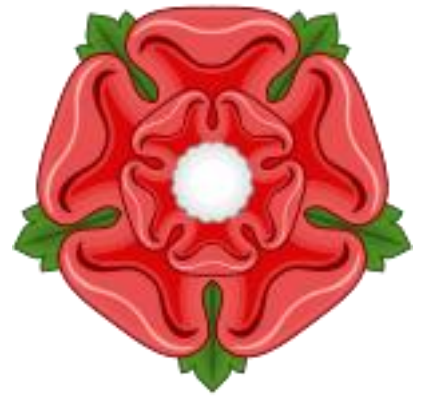


History Department A Level Transition Booklet

Name: _____



Topic: The Wars of the Roses and the dawn of the Tudor Age - 1422-1485

This booklet will contain all your lesson materials, homework and extension work. For any alternative links to articles or video content, please email Mr Nye.

Lesson 1 & 2 - The Wars of the Roses

Starter:

Task 1: Information blackout

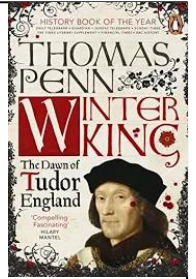
The Wars of the Roses were a series of fifteenth-century English civil wars for control of the throne of England, fought between supporters of two rival cadet branches of the royal House of Plantagenet: the House of Lancaster, represented by a red rose, and the House of York, represented by a white rose. Eventually, the wars eliminated the male lines of both families. The conflict lasted through many sporadic episodes between 1455 and 1487, but there was related fighting before and after this period between the parties. The power struggle ignited around social and financial troubles following the Hundred Years' War, unfolding the structural problems of bastard feudalism, combined with the mental infirmity and weak rule of King Henry VI which revived interest in the House of York's claim to the throne by Richard of York. Historians disagree on which of these factors was the main reason for the wars.

What were the Wars of the Roses?

[Link to articles for research task](#)



Extract from the Winter King by Thomas Penn



On the afternoon of Sunday 7 August 1485, off the westernmost tip of Wales, seven ships appeared from the south. Heading for the great natural harbour of Milford Haven, they nosed around the headland's sheer, sandstone cliffs and, just before sunset, dropped anchor. Smaller boats came shuttling back and forth, quickly and purposefully, bringing horses ashore, heaving munitions, armour and canon onto the beach. Many languages and accents could be heard: Scots, Welsh, Breton mixing with French, and English of various dialects. When they swarmed up the hillsides to the small castle commanding the bay, the soldiers found it abandoned, its garrison long gone. Nobody, it seemed, was expecting them – not at that remote place, anyway.

From one boat, a knot of nobles disembarked and waded through the surf. One of them, a wiry man in his late twenties, sank to his knees and clasped his hands in prayer. '*Judica me, Deus*', he began, muttering Psalm 43, 'Judge me, O Lord and favour my cause'. He kissed the Pembrokeshire sand and made the sign of the cross. Exiled first in Brittany, then in northern France, since the age of fourteen, Henry Earl of Richmond – or, as the reigning king of England, Richard III, referred to him bitterly, the 'bastard Tudor' – had returned after fourteen years at the head of a motley band of two thousand political dissidents and mercenaries. With rapidly dwindling support from his French backers, his invasion was furtive and anxious. That he was there at all was an extraordinary circumstance, the latest convulsion in a series of dynastic feuds and turf wars that had torn England apart over the previous half-century, and which would later become known as the Wars of the Roses: the red rose of Lancaster against the white rose of York. This man, who had crossed the Channel to claim the throne of England and would father its greatest dynasty, was never meant to be king.

How does the author, Thomas Penn, describe Henry VII and his men over the text?

Why, based on this text, is Henry VII shown to be an unlikely candidate for the throne?

Pick a quote you think best captures what the extract is talking about

How did the Wars of the Roses Impact on Medieval Kingship?

Task: research each of these three Kings- summarise their role in the Wars of the Roses to create a mini fact file on each one.
Extrapolate- what challenges will Henry VII face when trying to make royal authority felt.

Henry VI	Edward IV	Richard III
What was the impact of the Wars of the Roses on Medieval Kingship?	What challenges would Henry VII face when he takes over in 1485?	

How did the Wars of the Roses impact England?

Task: Use this information to start to assess how the Wars of the Roses impacted the nobles and the people of England

For each bit of evidence, does it prove the Wars had a 'significant' impact or a 'limited' impact. Put an S or an L .					
Few noble houses were extinguished during the wars; in the period from 1425 to 1449, before the outbreak of the wars, there were as many extinctions of noble lines from natural causes (25) as occurred during the fighting (24) from 1450 to 1474.		Many ambitious nobles were killed during the conflict. this meant that in many areas new merchants gained influence. Out of 38 major lords involved in the conflict on both sides, 16 were killed in battle, 9 were executed.	Most towns and cities avoided destruction so much of the 'cost' was born by soldiers and the nobles. This helped the decline of the Feudal system started by the Black Death.	The Wars of the Roses had the biggest battle to take place on English soil. An estimated 50,000 men fought at Towton in 1461 near York. At this battle it is estimated almost 25,000 men died.	
The Midlands and the North saw most fighting in the Wars of the Roses. No battles took place south of the River Thames in the Wars of the Roses so most people around England did minimal fighting.		Between 1450 and 1490 England's population actually grew from 1.9 million to 2.1 million. There was no mass decline like there had been for the Black Death.	The power of the king declines. Many nobles kept private armies; this was called 'retaining'. Henry VII made it a priority to deal with this issue and gain control over the nobles.	Because there was no continuous war, only occasional periods of fighting such as in 1470-71 when Warwick swapped sides, there was no mass famine or starvation. Areas such as East Anglia saw no real fighting so was still able to grow and develop.	
In the North, major noble houses had a significant feud. The Percys and the Nevilles were engaged in a series of minor battles and skirmishes which added to the chaos and sense of danger in the North.		Trade between London and Calais continue throughout the Wars of the Roses. This meant that England did not fall too far behind in trade.			

How did different regions experience the Wars of the Roses?

How were the nobility impacted by the Wars of the Roses?

How did the power of the king change in relation to the nobility?

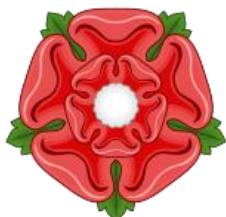
What evidence is there of growth or progress in England?

Do you agree with our extract from lesson one that this period had ‘torn England apart’?

Lesson 3 – Planning an Essay

Starter – Key terms recall

Henry VI	
Edward IV	
Richard III	
House of York	
House of Lancaster	



Option 1

Agree	Disagree
Topic sentence: _____	Topic sentence: _____
_____	_____
Evidence (3 bits in note form):	Evidence (3 bits in note form):
1 - _____	1 - _____
2 - _____	2 - _____
3 - _____	3 - _____
Concluding sentence: _____	Concluding sentence: _____
_____	_____
Conclusion – What do you actually think? Will you argue it was devastating, or will you argue that is no correct and put something else?	

Option 2:

<p>Topic sentence:</p> <p>Evidence (2 bits in note form):</p> <p>1 -</p> <p>2 -</p> <p>Concluding sentence:</p>	<p>Topic sentence:</p> <p>Evidence (2 bits in note form):</p> <p>1 -</p> <p>2 -</p> <p>Concluding sentence:</p>
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<p>Conclusion – What do you actually think? Will you argue it was devastating, or will you argue that is no correct and put something else?</p>	

Online material



I have attached a few podcasts/programs and other online sources that deal with some material around our subject. These can be a very useful introduction to a subject or to just keep things fresh. I have only spent a short amount of time sourcing these so please do let us know if you go hunting for any more. If you find any, please don't keep them to yourself! Email me (Mr Nye) and I will add them onto the document.

Useful Essay writing words

Use the link to the right to access some useful words or phrases you could use in your essay.



