓ Power was centralised in London.
- ✓ The role of the Exchequer was increased and expenditure monitored by government officials and not by the king.
- ✓ Government was better organised.

Reform of Wales, 1536

Wales became officially part of England and English law replaced Welsh law.

English was declared the official language in Wales.

Wales was represented by 26 MPs.



The Welsh March was divided up into new counties, each of which was controlled by a Justice of the Peace (JP).

The purpose of these reforms was an attempt to tackle disorder in Wales, as well as secure the support of the Welsh gentry by giving them the same powers as their English equivalents.

Now try this

Describe **two** ways in which Cromwell changed how England was governed between 1534 and 1540.

The management and use of parliament

Cromwell developed the role and importance of parliament as a means of making the laws of the land, which would strengthen the government's authority.

Henry's personal style of government



Henry's style of government was to make his own decisions about things through the Royal Council. The decisions were pronounced by **royal proclamation** and he expected people to obey him. Cromwell wanted to change this.

Parliament at the start of Henry VIII's reign

- ✓ Parliament had existed since the 13th century.
- ✓ It contained two chambers: the House of Lords (made up of landowners and bishops) and the House of Commons (made up of gentry and merchants).
- ✓ Its role was limited to approving taxation.
- ✓ It did not meet very often.

For more on Henry's early style of government, see page 2.

The development of the role of parliament by Cromwell

- Cromwell used parliament more regularly.
- Key changes in the Church and the state were made by Acts of Parliament (statute law).
- The king and Cromwell used parliament to gain support from the people who were significant: the nobility and churchmen in the House of Lords; and the merchants and gentry in the House of Commons. This strengthened the king's authority as it suggested that these people approved of his ideas and policies by turning them into laws.

Cromwell's effectiveness in managing parliament

For this system to work, Henry and Cromwell had to ensure that there was support in parliament for the laws they wanted to pass. Cromwell achieved this by:

- controlling parliamentary business, ensuring that ideas were debated and discussed and laws properly **drafted** (put together and worded properly)
- sitting as an MP, which enabled him to guide debates and ensure that there was support for the laws he wanted to pass
- using threats and intimidation to undermine any opposition.

The significance of the increased use of parliament

Henry's early personal style of government	Style of government after Cromwell's reforms of parliament
Parliament had a limited role in making decisions.	Parliament was at the centre of government – it had legislative power and could pass laws on all aspects of daily life.
Laws were passed by the king and the Royal Council.	Laws were passed with approval of both houses of parliament and the king – this strengthened the king's authority.
Parliament was not consulted on all matters.	Parliament could not be ignored and had to be consulted on all major laws the king wanted to pass.

Now try this

Give **two** consequences of Cromwell's growing use of parliament.

The table above will help you.

Anne of Cleves

Cromwell's reputation was badly damaged by the failure of Henry VIII's marriage to Anne of Cleves.

Reasons for, and the significance of, the marriage

- 1 By 1539, there seemed to be a real threat of a combined Catholic crusade against England launched by Charles V (ruler of Spain and the Holy Roman Empire) and Francis I (ruler of France). A marriage to Anne of Cleves would provide Henry with a valuable European ally, who might persuade other German states to help him if England was attacked.
- 2 Unlike many European rulers, the Duke of Cleves seemed happy to marry Anne off to Henry, as he and other reformist states needed allies against Charles V. This was in spite of Henry's marred reputation as someone who had killed his wife.
- 3 Henry had still only one male heir – Edward. The risk of Edward dying young required a further marriage to produce more male heirs.
- 4 The Duke of Cleves had also broken from Rome, so this suggested that Henry had no intention of backing out of his decision to break from Rome too.

Anne of Cleves

Anne was the second daughter of the Duke of Cleves, a small state in the north of the Holy Roman Empire. She was 24 years old when she came to England and spoke very little English.



A miniature of Anne of Cleves, painted by Hans Holbein the Younger and sent to Henry. Henry found this representation of her attractive and wanted to 'nourish love' by marriage. However, when he met her in person he took an immediate dislike to her, referring to her as a 'Flanders mare'.

Cromwell's role in the marriage

Cromwell was a reformer sympathetic to Protestant ideas. He believed that, by marrying Henry to Anne, the Protestant cause would be strengthened in court. Therefore, he encouraged Henry to accept this match.

Henry gave permission for marriage negotiations to begin and a marriage treaty was signed in October 1539.

However, when Anne arrived in England in December 1539, Henry took an instant dislike to her. He shouted at Cromwell, 'I like her not! I like her not!'

Despite being postponed, the marriage went ahead on 6 January 1540 after persuasion from Cromwell.

The failure of the union had the effect of weakening the Protestant cause in court, resulting in Henry demanding a return to Catholic values.

The failure of the marriage and the downfall of Cromwell

By the summer of 1540, the threat of invasion from France and the Holy Roman Empire had declined and Henry no longer needed an alliance with the Duke of Cleves. He had also become attracted to Catherine Howard, one of the queen's ladies-in-waiting.

The marriage was annulled on the grounds of non-consummation after just four months. Anne was granted estates by the king and became known as the king's 'sister'.

Henry blamed Cromwell for the failure of the marriage. This made Cromwell vulnerable to rivals at court, such as the Duke of Norfolk (Catherine Howard's uncle), who wished to remove Cromwell from power.

Now try this

Why did the marriage between Henry and Anne of Cleves reduce Cromwell's influence in court?

Think about who Henry would have blamed for the failure of the marriage and why.

