

## Week 2: The Tudors c1485-1603

In the last session, you learnt about some key features of Tudor England and in today's session, you'll be using that knowledge to practice some of the skills that you'll be developing throughout your study at A level.

1. At the start of your history lessons, you'll be asked to complete a 'blast from the past' activity which will revisit key content from the previous weeks, often content which will link to the learning in that lesson too. Complete these recap questions which use last session's content.
  - a. Who was the first Tudor monarch?
  - b. How many Tudor monarchs were there?
  - c. What happened at the Battle of Bosworth?
  - d. Why was the Wars of the Roses significant?
  - e. Who is credited with helping Henry VII gain the throne? (Think who had a large influence over him)
  - f. Which house was Henry VII from?
  - g. Name two problems that Henry VII had when taking the throne of England.
  - h. Define 'dynasty'.
2. When studying history, you will be analysing things called 'historiographical opinions'. Essentially all this means is the opinions of historians which forms something called 'historiography'. During your A levels, you'll have historiographical opinions in your exam which you're asked to analyse and the first stage of this is interpreting what the historian's opinion actually is.

Below, there is a table with a range of sentences from different historians. Either write down or fill in the table with a simplified version of what they actually think about Henry VII without using the same phrases that are used in the quote. If there are any words/phrases that you don't know (I'm sure there will be) use a dictionary and write a definition to keep for when you start in September.

<b><i>Historiographical opinion</i></b>	<b><i>What is their opinion?</i></b>
'Henry VII's immediate concerns when he came to the throne were the security and stability of Tudor rule'. J. Guy	
'Henry was almost thirty when he came to the throne, perhaps too late to listen and adapt'. C. Carpenter	
'It was unsurprising if local instability and Henry's deep mistrust of nobles bred in turn a mistrust of them in the King's ability to rule'. C. Carpenter	
'As head of a new dynasty it was important that Henry VII obtained the acceptance of other powers such as Spain and Scotland'. D. Murphy	
'The traditional view of Henry VII's government is that he was very competent but miserly'. A. Pickering	
'Henry Tudor's triumph in 1485 was due to many factors such as foreign support, the weakening of Richard III's position after 1483... and a measure of good fortune'. A. Pickering	

3. You've just looked at a short sentence or two from some historians. In your exam, you'll get a paragraph from each historian to analyse. Below, there are three historian's opinions and you need to:
- Summarise the historian's opinions
  - What themes does this historian focus on? (Economy; politics/government; society; religion; foreign policy; rebellions or authority)
  - Highlight the factual information in the paragraphs and the opinion in the paragraphs (this is something every year 12 struggles with at the start so don't worry too much if you find this difficult, just try your best!) This is because in your exam, you will only analyse the opinions but often students make mistakes by analysing the facts.

**Source A** Spain was to become a great imperial power in the sixteenth century, and Henry VII had the vision to look ahead and negotiate with her, wanting Spain to become an ally. Above all, Henry wanted to secure his throne and to gain the respect of the various European powers. To do so it was  
5 vital to crush the Pretenders who rebelled against him during his troubled reign. His dynastic ambitions played an important part in Henry's clever diplomacy – as early as March 1488 he began to negotiate a marriage between his infant son Arthur and the Spanish princess, Catherine of Aragon.

Adapted from B. BEVAN, *Henry VII: The First Tudor King*, 2000

In the early sixteenth century, the English Church faced no great challenges. A few heretics denied parts of the teachings of the church, but these heretics had been around for a century and more without causing much trouble. Whatever the complaints about abuses it faced, usually little and local ones, the  
5 church was stable and secure.

Adapted from C. HAIGH, *English Reformations: Religion, Politics and Society under the Tudors*, 1993

**Source A** The centre of Henry VII's government was the king himself, assisted by those he chose to surround himself with – that is, his council. The number of councillors was large. They included great nobles, great bishops like Morton and Fox, but also judges and many lesser men who were civil  
5 servants. Henry's servants often held quite minor offices – but the importance of Sir Reginald Bray, for example, should not be measured by the comparatively unimportant post he held. The key fact about all Henry's councillors was that the king had chosen them. They were his men and they did his will.

Adapted from G R ELTON, *England under the Tudors*, 1974

4. Part of history is also doing wider reading that will benefit your understanding and prepare you with skills for life after sixth form, whatever path you want to go down. In any job/course/apprenticeship you will need to be able to read and deduce information. Read the article called 'The Stability of Henry VII' by B. Davis Barnhill and form the points into note form. You can choose any way of note taking from the attached document 'how to revise in history' which explains the most effective ways of doing this.