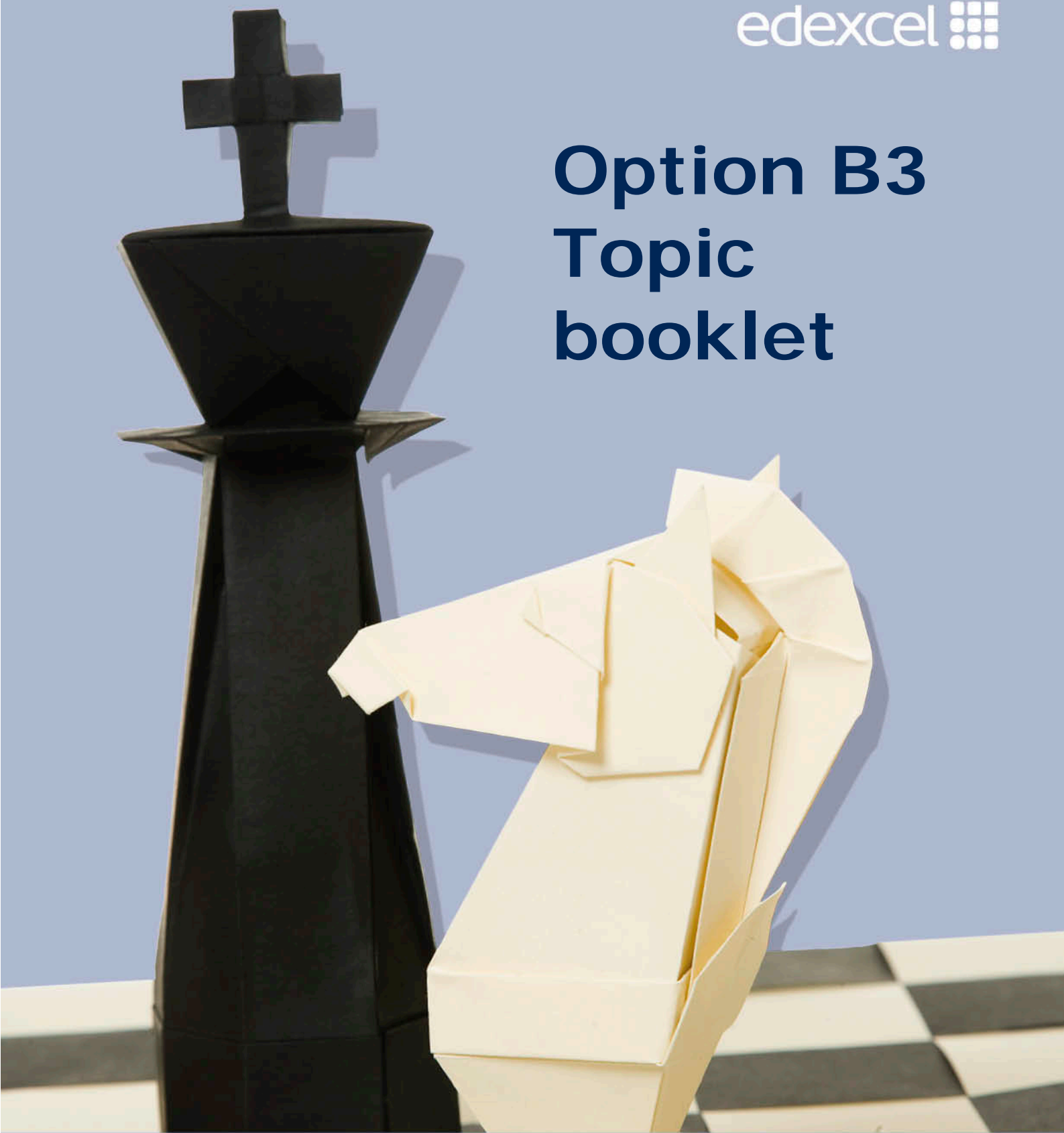


Option B3 Topic booklet



Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509–40

GCSE (9-1) History

Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in History (1HI0)

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Version 4 (March 2025)

This topic booklet has been updated to include changes made to new issues of the specification and sample assessment materials.

- Issue 5: language and assessment changes, for first assessment June 2025.
- Issue 6: content changes, for first teaching September 2024 and first assessment June 2026.

Information on new resources has also been added.

Summary guidance on the changes can be found [here](#).

