



Henry VIII Knowledge Organiser - Section 1: Character and Aims



1) Character of Henry VIII

Henry VIII succeeded to the throne in April 1509, 2 months before his 18th birthday. In the 7 years since the death of his elder brother, Arthur, he had been well educated for the role of King. He was well read and introduced to humanist ideas during his childhood. He was charming and agreeable and produce a positive first impression on people.

The manner of Henry VIII succession displays astuteness and ruthlessness as the new king. The death of Henry VII was concealed for 2 days while Prince Henry and some of the old Kings councillors secure his position. Richard Fox, Thomas Lovell and Richard Western established themselves in power and arrange the imprisonment of Dudley and Empson on the first day of the new reign. This is an extremely popular move which seemed to symbolise the end of the old days of ruling often linked to the later years of Henry VII.

Henry VIII way of ruling was very different from his father's. For example he lacks a strong work ethic, enjoying courtly activities such as sports, hunting and tournaments. As well as this, he had little interest in the daily business of government but he could act decisively when he needed to. Unlike his father, he relied heavily on other members of his council and, at times a, chief minister (Wolsey or Cromwell).

He also exhibited certain characteristics such as ruthlessness and cynicism. He often displayed the signs of insecurity as demonstrated by his willingness to resort to execution for treason often on flimsy excuses. He was very often impulsive, especially including the speed in which he married Catherine of Aragon, his later marriages to Anne of Cleves and Catherine Howard, and his decision to execute Thomas Cromwell, all of which he later regretted. In addition to this Henry very often didn't think about the consequences of his actions. This is shown with the wars with France and other elements of his expensive foreign policy.

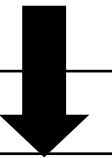
Henry believe in his own divine right to rule and conformed to the practices of the Catholic church to begin with.



2) The Legacy of Henry VII

Henry VII's main Legacy to his son was a surplus of funds for the Royal Crown. This is shown by Henry VII leaving around £300,000 to his son in 1509. He also bequeathed a Peaceful Kingdom, in which the nobility had been checked, and the Tudor Dynasty secured.

Although some of Henry VII's methods of Raising revenue had been unpopular, Henry VIII inherited a peaceful foreign policy, efficient government that had helped to provide stability, and a welcomed respite after the War of the Roses. Overall in 1509 Henry VIII established a secure throne that was financially stable and well established Kingdom.



3) The aims of Henry VIII's government

Henry VIII's early aims related to establishing himself and preserving the best of what his father had left him when making a new courses King. Once his position was consolidated his aims became less clear. Although always eager to pursue glory and secure the succession to the throne, he showed little interest in policymaking except when it affected him personally. This is especially shown with the likes of the amicable Grant in 1525 and policies during the end of his reign.

It was always particularly clear throughout Henry VIII's reign he was focused on war, glory, taking back land lost from France and becoming a key player in European diplomacy.

Effects of his reign such as the growing importance of Parliament, the deconstruction of much of the traditional religion and the plundering of church wealth arose from circumstances and were not the result of a clear set of policies/aims set out by Henry VIII during the start of his reign.



4) Henry VIII's initial aims and actions.

Aims.	Actions to achieve this.
Dismantle unpopular aspects of his father's legacy, while maintaining stable as king.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Empson and Dudley were executed for treason.Council Learning was abolished (Jan 1510)Many unpopular bonds in place with the nobility and gentry were cancelled.
Establish his status among European monarchs through marriage and the dynasty (by providing an heir)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Honours the treaty of Medina del Campo and married Catherine of Aragon in June 1509.
Gain support from the nobility whilst preserving a strong government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nobles' sons became Henry's personal companions in sport, leisure and war.Continued to limit the nobility's political influence in court (e.g allowed Wolsey to dominate politics as chief minister).
Establish himself as a warrior king through success in battle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pursued military glory through war with France in 1512-1514.





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1) To what extent did Henry VIII inherit a stable and secure throne from his father?

2) How successful was Henry VIII in establishing himself as king in 1509?

3) To what extent did Henry VIII successfully achieve his initial aims as king?

'Despite their differences in approach, Henry VII and Henry VIII shared the same political aims'. Assess the Validity of this view.

