



## HISTORY: BRIDGING ACITIVITY

Dear Sixth Former,

For A Level History, you will study Tudor England between the years of 1485 – 1603.

The Tudor Period saw enormous change which still affects our lives today. For example, during the reign of Henry VIII, the Church of England was created, the importance of Parliament grew and the government of England became more centralised and extensive than ever before.

The Tudor period essentially marked the beginning of our modern nation state. The first Tudor monarch was Henry Tudor, who became Henry VII in 1485 after his victory over Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth. In the 50 years before Henry VII came to the throne, England had been torn apart by a civil war between two rival families, who had both claimed the right to rule. This became known as the Wars of the Roses, where House of Lancaster (red rose) fought against House of York (white rose).

As a result of these events, by 1485 the traditional role and powers of the monarchy seemed to be under threat.

In September you will look at what happened once Henry Tudor took the crown, however, for your holiday homework you are going to complete some independent research tasks looking at how Henry Tudor defeated the King of England, Richard III, and ended the Wars of the Roses.

If you have any enquiries about the course details, please do not hesitate to contact me via email through the school website.

Yours faithfully,

Mr D Braniff

HoD History

### **Task 1 – Family tree**

Using the internet, create a family tree for the Tudor dynasty. This can be created by hand or on a computer, however, it must be neat! This will be useful for your studies of the Tudors next year, as you will be able to understand how this dynasty fits together (i.e. who married who, what connections people have, etc.). For an extra challenge, include a detailed history of Henry Tudor (VII) showing his ancestry (family history) – e.g. who he mother's parents were.

### **Task 2 – Note taking**

You need to build an understanding of why Henry Tudor, a man who had lived in exile in France since he was a teenager and had a relatively weak claim to the throne, was able to challenge Richard III for the throne. Find an article on the BBC website about the Wars of the Roses, and skim read for background information. Then research the three factors (below) that allowed Henry VII to become confident in challenging Richard III and make notes, using the grid below to help you. Your notes should be neatly presented, with clear headings.

#### **1) Support from France**

What support from France did Henry Tudor receive? Why did France support Henry's challenge to the throne? Why was French support important?

#### **2) Lancastrian support**

What support did Henry Tudor receive from House Lancaster? Why was his mother, Margret Beaufort, important for his challenge to the throne?

#### **3) Marriage**

What had his mother arrange for Henry in terms of marriage? Why was this significant? How did this weaken Richard III's position?

### Task 3 – Video note taking

Watch the first half of a documentary on Henry VII called 'The Winter King' -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5FsriGn300>

As you watch the documentary, answer the following questions on lined paper / flash cards. Your answers should be detailed!

- 1) Why did Henry Tudor have to spend time in exile? What did he learn?
- 2) Why was Henry's mother an important figure in his life? What was her belief?
- 3) Why was Henry Tudor successful at the Battle of Bosworth? What was the significance of the Stanley brothers?
- 4) What problems did Henry VII face as a new king?
- 5) Why was his marriage to Elizabeth of York significant?
- 6) What can we learn from his character? Why was he different to previous king?

### Task 4 – Interpretation analysis

Read the interpretation on Henry VII and his character. You need to analyse the interpretation using these steps: 1) Read the interpretation and underline any words that are unclear – then google what they mean. 2) Read the interpretation again, this time highlight sections using two different colours – one colour for what you find to be convincing (believable) and one section for what you find to be less convincing (less believable). 3) Then write a mini essay (at least four PEE paragraphs). e.g. You might find it convincing that he won the Battle of Bosworth due to luck – explain, using evidence, why that is the case. You will need to come to a conclusion – how far do you agree with the interpretation? Use all your notes from the previous task to help you.

#### Interpretation A - Guy, J. 'Henry VII' (1999), Oxford: OUP

*Henry Tudor is perhaps one of the luckiest men to have ever lived. He was able to secure the thrown for himself due to a number of factors that can only be put down as sheer luck. We cannot claim that he was a great warrior, he was not. He did not lead his men in battle, his uncle did. We cannot claim he was a great strategic thinker, he was not. His uncle and mother were the two that planned for his invasion. We cannot claim he had determination, he did not. His mother was the one who was really determined for him to become king. It was through sheer coincidence that Henry was able to become king.*

## Useful website and things to do:

### Websites:

- BBC History: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/people/henry\\_vii/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/people/henry_vii/)
- Learning History: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/tudor-england/the-battle-of-bosworth/>
- S-cool: <http://www.s-cool.co.uk/a-level/history/henry-vii/revise-it/introduction>

### Things to watch:

- **The Tudors** (TV series) on Netflix. This is a drama, so some things have been exaggerated or are not factually accurate, but it gives a good overview of the Tudor Period from Henry VIII onwards.
- **The White Queen** (TV series). This is also drama set before Henry Tudor become king. It tells the story of the Wars of the Roses and the weaknesses of Richard III which led to Henry Tudor's victory.