1. Overview

'Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived.' This memory aid is used by many students to remind them of the fate of each of Henry VIII's six wives, but the importance of Henry VIII's reign goes far beyond the lurid tales of adultery and executions which feature in popular television and stage depictions. In the years 1509–40, Henry imposed dramatic changes to the political and religious life of the country, which endured long after his death, and, for a time, made England a key player on the European stage.

Henry's peaceful accession in 1509 was in sharp contrast to the difficulties faced by his father. After a century of instability for the English crown, his unchallenged accession in 1509 was greeted with relief by the English people, who looked forward to years of stability under a young and popular monarch.

Henry's relations with his father had been distant and formal, and the new king had been given little training on the nature of kingship and royal government. The teenage king preferred the pursuit of pleasure to that of government, and delegated many duties to Thomas Wolsey. By 1515 Wolsey was a cardinal, Archbishop of York and Lord Chancellor, and thus had the power to carry out his royal master's instructions. However, despite his great influence over matters of Church and state, Wolsey was unable to meet Henry's demands for the annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon. The power of the Papacy proved too strong, and the recall of the case to Rome in 1529 was soon followed by Wolsey's fall from power.

Wolsey had proved to be an able royal servant, and so was his successor, Cromwell, in the 1530s. An able administrator and a talented manager of men, Cromwell was responsible for the religious reforms which transformed both the Church in England and the nature of royal power. The years 1529–36 were a period of far-reaching change in many aspects of life, demonstrating Cromwell's ambition and grip on power. The inevitable backlash, in the form of the Pilgrimage of Grace, was quashed by 1537 but served as an important warning for Henry. Cromwell found it increasingly difficult to make changes to the English Church and his final spectacular fall from grace, at the hands of his long-time enemy Norfolk, is one of the most memorable stories of the Tudor era.

This unit includes many areas of study to engage students and which are still debated by historians today, such as Cromwell's management of parliament. There are many different character studies to be made, of the king and his wives, as well as of Wolsey and Cromwell.

The three key topics provide a framework for teaching and understanding the option but should not be taken in isolation from each other. There is chronological overlap between the topics and this structure helps highlight the complexity and interplay of different aspects within society.

1. Overview

1.1 Assessment (from June 2025)

Students answer four questions for the British depth study: Questions 1(a) and (b), Question 2 and either Question 3 or Question 4.

- Questions 1(a) and (b): these are compulsory and target AO1. Each question asks students to describe one feature.
- Question 2: this is compulsory and targets AO1/AO2. It focuses on causation.
- Questions 3/4: students have a choice of two questions. These target AO1/AO2 and require a judgement. They may focus on any of the following: similarity, difference, change, continuity, causation, consequence or significance.
(Note: there is no SPaG mark awarded.)

Detailed information and guidance on assessment can be found in the separate [Getting Started Guide](#).

2. Content guidance

2.1 Summary of content

Henry VIII and Wolsey, 1509–29

The first key topic covers the first 20 years of Henry's reign, and considers the king's relationship with his Chief Minister Cardinal Wolsey. Students should be aware of the main features of English life in 1509, including, for example, the structure of society and the features of society in villages and towns. Students should understand the key features of Henry VIII's accession and rule. They should understand why Henry VIII succeeded unchallenged to the throne in 1509 and the financial advantages he enjoyed from the outset. The personal nature of kingship in the sixteenth century, the significance of Henry's belief in the divine right of kings, and Henry's driving ambitions to secure his dynasty and improve England's prestige in Europe at France's expense are all important underpinning elements for the rest of the course.

Students should understand the reasons for Wolsey's rise to power, and his importance in government over 15 years. They should examine his wide-ranging legal and financial reforms. They should understand, however, that his financial policies had only mixed success, for example, while the subsidy proved a successful method of raising taxes, the Amicable Grant of 1525 was bitterly resented, provoking discontent and even open rebellion in Suffolk.

Students should recognise that Wolsey's foreign policy was remarkably successful until 1520 – his achievements including the Treaty of London in 1518 and the Field of the Cloth of Gold meeting with Francis I of France in 1520 – but that for most of the 1520s England had less success in Europe, with Henry and Wolsey finding no way of countering Charles V's growing prestige and military successes. Students should understand the reasons for growing opposition to Wolsey in the 1520s, and why he fell from power so dramatically in 1529.

Henry VIII and Cromwell, 1529–40

The second key topic is concerned with Cromwell's rule as Chief Minister in the 1530s. Students should be aware that Cromwell's role is defined in part by his handling of the king's first four marriages, especially in securing the annulment of Catherine of Aragon's marriage, and his significant role in the downfall of Anne Boleyn. Students should understand why Henry VIII married Jane Seymour and the influence she had over him, as well as the birth of a male heir. They should consider how far the marriage to Anne of Cleves was influenced by foreign policy issues and what other factors contributed to Henry's choice of bride, and the extent to which this contributed to Cromwell's fall from power in 1540.

Students should be aware of the major reforms which Cromwell carried out, for example, centralising royal power in London, improving government finances, and laying the foundations of an impartial and professional civil service. They should appreciate Cromwell's skilful management of Commons and Lords, and the significance of the increased use of parliament.

The Reformation and its impact, 1529–40

The third key topic deals with the most important feature of Henry's reign: the making of the English Reformation and its impact on national life. Students should understand why Henry's attitude towards the Catholic Church changed from unquestioning loyalty to growing opposition and its relationship to his break with Rome in the 1530s; they should understand that while the annulment played an important part in this process, it is important to note the long-term problems with the English Church. The role of the Reformation Parliament in carrying out the

2. Content guidance

king's wishes and the political effects of religious change, for example the treason laws, are both important points of study.

In considering opposition to religious change, students should note the different reasons for opposition of key individuals such as Elizabeth Barton, John Fisher and Thomas More. They should also be aware of the extent to which the English Church was changed by the Reformation, and the similarities and differences between the pre-Reformation and post-Reformation Church.

Students will study the many different functions carried out by the monasteries, and the extent to which their dissolution affected the lives of the English people, for example an increase in poverty and vagabondage. They should be aware that the dissolution of the monasteries saw a massive increase in the crown's wealth.

Students should understand that the rebels who joined the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1536 did so for a variety of reasons, such as opposition to changes to their religious practices, concern about issues such as enclosure, and the effects of monastic closures on people's lives. They should understand the key events of the uprising, including rebellions in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire, and consider the roles played by Robert Aske and the Duke of Norfolk, on opposing sides of the rebellion. They might also assess the extent to which the Pilgrimage of Grace contributed to the fall of Cromwell in 1540.

Key terms

It may be useful at the start of the course to provide students with a list of key terms and concepts that they will need to be familiar with for this option. Students should be familiar with the terminology found in the specification content.

The list of terms below is not intended to be a comprehensive checklist, rather simply a useful starting point for teachers to produce their own list of terms that their students may not fully understand or have difficulty spelling.

Students should also be familiar with broad terms, such as economic, government, political, religious and social.

- administrative
- annulment
- centralisation
- civil service
- Council of the North
- diplomacy
- dissolution
- divine right
- dynasty
- enclosure
- Exchequer
- excommunication
- factions at court
- Holy Roman Empire
- local rights
- Lords and Commons
- monasteries
- papacy
- pilgrimage
- Privy Council
- rebellion
- Renaissance
- succession
- supremacy
- treason

2.2 Content exemplification

This section provides additional guidance on the specification content. It should be remembered that the official specification is the only authoritative source of information and should always be referred to for definitive guidance. Any examples provided here do not constitute additional specification content and other relevant material illustrating aspects of the specification can be used.

Key topic 1: Henry VIII and Wolsey, 1509–29		Exemplification
1 Henry VIII, Renaissance Prince	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • England in 1509: society and government. The young Henry and his accession to the throne. • Henry's character and views on sovereignty and monarchy. His personal style of government. • Strengths, weaknesses and aims as monarch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key features of society and government, such as the Great Chain of Being and social hierarchy, impact of trade, role of Catholic Church, elements of government. • Henry's inheritance of a secure throne with no major challengers and a full treasury. • Henry as a well-educated man and a talented athlete. His view of monarchy as the central point of national life. His growing belief in the divine right of kings. • Henry's encouragement of talented men regardless of birth. His dislike of the daily duties of a monarch. His aims, for example to establish England as a major force in European affairs, and to recover lands in France.
2 The rise of Wolsey and his policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons for Wolsey's rise to power. His personality, roles and wealth. • Wolsey's reforms: enclosures, finance and justice. The Eltham Ordinances. • Reasons for and reactions to the Amicable Grant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wolsey's ambition for power and willingness to carry out the king's wishes, alongside his attention to detail and capacity for hard work. Key developments in his rise to power. Wolsey's roles as Lord Chancellor and cardinal by 1515. His accumulated massive personal wealth, as shown by the building of Hampton Court. • Wolsey as a reformer, e.g. his support for laws against enclosure. His recovery of crown lands granted to nobles. Introduction of the subsidy, an efficient tax system. Use of the courts to speed up justice, especially for the poor. • Eltham Ordinances and greater efficiency of the Privy Council. • Introduction of Amicable Grant in 1525 to pay for French campaigns. Resulting discontent and rebellion, for example in Suffolk. Its subsequent withdrawal. Humiliation of Wolsey and postponement of the French campaign.

2. Content guidance

Key topic 1: Henry VIII and Wolsey, 1509–29		Exemplification
3 Wolsey's foreign policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims of Wolsey's foreign policy. • Successes and failures, including relations with France and the Holy Roman Empire, the Treaty of London (1518), the 'Field of the Cloth of Gold' (1520) and increasing difficulties in the 1520s. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wolsey's aims to carry out the king's wishes and act as a peacemaker between European states. • Significance of the campaign against France, 1512–24. Battle of the Spurs, 1513. • Organisation of the Treaty of London, 1518, the highpoint of his diplomacy. • Field of the Cloth of Gold, 1520: impressive display of English wealth. • Relations with Charles V, e.g. the support given in the 1520s and the lack of resulting gains; alliance with France against Charles.
4 Wolsey, Catherine, the succession and annulment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catherine of Aragon and the succession. • Henry's reasons for and attempts to gain an annulment. Opposition to the annulment, including the role of Pope Clement VII. • Reasons for Wolsey's fall from power, including the failure of the divorce proceedings in London and the influence of the Boleyns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catherine's marriage to Henry in 1509. Her pregnancies and Princess Mary as the only child who survived. • Henry's desperation for a son to continue the dynasty as Catherine passed child-bearing age by the mid-1520s. Henry's infatuation with Anne Boleyn; his attempts to gain an annulment in England and reasons for their failure, including the role of the Pope. • Opposition to the annulment from, for example, Charles V and churchmen and ministers in England; popular support for Catherine; the significance of Pope Clement VII. • Reasons for Wolsey's fall, including Wolsey's failure to deliver the annulment to the king in 1529, and Anne Boleyn's bitter opposition to Wolsey. The influence of Anne, her father and two brothers in turning Henry against Wolsey.

Key topic 2: Henry VIII and Cromwell, 1529–40	Exemplification
<p>1 Cromwell's rise to power, 1529–34</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personality and early career, including service to Wolsey, election as MP and eventual membership of the Royal Council. • Handling of the king's annulment and influence over Henry. Role as the king's Chief Minister. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cromwell's background, e.g. as the son of a Putney innkeeper and brewer; his career as a successful lawyer and merchant; his travels in Europe and support of Protestant ideas; and his service to Wolsey from 1516, becoming a trusted adviser. His election as MP for Taunton from 1529 and his membership of the Privy Council from 1530. • Cromwell's tactics in handling the annulment, e.g. the 1533 Act of Appeals, preventing appeals to Rome. Archbishop Cranmer's declaration of the marriage to Catherine as invalid. • Cromwell's responsibility as Chief Minister from 1534 for major changes in government and in national religious life.
<p>2 The king's marriages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons for the fall of Anne Boleyn, including the role of Cromwell. • Reasons for marriage to Jane Seymour; her influence, heir and death. • Reasons for the marriage to Anne of Cleves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factors which combined to account for Anne's fall, e.g. her falling out with Cromwell over the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536; her failure to provide Henry with a male heir, the birth of Princess Elizabeth in 1533. Cromwell's use of evidence of Anne's adultery to put her on trial for treason. Anne's execution, 1536. • Reasons for Henry's marriage to Jane Seymour a few weeks after Anne Boleyn's execution. Jane's influence, her delivery of a son, later Edward VI, 1537, but her death from complications in childbirth. • Reasons for Henry's marriage to Anne of Cleves, e.g. Cromwell's hope that the marriage would strengthen Protestant influences in England; the benefit in terms of international relations; Cromwell's role in arranging the marriage.

2. Content guidance

Key topic 2: Henry VIII and Cromwell, 1529–40		Exemplification
3 Cromwell and government, 1534–40	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reform of government and royal finance.• The management and use of parliament.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cromwell as a reformer, e.g. his reform of regional government in the North and Wales; creation of a professional civil service; removal of local powers, with national administration centred in London; enhancement of the role of the Exchequer; establishment of courts to manage income from the monastic lands; and massive increase in royal income.• Development of the role of parliament by Cromwell so that it approved very important changes in Church and state. Cromwell's effectiveness in managing parliament and the significance of the increased use of parliament.
4 The fall of Cromwell	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reasons for Cromwell's fall from power in 1540, including the influence of the Duke of Norfolk and the failure of the marriage to Anne of Cleves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Factors which combined to bring about his fall, e.g. opposition to Cromwell's use of power to steer the Church into a more Protestant direction; the damage to his influence as a result of the King's reaction to Anne; opposition from factions at court and from the powerful Duke of Norfolk, who wished his niece Catherine Howard to become queen and suggested to the king that Cromwell had become too powerful. Cromwell's execution for treason in 1540.

Key topic 3: The Reformation and its impact, 1529–40	Exemplification
1 The break with Rome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Henry as 'Defender of the Faith'. Reasons for Henry's campaign against the Pope and the Catholic Church, 1529–33. The significance of the Act of Succession and the Act of Supremacy (1534) for the break with Rome. Cromwell's role in their enforcement, including the use of oaths and treason laws.
2 Opposition to, and impact of, Reformation, 1534–40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elizabeth Barton (the Nun of Kent) and John Fisher. The significance of opposition from Thomas More. Impact of the Reformation on the English Church, including the work of Thomas Cranmer and the influence of Thomas Cromwell.

2. Content guidance

Key topic 3: The Reformation and its impact, 1529–40	Exemplification
<p>3 The dissolution of the monasteries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of religious houses in local communities. • Reasons for the dissolutions, including the findings of Cromwell's commissions of 1535. • The impact of the dissolutions. Beneficiaries and losers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of monasteries not just as places of prayer, but also providing for the poor, sick and the old, giving education to young boys, and providing rooms where travellers could stay. • Cromwell's survey of 1535, revealing that many monasteries were very wealthy and owned vast areas of land. Reports that many monks and nuns ignored their vows of poverty, obedience and chastity. The dissolution of lesser monasteries in 1536 and greater ones in 1539, following the survey. • Beneficiaries, such as the king, who received massive amounts of money and land and many nobles and gentry who enriched themselves by buying monastic land from the crown. • The impact of the dissolution of the monasteries, for example increased poverty and destitution in towns and villages, and education suffering with the loss of libraries and monastic schools.
<p>4 The Pilgrimage of Grace, 1536</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons for the uprising. • Key events of the uprising, including rebellions in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire and the roles of Robert Aske and the Duke of Norfolk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The combination of factors which accounted for the uprising, e.g. opposition of the rebels to religious changes, especially the end of the monasteries; their resentment of Cromwell's extension of central authority at the expense of local rights; economic reasons, including rent increases and the growth of enclosure. • Key events, e.g. rebellions in Lincolnshire in October 1536; march by rebels on Lincoln but dispersal by a royal army under Suffolk; Robert Aske's role as leader of forces from Caister through York to Doncaster; his presentation of the 24 Articles to Norfolk; Henry's general pardon granted to the rebels; further rebellions in 1537 in Lincolnshire and their suppression. The role of the Duke of Norfolk in ending the rebellion. Execution of the ringleaders, including Aske.

3. Student timeline

The timeline below could be given to students, and could be further edited and added to by them. Inclusion of dates and events in this timeline should not be taken as an indication that these are prescribed: the official specification and associated assessment guidance materials are the only authoritative source of information and should always be referred to for definitive guidance.

1509	Henry's accession to the throne Henry marries Arthur's widow, Catherine of Aragon Wolsey appointed to the Privy Council
1512	Henry declares war against France
1513	Wolsey organises the invasion of France Battle of the Spurs
1514	Wolsey negotiates peace with France Wolsey appointed Archbishop of York
1515	Wolsey becomes a cardinal and Lord Chancellor of England
1516	Cromwell becomes a member of Wolsey's household Catherine gives birth to Mary, later Queen Mary Tudor
1518	Treaty of London
1520	Field of the Cloth of Gold: meeting between Henry and Francis I of France
1521	Treaty of Bruges with Charles V
1525	The Amicable Grant Resistance in several counties, notably in Suffolk
1526	The Eltham Ordinances reduce the size of the Privy Council Henry falls in love with Anne Boleyn
1528–29	Wolsey and Cardinal Campeggio try the case to annul Henry's marriage with Catherine of Aragon
1529	Annulment case referred to Rome Wolsey dismissed as Lord Chancellor Thomas More becomes Chancellor
1530	Wolsey dies at Leicester Cromwell joins the Privy Council
1533	Act of Appeals abolishes the right of appeal to Rome Archbishop Cranmer declares Henry's marriage invalid Henry marries Anne Boleyn Anne gives birth to Elizabeth, later Queen Elizabeth I

3. Student timeline

1534	Cromwell confirmed as Henry's Chief Minister Act of Succession Act of Supremacy Treason Act Execution of Elizabeth Barton (Nun of Kent)
1535	Execution of John Fisher and Thomas More
1536	Dissolution of lesser monasteries Pilgrimage of Grace Execution of Anne Boleyn Henry marries Jane Seymour End of the Reformation Parliament
1537	Execution of Robert Aske and other leaders of the Pilgrimage of Grace Jane gives birth to a son, later King Edward VI Jane Seymour dies
1539	Dissolution of greater monasteries
1540	Henry marries Anne of Cleves Execution of Cromwell

4. Resources

The sections below list a range of resources that could be used by students and teachers for this topic.

The first section lists information on free support materials available on the Edexcel website. On the [GCSE History \(9–1\) from 2016](#) page:

- select the [Teaching support](#) tab, where resources are separated out by Plan, Teach, and Track and Assess;
- or select the [Course materials](#) tab, and then select the appropriate tab for [Specification and sample assessments](#), [Exam materials](#), or [Teaching and learning materials](#).

The table below provides a selection of the free support materials available on the Edexcel website. Details and links for all the free support available can be found in [this document](#). It is updated regularly, so worth bookmarking.

The second section lists publishers who have been endorsed for GCSE (9–1) History. Endorsement means that a resource has been through our quality assurance process to confirm that it meets the teaching and learning requirements a specification is aimed at. Endorsement of a resource doesn't mean it's the only suitable material available, or that it is required to achieve the qualification.

The remaining sections list both endorsed resources and those that have not been endorsed. While these resources – and others – may be used to support teaching and learning, the official specification and associated assessment guidance materials are the only authoritative source of information and should always be referred to for definitive guidance.

There has been a rapid growth in podcasts in recent years, and we have added below links to a few well-known ones. Some may not be suitable for younger listeners, so please check carefully before sharing with students. Similarly, there are plenty of useful videos for History students on online sharing platforms, and any links below have been checked, but please exercise care before sharing social media links with students.

4.1 Free support materials

Resource	Details
Specification , sample assessment materials and specimen papers	The starting point for information on content and assessment in GCSE (9–1) History.
Past papers, mark schemes and examiner reports	An Edexcel Online login is required to access files with a silver padlock – check with your exams officer if you can't open them.
Getting Started Guide	An overview of the specification, to help you get to grips with the content and assessment requirements of the specification. Updated for Issues 5 and 6.
Summary guidance on changes for 2025 and 2026	Summary guidance with links on the changes being made for Issue 5 (first assessment 2025) and Issue 6 (2026).
Content changes for 2026: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic guidance • FAQs 	Guidance for each option on the changes being made to the content for Issue 6 of the specification (first assessment June 2026), and FAQs.

Resource	Details
Assessment changes for 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guide FAQs 	Guidance on the changes being made to the assessment model for Issue 5 of the specification (first assessment June 2025), and FAQs.
Specification language changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track changes on Rationale FAQs 	Guidance on the language changes made for Issue 4 of the specification (first teaching September 2023, first assessment June 2025).
Paper 2 Guide	Teaching approaches and ideas for the period study and British depth study, with case studies from practising teachers.
Schemes of work	Sample outline schemes of work for each topic in the specification, in editable Word files. A digital interactive scheme of work is also available for both KS3 and GCSE.
Mapping documents	Mapping documents to help support teachers in moving to Edexcel GCSE History.
Exemplar student answers	Exemplar student answers, including from the summer 2018, 2019 and 2022 series, with examiner commentaries and mark schemes.
Student walkthroughs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper 2B playlist 	A series of pre-recorded student walkthroughs, created in collaboration with Harris Federation. <i>Updated for Summer 2025.</i>
Revision tips	Some useful revision tips for students. <i>Updated for Summer 2025.</i>
Command words	A series of student-friendly files exploring each command word in turn, plus a summary document paper-by-paper. <i>Updated for 2025.</i>

4.2 Endorsed resources*

[Pearson](#) – Designed to help develop confident, articulate and successful historians.