Had a look ☐Nearly there ☐Nailed it! ☐

**Henry and
Cromwell,
1529–40**

Cromwell's fall

Thomas Cromwell was executed on 28 July 1540 for treason. Henry had blamed him for the failure of his marriage to Anne of Cleves but had awarded him the title of Earl of Essex in April 1540, so Cromwell would seem to have still been in favour. It was the role of the Duke of Norfolk who largely led to his downfall.

The fall of Cromwell

On 15 June 1540, Cromwell was arrested at a Privy Council meeting, accused of treason and heresy. The Duke of Norfolk allegedly ripped the seals of office from around Cromwell's neck, while all his goods, valued at £7000, were confiscated by the state.

Cromwell was taken to the Tower of London and parliament passed an Act of Attainder on 29 June, condemning him to death without trial.

In spite of a letter proclaiming his innocence and pleading for 'mercy, mercy, mercy!', Cromwell was executed on 28 July on the same day that Henry married Catherine Howard.

The Duke of Norfolk

Thomas Howard, the 3rd Duke of Norfolk, was the uncle of Catherine Howard who became Henry's fifth wife in 1540. He was a fierce rival of Thomas Cromwell and had ambitions of his own to become the king's chief minister. Being a Catholic, the Duke of Norfolk was hostile to the Protestant cause.



The Duke of Norfolk was a key player in Cromwell's fall from power.

The influence of the Duke of Norfolk

The Duke of Norfolk hated Cromwell because:

- Cromwell supported Protestant ideas
- he was jealous of Cromwell's rise from a humble background, in particular when he became an earl
- Cromwell had such an influence over Henry.

Seeing the failure of Anne's marriage, Norfolk recognised his chance to stir things up and sour the relationship between Cromwell and Henry.

The Duke of Norfolk:

- instructed his niece, Catherine Howard, to spread rumours about Cromwell, saying he was being inefficient in arranging the annulment of Henry's marriage to Anne of Cleves
- claimed that the delay was because Cromwell wanted to introduce Protestantism to England against the king's wishes.

Other reasons for Cromwell's fall

- 1 Cromwell was hated by French Catholics, especially Francis I, who saw him as a **heretic** and supporter of Charles V. Removing Cromwell from power would lead to improved relations with France and reduce the possibility of any Catholic crusade against England.
- 2 Cromwell had many enemies within the court and in the Church. They resented his dissolution of the monasteries, the execution of John Fisher and Thomas More, as well as his support for the cause of reform and moving England to become Protestant. They were more than happy to vote in parliament for the **Act of Attainder** that led to Cromwell's execution. To them, Cromwell was an 'evil counsellor' who had misled the king.

For more on John Fisher and Thomas More, see pages 22 and 23.

He was under pressure from the Duke of Norfolk.

He was under pressure from the Church.

**Henry's
decision
to execute
Cromwell**

He was under pressure from the court.

Ill-health made Henry bad tempered and led him to make hasty decisions.

In 1541, Henry claimed he had been deceived by his courtiers and regretted the death of his 'most faithful servant'.

Now try this


Give **three** reasons for Cromwell's fall from power in 1540.

Henry and the Catholic Church

In the early stages of his reign, Henry remained loyal to the Catholic Church and hostile to Protestantism. However, by 1534, Henry had renounced the pope's authority and split with Rome.

The Reformation in Europe

During the Reformation (led by a German priest called **Martin Luther**) the Christian Church in Europe split between Catholics and Protestants as described in the following table:

Catholics	Protestants
Catholics accepted the authority of the pope as head of the Church. 	Protestants rejected the pope's authority and believed that rulers, including monarchs, should instead lead and protect their own churches. 
The Church's main job was to deliver the seven sacraments (Church ceremonies) as a display of devotion to God.	They argued that the Church's principal function was to preach the word of God in the Bible. Only three sacraments mattered: the Eucharist; baptism; and penance.
Catholics believed in transubstantiation , arguing that the bread and wine actually becomes the body and blood of Jesus.	The bread and wine only represented the body and blood of Jesus – they did not become his body and blood.
Church services and readings from the Bible were said in Latin.	Church services and Bible readings were in the language of the country so that ordinary people could understand them.
Chantries (prayers for the dead) and indulgences (certificates forgiving sins) could be purchased to shorten the time spent in purgatory before entering heaven.	Chantries and indulgences were seen as corrupt and unnecessary – faith alone was required to get you into heaven.
Images and statues were venerated (regarded as sacred and prayed to) in Catholic churches.	Praying to images and statues was seen as superstitious; they were unwelcome in churches.
Pilgrimages were a good way of gaining God's approval.	Pilgrimages were unnecessary.
Priests wore special clothing (vestments) to set them apart from ordinary people.	Priests were ordinary people and could wear ordinary clothes.
Priests were not allowed to marry.	Priests were permitted to marry.

Henry as 'Defender of the Faith'

At first, Henry was supportive of the Catholic cause and hostile to Protestantism.

- He wrote a book called *In Defence of the Seven Sacraments*, which led to Pope Leo X describing him as '**Defender of the Faith**' in 1521.
- Luther's texts were publically burned by Wolsey in a pyre built at St Paul's churchyard in London.

Reasons for Henry's campaign against the Catholic Church

Henry wanted to increase his power over the Church because of:

- 1 the pope's failure to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon
- 2 the impact of Protestant ideas – many of his advisers were sympathetic to the new ideas and he particularly liked the idea of William Tyndale, who suggested that the Church should be ruled by kings
- 3 allegations of corruption in the Church.

Now try this

What other reasons were there, other than the pope's failure to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, for Henry's campaign against the Catholic Church?