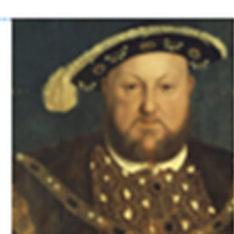
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Overall Judgement:



Henry VIII Knowledge Organiser - Section 2: Government and Parliament



Key Chronology: Domestic Policy

1509 - Henry VIII's Coronation and marriage to Catherine of Aragon.

1515 - Wolsey appointed Chief Minister.

1525 - Amicable Grant Rebellion.

1525 - Wolsey asks for a papal dispensation for the annulment of Catherine of Aragon.

1527 - Charles V's troops ransacked Rome and took the Pope prisoner.

1529 - Cardinal Campeggio sent by the Pope for the annulment hearing in Blackfriars.

Nov 1530 - Wolsey was arrested, but died before his trial and execution.

1532 - Cromwell Appointed Chief Minister and begun passing a series of measures to release the king from Papal control.

Jan 1533 - Anne Boleyn was pregnant.

April 1533 - Act in Restraints of Appeals passed.

May 1533 - Cranmer annulled Henry's marriage to Catherine, allowing Anne to be crowned Queen.

April 1534 - First Succession Act

Nov 1534 - Act of Supremacy, Act is Restraint of Annates and Treason Act is passed.

1536 - Second Succession Act and first Suppression Act passed.

1536 - Dissolution of the Monasteries begins, Act of Ten Articles issued and First set of Royal Injunctions passed.

1541 - Second Suppression Act Passed.

1544 - Third Succession Act passed.

Dec 1546 - Henry's Will is made, stating the line of succession.

1) Government under Henry VIII

Henry had inherited a strong and efficient central and local government structure, staffed by able administrators. Some of these continued in office and Henry's early years saw a good deal of continuity. However there were some changes after 1514. The first of which was a conciliar government had broken down by 1514 due to a disagreement between Henry and his councillors over the war with France. This led to Henry preferring to surround himself with younger courtiers.

From 1514 Henry relied on Wolsey as Chief Minister to manage government effectively. Wolsey's influence was due to his close relationship with the king rather than formal positions. However in 1529 Wolsey fell from power due to his failure to receive an annulment for the Marriage of Catherine of Aragon. This led to the return of a conciliar government until 1532. From 1532-1540 Thomas Cromwell remained as chief minister and dominated royal government.

The last 7 years of Henry's government led to the emergence of a new Privy Council with fixed membership, recorded proceedings and power laying with the Conservatives. During Henry VIII reign Parliament grew in importance particularly from 1529 when the so-called Reformation Parliament (1529-36) dealt with the divorce from Catherine of Aragon and reforms of the church. Henry also used Parliament to grant extraordinary revenue to finance his wars abroad. The role of the Privy Chamber was also extended in the early years of Henry VIII's reign when the king's 'minions' (young courtiers who enjoyed Henry's favour) became Gentlemen of the Privy Chamber.

6) Government in Henry VIII's later years (1540-47)

Under a revived system of conciliar government, Henry's final years were dominated by conservative anxious to halt further religious change, such as Stephen Gardiner and Thomas Wriothesley. Norfolk's influence was threatened following Catherine Howard's execution for treason in 1542 and the King's marriage to Catherine Parr.

As the King's health began to deteriorate factional rivalries between those of differing political and religious views intensified in a bid to be able to control his successor. Norfolk escaped execution by the timely death of the king in July 1547. The leading contender for the power was Norfolk's rival Edward Seymour, the new King's uncle.

5) Domestic policy under Cromwell (1532-1540)

Thomas Cromwell was a lawyer, who had come to the King's notice while working under Wolsey. The skills which engineered the break from Rome became invaluable to Henry. It has been suggested that Cromwell revolutionised government as he achieved royal supremacy through Acts of Parliament, so enhancing its status. Furthermore he helped give Parliamentary law (statute law) precedence over Church law (Canon law). Cromwell developed a more modern form of government replacing the personal approach of earlier kings with a more bureaucratic approach, that involved creating departments controlled by rules and procedures for different areas. For example the Court of Augmentations and the Court of First Fruits and Tenths which were established to look after Henry's income from the church, were subject to scrutiny and the careful auditing of all accounts. Cromwell also changed the composition of the Privy Council, reducing it to 20 men who took responsibility for the business of Government. This increased efficiency and a higher value was placed on talent as opposed to reward for personal service, or spaces within government.