[Hodder Education](#) – The Hodder GCSE History for Edexcel students' book helps students achieve their full potential while ensuring pace, enjoyment and motivation.

[Oxford University Press](#) – Oxford's Edexcel GCSE History student books help to develop young historians who have the confidence to succeed, with the most up-to-date exam practice and a tried-and-trusted, accessible approach.

[Zigzag Education](#) – Photocopiable resources for learning, revision and exam practice.

[Anglia Tours](#) – A range of fully-guided History tours which enhance both teaching and learning for the related Pearson qualification.

[NST Tours](#) – Guided History tours to support teachers and students with GCSE History.

* You don't have to purchase any resources, including those from Pearson, to deliver our qualifications.

4.3 Resources for students

Resource	Details
<i>Edexcel GCSE History (9–1) Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509–40</i> (Pearson, 2016)	Student book written for this option in the current specification.
<i>Revise Edexcel GCSE (9–1) History: Henry VIII and his ministers Revision Guide and Workbook</i> (Pearson, 2017)	A combined revision guide and workbook written for this option in the current specification.
<i>Hodder GCSE History for Edexcel: Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509–40</i> (Hodder, 2016)	Student book written for this option in the current specification.
David Loades, <i>The Tudors for Dummies</i> (Wiley, 2011)	Part II, 'Handling Henry VIII', has a good overview of the king's whole reign to 1547. Chapter 2 has background information on the reign of Henry VII, which places Henry VIII's reign into context.
The History of Parliament www.historyofparliamentonline.org	There is an interesting section on parliament and the Tudors, with much analysis on Henry and the Reformation Parliament.
BBC articles Henry VIII www.bbc.co.uk/history/people/henry_viii/ How did Henry VIII use sex and power to secure his legacy? www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zpsbr82	Articles and links to other pages on Henry VIII. NB first link currently unavailable.
Active History www.activehistory.co.uk/Miscellaneous/menus/Year_8/Henry_VIII.php	There is an interactive activity on Henry VIII, hero or villain. Aimed at KS3 students, but still very useful for GCSE.
History Learning Site www.historylearningsite.co.uk/tudor-england/	The Tudor England section includes a range of articles relevant to this option.
BBC Bitesize Henry VIII www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zdd82hv	A range of short clips on Henry VIII and his reign.
Horrible Histories https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/shows/horrible-histories	The iconic CBBC series that brings history alive. Not all episodes are available but between iPlayer and YouTube many can be found.
The Early Tudors: Henry VIII and the Church of England https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GcwsBPPSi9Q	'Ten Minute English and British History' Quick introduction to the Early Tudors and the Church of England.

Resource	Details
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DMBR-sTypE4	12-minute video by American history teacher Tom Richey giving details on the six wives of Henry VIII.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-5QB77qjS8	A five-minute video on Henry VIII – Wolsey and Church Reform.
Six the Musical https://sixthemusical.com/	Musical presenting the experiences of Henry VIII's wives.

4.4 Resources for teachers

Resource	Details
Angela Anderson and Tony Imperato, <i>Tudor England</i> (Hodder, 2001)	A Level textbook which has comprehensive coverage of this unit of study.
Alastair Armstrong, <i>Henry VIII: Authority, Nation and Religion, 1509–40</i> (Pearson, 2008)	A Level textbook which has comprehensive coverage of this unit of study.
Sarah Moffatt and Adam Bloomfield: <i>Student Support Materials for Edexcel AS Unit 2</i> (Collins, 2012)	A Level textbook which has comprehensive coverage of this unit of study.
John Guy, <i>Henry VIII</i> (Allen Lane, 2014)	Covers the whole of the king's life.
John Matusiak, <i>Wolsey</i> (The History Press, 2014)	Good and helpful coverage, especially on foreign policy.
Tracy Borman, <i>Henry VIII and the men who made him</i> (Hodder, 2018)	A detailed biography of Henry VIII and the intricacies of his court.
Tracy Borman, <i>Thomas Cromwell</i> (Hodder, 2014)	Biography, with information on Cromwell's work under Wolsey. Plenty on the dissolution of the monasteries.
Diarmaid MacCulloch, <i>Thomas Cromwell: A Life</i> (Penguin Books 2019)	A thorough biography of Thomas Cromwell.
Hilary Mantel, <i>Wolf Hall</i> (Fourth Estate, 2010)	A work of fiction on Cromwell in the 1530s, this formed the basis of the popular BBC series shown in 2015.
Hilary Mantel, <i>Bring Up the Bodies</i> (Fourth Estate, 2012)	Second novel in the <i>Wolf Hall</i> trilogy
Hilary Mantel, <i>The Mirror and the Light</i> (Fourth Estate, 2020)	Final novel in the <i>Wolf Hall</i> trilogy, with an accompanying BBC series (2024).
<i>History Today</i> articles 'Henry VIII and his ministers' (December 1995) (£) 'Henry VIII and his Church' (December 1997) (£) 'Who was Henry VIII?' (April 2009) (£)	Subscription required.

Resource	Details
John Guy, <i>The Tudors: A Very Short Introduction</i> (OUP, 2013)	Oxford University Press, A Very Short Introduction Series An interesting and well-written series covering a wide variety of topics that serve as an excellent overview.
John Guy, <i>Henry VIII: The Quest for Fame</i> (Penguin, 2014)	Title from the new Penguin Monarchs series.
National Portrait Gallery King Henry VIII Katherine of Aragon Anne Boleyn Jane Seymour Anne of Cleves John Blanke	A range of National Portrait Gallery resources, introducing key figures and guiding students step-by-step through analysing their portraits as historical sources.
National Portrait Gallery What can portraits tell us about the six queens of Henry VIII?	Portraits of the six women who were married to Henry VIII have been misidentified, overlooked and argued over for centuries. Explore what their portraits reveal about society, politics and religion under Henry VIII's rule with this student-focused resource from the National Portrait Gallery.
National Portrait Gallery Tudor portraits: global connections	Discover what portraits can reveal about Tudor Britain's growing connections to the wider world, and some of the important stories hidden behind the Tudors' ambitions for global power with this student-focused resource from the National Portrait Gallery.
National Archives www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/sessions-and-resources/?time-period=early-modern https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/discover-the-dissolution/ https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/henryviii/	The National Archives' education department provides tailored day courses to meet the needs of teachers and students. The website has a wide range of online resources for classroom use. Two examples are given opposite: resources on dissolution of the monasteries, and links to sources looking at different stages of Henry's reign.
School History website http://www.schoolhistory.co.uk	A very comprehensive website with resources for teaching history. GCSE resources are arranged by exam board and cover most modules. Some resources are free but to get the full range available there is a subscription payment.
https://www.tes.com/teaching-resources/hub/secondary	A comprehensive bank of resources for teachers, some free, some paid-for.

Resource	Details
Teachit history website https://www.teachithistory.co.uk/british-studies/henry-viii-and-the-reformation/tags/3734	Teachithistory website. A collection of resources for teaching Henry VIII and the Reformation
Historvius http://www.historvius.com/henry-viii-of-england/fi185	While there is no requirement in this option for the study of a site, visits can be made to several of the ruined monasteries scattered throughout the country, especially in Yorkshire. The Historvius site maps sites to specific periods and individuals.
BBC Radio 4, 'In Our Time' The Dissolution of the Monasteries: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b009jtq1 The Field of the Cloth of Gold: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p003k9dl The Tudor State: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00546xd	45-minute podcasts on the dissolution of the monasteries and the Field of the Cloth of Gold, and others covering the whole of Henry's reign.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VF_EBtHrVY	Four-minute video by Citizens Project looking at the causes of the Pilgrimage of Grace.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1TW8cxgc_4	Five-minute video by Citizens Project looking at key events of the Pilgrimage of Grace.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TH65WnwSFs	Short video on Henry VIII and the Church by timelinesTV.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kj_n9iOVpc	Seven-minute video on the Reformation by timelinesTV.
Podcast series Historical Association , free to members The Rest Is History Dan Snow's History Hit History Extra You're Dead to Me	There are lots of History podcast series available these days through various platforms. We have listed here a few well-known ones, and you can search for relevant episodes. There are also revision podcasts available. Please check they are suitable before sharing with students.

Educational Recording Agency

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