Cromwell also negotiated further marriages for Henry when Henry's relationship with Anne Boleyn broke down, Cromwell made the case for her adultery. Leading to her execution in May 1536 and following the death in January of Catherine of Aragon. Cromwell then went on to organise Henry's marriage to Jane Seymour. Jane produced a male heir, Prince Edward in 1537 but died in childbirth. Cromwell's fall followed the failure of Henry VIII's marriage to the protestant German Princess, Anne of Cleves, which had arranged by Cromwell to suit Henry's foreign policy. Cromwell was tried for treason and heresy and executed in July 1540 on the same day but Henry marry Catherine Howard, niece of the Duke of Norfolk.

2) Domestic Policy under Wolsey (1515-1529)

Thomas Wolsey was a churchman of humble origins who's organisational abilities, especially with the French campaign impressed Henry. Causing him to become Archbishop of York in 1514, a cardinal in 1515, and a papal legate in 1518. Wolsey was appointed Lord Chancellor by Henry in 1515. This put him in control of royal government, and gave him immense power, as all other courtiers had to go through him to speak to the King.

During the years of Wolsey's chancellorship (1515-1529) domestic policy centred on strengthening royal authority and raising finances, particularly to support Henry VIII's wars with France and Scotland.

In addition to this he was also responsible for overseeing the legal system, promoting royal authority, and enforcing Law and Order. He did this by presiding over the Court of Chancery. Wolsey used this to uphold fair justice with problems relating to enclosures. By 1516 he had extended the use of the Court of the Star Chamber, which have been established as an offshoot of the King's council during Henry VII's reign. This was the centre of both government and the legal system, and was used to increase cheap and fair justice as well as hear cases of alleged misconduct. Wolsey also caused the authority of the crown over regional council's to be extended.

In regards to raising finances for the king, Wolsey insisted on getting taxpayers to pay subsidies to help him increase the Crown's revenue when needed. In 1525 when the amount of Extraordinary revenue raised still proved insufficient to finance Henry's war in France, so he tried to introduce the Amicable Grant (1525). This was the beginning Wolsey's downfall, due to the fact that the voluntary gift to the King from his subjects, was in fact a very heavy and unpopular tax which ultimately led to the Amicable Grant rebellion of 1525.

In 1526 he introduced the Eltham ordinances these aims to reduce real household expenditure by reforming the privy council's threw them all the also succeeded in reducing the influence of the Privy chamber.

3) The Establishment of Royal Supremacy

The 'King's Great Matter' concerned the annulment of Henry's marriage to Catherine of Aragon, something which could only be granted by Pope Clement VII. By the mid 1520s Henry had no male heir, and only one surviving daughter Princess Mary. His wife Catherine has passed childbearing age, and Henry was also in love with Anne Boleyn, the niece of Thomas Howard, The Duke of Norfolk. Henry feared for the kingdom should he died without an heir and therefore needed to act to change it.

4) Acts of Parliament (1533-41)

Date	Act	Significance
April 1533	Act in Restraint of Appeals: No appeals could be made to Rome against decisions of Church courts in England.	Catherine could not appeal to Rome against her marriage annulment.
April 1534	Act of Succession: Annulled Henry's marriage to Catherine; Vested the succession in Anne's children.	Princess Mary became illegitimate and hopes of a male heir rested with Anne.
Nov 1534	Act of Supremacy: King declared Supreme Head of the Church in England.	Pope's authority no longer recognised in England: the 'break from Rome'.
Nov 1534	Treason Act: Became treasonable to call Henry a Heretic.	Used against opponents of royal supremacy and brought down Thomas More (executed in 1535).
Nov 1534	Act in Restraints of Annates: Allowed the Annates to be transferred from the Pope to the King.	Strengthened the king's position; a special court was set up to administer this.
1536 and 1541	First and Second Suppression Acts: Dissolved the monasteries.	Confiscation of church land to the Crown, vastly increasing the wealth and power of the Crown.



Henry VIII Knowledge Organiser - Section 2: Government and Parliament



1) How significant were the Acts of Parliament in achieving Royal Supremacy?

2) To what extent did Cromwell successful as the King's Chief Minister?

3) In what ways and how effectively was England Government during this time?

How successful was Wolsey as the King's Chief Minister in the years 1515-1529?

Successful

Not Successful.

Overall Judgement: