The front cover shows two astronauts taking photos of each other outside the International Space Station. The mirror-like visor of a space suit is made of polycarbonate plastic polymer coated with gold. The plastic absorbs ultraviolet waves while the gold reflects infrared and a lot of the visible light waves, reducing the amount of damaging radiation entering an astronaut's eyes. In Combined Science you will learn about light waves, infrared waves, radiation and why they can be damaging to humans, as well as why polymers and gold have certain special properties.
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### What’s there to see?

- **Introduction**
- **Contents**
- **Features to look out for...**
- **Timeline**
- **Henry VIII and his ministers, c 1509–1540 Student Book sample chapter**
- **Writing Historically**
- **Preparing for your exams**
- **ActiveLearn Digital Service and Pearson Progression Services**
- **Next steps**

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**Features to look out for…**

**Exam-style questions**
Realistic exam-style questions appear in every chapter with short tips to help students get started with their answers – ideal for homework and assessments.

**Extend your knowledge**
Extra details to deepen students’ knowledge and understanding.

**Key Term**
Unfamiliar and historically important words are defined for students.

**Exam-style questions**
Realistic exam-style questions appear in every chapter with short tips to help students get started with their answers – ideal for homework and assessments.

**Source B**
The Battle of Hastings, portrayed in the Bayeux Tapestry.

**Activities**
Engaging and accessible activities tailors to the skills focuses of each unit to support and stretch students’ learning.

**Summary**
Bullet-point list of the key points from the material at the end of each chunk of learning – great for embedding the core knowledge and handy for revision.

**Checkpoint**
Students are asked to check and reflect on their learning regularly. ‘Strengthen’ sections help consolidate knowledge and understanding. ‘Challenge’ questions encourage evaluation and analysis of what’s being studied.

**Thinking Historically**
Our Student Books include ‘Thinking Historically’ activities that target four key strands of understanding: evidence, interpretations, causation & consequence and change & continuity.

These are all based on the ‘Thinking Historically’ approach we’ve developed with Dr Arthur Chapman at the Institute of Education, University College London.
Timeline: Henry VIII, his wives and chief ministers

**The Chief Ministers of Henry VIII**

- **1515–1529** Thomas Wolsey
  - 1515 Thomas Wolsey becomes chief minister, cardinal and Lord Chancellor

- **1509–1533** Catherine of Aragon
  - 1509 Henry VIII succeeds his father as king

**The Queens of Henry VIII**

- **1509–1533** Catherine of Aragon
  - 1529 Henry decides to divorce Catherine of Aragon

- **1533–1540** Jane Seymour
  - 1536–1537 Anna Boleyn
  - 1536–1540 Anne of Cleves

- **1536–1542** Catherine Howard
  - 1539–1540 Anne Boleyn
  - 1539–1540 Catherine of Aragon

**The Chief Ministers of Henry VIII**

- **1533–1540** Thomas Cromwell
  - 1534 Execution of Thomas More and John Fisher for opposing the Act of Supremacy
  - 1536 Dissolution of the monasteries begins

- **1539** Printing of the first official English Bible, known as the Great Bible, begins

- **1533** Act of Supremacy confirms Henry as head of the Church of England
  - 1536 Pilgrimage of Grace

- **1535** Execution of Thomas More and John Fisher for opposing the Act of Supremacy

- **1533** Thomas Cranmer becomes Archbishop of Canterbury

- **1529** Fall of Wolsey, having failed to secure the king’s divorce

- **1525** The Field of the Cloth of Gold

- **1520** Henry awarded the title ‘Defender of the Faith’ by the pope

- **1518** Treaty of London

- **1515** Henry VIII succeeds his father as king

- **1509** Field of the Cloth of Gold

- **1505** Treaty of London

**The Queens of Henry VIII**

- **1539** Henry issues the Six Articles, designed to prevent Protestantism in England

- **1537** Death of Jane Seymour

- **1536** Pilgrimage of Grace

- **1535** Execution of Thomas More and John Fisher for opposing the Act of Supremacy

- **1534** Elizabeth Barton, the Nun of Kent, executed for treason

- **1534** Act of Supremacy confirms Henry as head of the Church of England

- **1533** Thomas Wolsey becomes chief minister, cardinal and Lord Chancellor

- **1529** Henry VIII executes Thomas More and John Fisher for opposing the Act of Supremacy

- **1528** Henry’s fourth marriage to Anne of Cleves is declared void

- **1527**Henry decides to divorce Catherine of Aragon

- **1526** The Amicable Grant

- **1525** Henry awarded the title ‘Defender of the Faith’ by the pope

- **1520** Field of the Cloth of Gold

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- **1510** Treaty of London

- **1505** Treaty of London

**The Queens of Henry VIII**

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- **1526** The Eltham Ordinances

- **1525** Henry VIII executes Thomas More and John Fisher for opposing the Act of Supremacy

- **1524** The Amicable Grant

- **1522** Treaty of London

- **1520** Field of the Cloth of Gold

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The Tudor dynasty was born on the battlefield. Henry VIII’s father, Henry VII, fought and defeated King Richard III to win the throne. As a result, he found the rest of his life haunted by dangers and plots. In contrast, Henry VIII inherited the throne peacefully. His coronation was greeted with celebrations, bonfires and high hopes for a better future.

It is not hard to see why Henry VIII was young, handsome, athletic and charming. He looked and behaved like an ideal king. For inspiration, the new king modelled himself both on the legends of King Arthur and on the latest ideas of the Renaissance. However, the king did not forget about the pressures of ruling, nor did he underestimate what it took to be a king. Above all, he wanted war to prove himself a true knight. To make this happen, he needed help.

Thomas Wolsey had grown up with none of the advantages enjoyed by Henry, but had risen to the top through ruthlessness, ability and ambition. He also knew that his right to stay at the top rested on his continuing ability to turn the whims of Henry VIII into reality. The first half of Henry’s reign is, in many ways, the combined journey of both of these two men.

### Learning outcomes

By the end of this chapter, you will:

- understand Henry VIII’s character, and his aims at the start of his reign
- know about the rise of Thomas Wolsey, Henry VIII’s chief minister, and the impact of his legal, financial, land and administrative reforms
- know about foreign policy under Wolsey and the extent to which he was able to turn Henry VIII into a great European leader
- understand why Henry wanted to divorce Catherine of Aragon and how Wolsey’s failure to secure this contributed to his downfall.

### Henry VIII and Wolsey, 1509–29

**The young Henry becomes king**

Henry did not expect to be king. He was born the second son of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York. While his elder brother Arthur, as the Prince of Wales, went off to learn the art of government in Wales, Henry’s early childhood was spent in Eltham Palace, just outside London. He was brought up with his two sisters, Margaret and Mary, under the supervision of his mother. An energetic and outgoing young boy, Henry’s life changed dramatically in 1502 when his elder brother died of tuberculosis. Aged ten, Henry became the heir to the throne.

As the sole surviving male heir, Henry was moved to the royal court at Greenwich to be kept under the close and stern supervision of his father. Having already lost five out of eight children, the king felt that Henry was too precious to risk. Although the teenage prince was strong and athletic, enjoying hunting and archery, his father banned him from the dangerous sport of jousting*. This angered Henry greatly.

More surprisingly, he was also denied any role in governing the kingdom, despite being intelligent and having studied with leading scholars. Traditionally, the Prince of Wales was sent to the Welsh Marches (English land along the Welsh border) to learn how to govern. Perhaps following Arthur’s death, Henry VII had no wish to send another son off to a tough part of the country to build experience. As a result, on his father’s death in 1509, Henry VIII was largely untrained in the skills needed to rule as king.

### England in 1509: society and government

Henry VIII’s father, Henry VII (shown in Source A), became king when he defeated Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. Over time, Henry VII became identified with greed and repression. This would be important when Henry VIII succeeded his father, as he became known as a king of great wealth, prosperity and generosity.

When Henry succeeded his father in 1509, he ruled over 2.5 million people. England was a mainly rural kingdom, with most people living and working on the land. Only around 6% of the population lived in towns. The city of London was the largest and most important in the country, with 60,000 inhabitants. The next largest towns were Norwich, Bristol, Exeter, York and Coventry, but they had much smaller populations. The religion of the whole of England was Roman Catholicism, a form of Christianity followed throughout Western Europe during much of Henry VIII’s reign.

*Jousting A sporting contest where two opponents on horseback try to knock the other to the ground with a lance.
Henry VIII also took steps to immediately distance himself from his father. For example, he ordered the arrest of the two ministers most closely identified with Henry VIII's hated financial policies. Henry also married Catherine of Aragon, a princess of Spain. Catherine had come to England in 1501 and married Prince Arthur but, following his death, was instead betrothed to Henry in 1503. In Catherine, Henry gained a wife whom he was genuinely fond of and it strengthened an important alliance with Spain. However, the new king still had a lot to thank his father for. He inherited a stable, well-governed kingdom, a group of experienced advisors and a wealthy country.

**Henry VIII's character**

Henry was a powerful athlete and excelled in things like archery and wrestling. While out hunting, Henry could tire out eight to ten horses before tiring himself. However, his greatest passion was jousting. With his father no longer around to prevent him, Henry jousted regularly. Surviving score cards show that his jousting skills were truly brilliant.

Henry knew how to have fun and pursued pleasure above all things, even in affairs of the state. Source D gives an idea of how Henry spent his time on one royal progress in 1511. Henry exercised himself in shooting, ringing, dancing, wrestling, casting of the bow, playing at the records, flute and virginals [musical instrument], and in setting of songs, making of ballads and did set two godly Masses, every of them of five parts, which were sung oftentimes in his chapel and afterwards in divers other places. And when he came to Woking, there were kept both jousts and tournaments. The rest of his time was spent in hunting, hawking and shooting.

Henry was a true Renaissance man. Along with his athletic ability and his courage, he was gifted in many areas, priding himself on his intellect and enjoying the company of leading scholars. Henry spoke French, Spanish and Latin. He was a talented musician and composer. To entertain visitors from the French court, for example, he once played on every musical instrument available. The king possessed a fine singing voice and his elegance in dancing was often noted.

**Activity**

Compare the portraits of Henry VII and Henry VIII in Sources A and B. What are the similarities and differences between them? Note down your impressions of each king.

**Key terms**

- **Accession**
- **Becoming king or queen.**

**Key terms**

- **Royal progress**
- **A royal tour of the kingdom. It was important for the king to travel widely so he could be seen and admired by the people. It was also a way of meeting and forming relationships with local leaders.**

**Renaissance**

- **A revival of European art and culture, based upon the ideas of ancient Greece and Rome. It also included a new appreciation of learning. The Renaissance started in northern Italy in the 14th century and then spread throughout Europe.**

**Key term**

- **God**
- **Humanity**
- **Animals**
- **Plants**
- **Minerals**

**Tudor society**

Henry's England was hierarchical, which meant that you were ranked in society based on your wealth and social status. There was only very limited opportunities to move up the social ladder. It was the commonly held view that God was at the top of this 'Great Chain of Being', as shown in Figure 1.1. Figure 1.2 shows the main ranks into which society was divided. Most people accepted this, although, as will be seen in Section 1.2, a few talented individuals like Wolsey were able to defy the odds and move up the social ladder.
1.1 Henry VIII, Renaissance Prince

Ruling a small kingdom was a personal business. The table below shows how Henry VIII ruled.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key features</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The king</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruled the country and made all the important decisions on foreign and domestic policy, including when to go to war and when parliament should be called. Settled disputes between nobles and made appointments to important religious and political posts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Royal Household</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A mixed membership of nobles and servants ensured that the king was provided with food, clothing, and spiritual guidance. It also played an important role in government. In the rooms of the Royal Household, the king held audiences with advisors and made important decisions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Privy Chamber</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part of the Royal Household, with both domestic and political responsibilities. It was made up of a small group of the king’s closest noble friends. They looked after his personal needs, as well as providing entertainment. These Gentlemen had huge opportunities to informally influence the king on matters of policy. It was headed by the Groom of the Stool.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Royal Council</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A group of advisors chosen by the king and selected mainly from the nobility and Church. They provided guidance on policy, as well as handling routine matters of state.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Court</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A body of people who lived in, or near, the same palace or house as the king, entertaining him and his visiting guests. The size and splendour of the court also displayed the king’s power and wealth. It was made up of members of the nobility, called courtiers. They were the monarch’s key servants, advisers and friends.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parliament</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Made up of the House of Lords (which included bishops) and the House of Commons. Its main job was to pass laws requested by the king and to approve new taxes for him.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Justices of the Peace</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large landowners who kept law and order in their local areas (JP’s for short).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Henry created his own personal style of government. In particular, he chose to rely on two groups for advice and guidance: the Royal Council and the Privy Chamber. A few years into his rule, Henry also started carrying out a great deal of his work through a single trusted chief minister. The first of these was Thomas Wolsey.

Henry’s personal style did not include paperwork or administration. Unlike his father, who had paid very close attention to all aspects of governing the kingdom, routine tasks bored Henry. He was content to let others look after the everyday process of government.

**Henry’s attitude to kingship**

Henry had a very clear vision for his kingship. He wanted to model his rule on the great Renaissance monarchies of France and Spain. In these monarchies, the king was a towering figure, with a dazzling court that demonstrated the king’s majesty and celebrated the latest ideas in the arts, culture and learning.

Henry also looked to England’s own past for inspiration. In particular, he dreamed about repeating the heroic victories achieved by English kings over the French. Henry had grown up listening to the stories of the legendary King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. For Henry, kingship also involved performing brave deeds, from jousts to actual war, as well as being skilled in the art of courtly love*

**Key term**

Courtly love* A form of elite entertainment, in which noble gentlemen attempted to win the hearts of women through songs, poetry and quests. In return, the sought-after lady was expected to pretend indifference.

**Henry VIII’s aims as monarch**

Based on Henry’s attitude to kingship, his aims as a monarch can be summarised by five main points.

1. Henry wanted to decide on England’s policies and dictate this to his ministers.
2. Henry wanted to achieve glorious victories in battle abroad.
3. Through art, architecture, dress and entertainment, Henry wanted to create a magnificent royal court.
4. Henry wanted to attract great men to his court, such as important scholars and artists.
5. Henry wanted to perform the traditional duties of a monarch, including: maintaining law and order, being a good servant to the Church and having a son to continue the royal line.

**Activities**

1. In groups, discuss the following statement: ‘In 1509, England’s new king had everything going for him.’ To help you explore this, use the table below to rank the strengths and weaknesses of Henry VIII’s monarchy. Give each factor a score out of ten for importance.
2. Discuss the question in groups, using the rankings you have given each strength and weakness to help you.
3. Write a short paragraph, explaining whether you agree or disagree with the statement and why.

**Extend your knowledge**

Henry’s quest for glory

Henry VIII dreamed of repeating the heroic exploits and military victories achieved by Edward III and Henry V in the Hundred Years War. The Hundred Years War was a struggle against France, where English kings attempted to claim the French throne. It lasted from 1337 to 1453. Henry wanted to be remembered as successful in battle, like his ancestors.
1.1 Henry VIII, Renaissance Prince

The strengths and weaknesses of Henry VIII's monarchy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>He was popular with the people of England, as he looked the part of a great king.</td>
<td>He had little experience of government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He inherited a rich country from his father.</td>
<td>He had little desire to get involved in the day-to-day business of governing England.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England was stable, with an established system of government.</td>
<td>His attitude to kingship was simplistic and partly based on heroic legends.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He loved his wife, Catherine of Aragon, and she had important foreign connections in Spain.</td>
<td>He wanted England to go to war as soon as possible so he could prove himself a true, heroic knight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He had a team of experienced advisors around him.</td>
<td>He had a large ego that was difficult to manage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He had ambition to become a great Renaissance king.</td>
<td>He liked high-risk sports such as jousting, which could threaten his health.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary

- Henry's England was mainly rural, with few large towns. The people of England were divided into different ranks, but united by a common Christian faith: Roman Catholicism.
- Henry VIII's accession to the throne in 1509 was greeted with great enthusiasm. Henry VIII looked the part of a glorious king. He was tall, handsome and strong.
- Henry VIII had firm ideas about what type of king he wanted to be. He modelled himself on the great Renaissance courts of Europe, as well as the heroic kings of England's past.
- First and foremost, he wanted to prove himself in battle. He also wanted to promote the arts, culture and learning.
- Henry did not want to get involved in the day-to-day affairs of government, preferring to leave these tasks to trusted ministers in the Royal Council. Instead, most of his time was given to pleasure.

Checkpoint

**Strengthen**
- S1 Describe the Royal Council and the Privy Chamber.
- S2 Describe four features of English society in 1509.
- S3 Why was Henry described as a 'Renaissance Prince'?

**Challenge**
- C1 Why did Henry's accession to the throne in 1509 create so much excitement? Think of at least three reasons.
- C2 Did Henry have the right character and outlook for ruling England? Explore his strengths and weaknesses.
- C3 What methods existed for people to influence the way Henry governed England?

If you are not confident about answering these questions, form a group with other students to discuss the answers.

1.2 The rise of Wolsey and his policies

**Learning outcomes**
- Understand the reasons for Wolsey's rise to power.
- Understand Wolsey's main reforms in England.

**Reasons for Wolsey's rise to power**

Thomas Wolsey became England's most senior official during the first half of Henry VIII's reign. Charming and gifted, he dominated the country's legal, financial and administrative system following his appointment as Lord Chancellor* in 1515. As Lord Chancellor, Wolsey was the king's main advisor on all things.

Wolsey was also one of England's most important churchmen (as Archbishop of York* and then a cardinal*), whilst also being a master of negotiating foreign affairs. Wolsey built palaces and gained a fortune second only to the king, which reflected his status in Tudor England. Quite simply, Henry's chief minister lived like a king.

This is surprising enough, given Henry's own ego, but Thomas Wolsey also had the most unlikely of backgrounds. He was the son of an Ipswich butcher.

As seen previously, Tudor England was hierarchical. Everyone had their place in society, and those at the bottom were expected to stay there. However, Wolsey became an exception to this rule. His father, a relatively wealthy butcher and cattle dealer, provided his son with an excellent education, allowing him to enter Oxford University to study to become a priest. This was one of the few ways ambitious young men without a noble background could advance in the world.

Wolsey was very intelligent and made the most of this opportunity by gaining his degree when he was only 15 years old. Wolsey became his college's treasurer in Oxford. He used his new position to undertake a huge college rebuilding programme, showing the ambition and arrogance that would later become his trademark.

Wolsey rose even further when Henry VIII became king. His appointment as Royal Almoner (in charge of giving charity to the poor) in 1509 made him a member of the Royal Council. The ambitious priest now had access to Henry, and the opportunity to build a personal relationship with the king using his charm, gift for flattery and wit.

Wolsey was also lucky. The young king preferred pleasure over administration. Wolsey encouraged this, and carved out a role carrying out all the tedious tasks Henry wanted to avoid. He was also fortunate that Henry disliked many of the advisors inherited from his father. He saw them as old, boring and cautious.

**Key terms**

- **Lord Chancellor**
  - The most important post in Henry VIII's government, responsible for advising the king on all matters.
- **Archbishop of York**
  - The second most important religious appointment in England, after the Archbishop of Canterbury.
- **Cardinal**
  - A senior leader in the Roman Catholic Church.

**Source A**

The only known contemporary portrait of Thomas Wolsey, c1520. He is dressed in the scarlet robes of a cardinal.
In the first few years of his reign, many were arrested or retired. Wolsey was in the right place at the right time for rapid promotion. Wolsey’s ‘big break’ came in 1512. Henry needed someone to organise an army for war with France. This was a complex task with the potential for disaster, so few wanted the job – but Wolsey took it on. He worked hard, was ruthless with anyone who stood in his way, and successfully delivered a well-equipped and supplied army to France in 1513. Henry now saw Wolsey as the man who could fulfil his will quickly and efficiently, and he was soon given much more power. Wolsey’s appointment as Lord Chancellor in 1515 was particularly important, as it gave him the top position in Henry’s government.

As well as gaining influence with Henry as a member of his government, Wolsey also gained status and power through the Church. By 1515, he was Bishop of Lincoln, Archbishop of York and a cardinal. Wolsey engineered through the Church. By 1515, he was Bishop of Lincoln, Archbishop of York, and a cardinal. Wolsey engineered his appointment as Papal Legate in 1518. A Papal Legate represented the pope* in a foreign country so, by being appointed as Papal Legate in 1518, Wolsey in the right place at the right time – but Wolsey took it on. He worked hard, was ruthless with anyone who stood in his way, and successfully delivered a well-equipped and supplied army to France in 1513. Henry now saw Wolsey as the man who could fulfil his will quickly and efficiently, and he was soon given much more power. Wolsey’s appointment as Lord Chancellor in 1515 was particularly important, as it gave him the top position in Henry’s government.

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Key term

Pope*

The spiritual leader of the Roman Catholic Church, based in Rome.

People at the time recognised Wolsey’s great power, and he began to be referred to as an ‘Alter Rex’, or ‘second king’. Henry respected and trusted Wolsey, so he allowed this comparison. It was, however, the king who ultimately decided on the most important matters of state and, of course, he could overrule Wolsey when he chose.

Activity

Pick out three key moments from Wolsey’s rise to power. Explain your choices.

Interpretation 1


For much of his career as Chancellor, it was Wolsey who alone guided English affairs. His quick, strong hands grasped everything because Henry seemed unable, or unwilling, to make the smallest decision himself. Who shall attend upon the Princess Mary? What shall he reply to the regent of the Netherlands’ request to visit England? Shall the law courts be closed because of the outbreak of sweating sickness? And so on. All these Wolsey had to decide for him, for they were problems which this apparently helpless man, for all his bluster and swagger, could not resolve.

[A sometimes fatal illness causing sweating, shivers and dizziness]

Wolsey’s reforms

What did Wolsey do with the power and influence he had so carefully worked for? While his main focus was always foreign policy, because of the importance Henry VIII placed upon it (see page 000), he also dealt with issues at home in England, too. However, he was not always successful.

Justice

As Lord Chancellor, Wolsey was responsible for the legal system in England. However, it was flawed, delivering slow, expensive and often unfair justice. Verdicts often favoured those with the most money and influence.

Wolsey wanted to tackle this problem. Soon after being appointed, he sent out a clear signal that no one was to be above the law. For example, in 1515, Henry Percy, the Earl of Northumberland and one of the heroes of the 1513 Battle of the Spurs (see page 000), was sent to prison for breaking the law.

Wolsey lived like a king. As a result of his multiple jobs, appointed by both king and the Church, Wolsey gained a huge fortune. Being the Archbishop of York alone gave him an income of £3,000 per year (nearly £1 million today). He was ten times richer than his nearest rival (aside from the king).

With his wealth, he built the palaces of York House and Hampton Court for himself, and used these to entertain the English and European elite on a grand scale. He was supported by a household of 500 servants, equal in size to the king’s own Royal Household.

Wolsey funded artists and musicians, and his favourite project was the creation of Cardinal College in Oxford (now known as Christ Church). Such spending had an important political role. It inspired awe and envy, which this apparently helpless man, for all his bluster and swagger, could not resolve.

Wolsey’s main method for securing fairer justice was to strengthen the court of the Star Chamber, which was a royal court set up by Henry VII to give out justice on the king’s behalf. It was staffed by members of the Royal Council. Wolsey secured a fairer justice system in many different ways, shown in Figure 1.3.

Although Wolsey tried to secure a fairer justice system during his time as Lord Chancellor, he was still criticised. Rather than being seen as a champion of those without money or influence, some felt that his main motivation was to get revenge on the upper classes, who had often treated him badly because of his humble origins.

Wolsey was also prepared to use his position to punish those he held a grudge against. Sir Amyas Paulet discovered this to his cost. As a young priest, Wolsey had been humiliated by Paulet, who had had him placed in the stocks. When he became Lord Chancellor, Wolsey summoned Paulet to the Star Chamber on a made-up charge. Wolsey then refused to see Paulet, and made him come to the court every day for five years or risk losing all his property.

Figure 1.3 How Wolsey secured a fairer justice system.
1.2 The rise of Wolsey and his policies

Such actions inevitably built up resentment against Wolsey among the higher classes. Later, as Wolsey’s time increasingly became tied up with foreign affairs, a large backlog of cases built up in the Star Chamber, meaning very few cases were ever resolved.

Finance

The greatest challenge facing Wolsey at home was money. Henry wanted to follow an aggressive foreign policy to prove himself to be the greatest king in Europe, but this was expensive. As Henry’s chief minister, Wolsey was expected to come up with solutions, and he soon realised that the existing system of direct taxation was no longer fit for purpose.

Direct taxation traditionally demanded that, when called upon by parliament, each community had to pay the Crown a percentage of their moveable goods* – one fifteenth of the value in rural areas, and one tenth for urban areas, like towns and cities. This was known as the fifteenths and tenths.

The valuations were, however, based on estimates dating back to the 14th century and so were very outdated. The amount collected under this system was predictable and reliable, but it wasn’t enough.

Wolsey’s solution was to improve the system of direct taxation with the subsidy. This was a tax based on an up-to-date assessment of a person’s income, with commissioners being sent out across the country to ensure valuations were accurate. The tax was set up in such a way that, the greater a person’s income, the more tax they paid. This is very similar to how tax is calculated in England today.

Wolsey saw the subsidy as a success because it more accurately taxed people based on what they could afford to pay. It also meant that the rich paid the most tax. Above all, the tax worked. Between 1513 and 1516, for example, the subsidy raised £170,000, while the fifteenths and tenths raised only £90,000. During his time as Lord Chancellor, Wolsey collected four subsidies, each one helping to pay for the war in France.

The main sources of revenue raised by Wolsey, 1513–29

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tax</th>
<th>Amount raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subsidy</td>
<td>£322,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forced loans</td>
<td>£260,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerical taxation</td>
<td>£240,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifteenths and tenths</td>
<td>£118,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Henry’s normal average yearly income was £110,000.

While the total amounts were impressive and ensured there was never a financial crisis in Henry’s early reign, they still could not keep pace with Henry’s spending. Around £4 million went on fighting wars between 1511 and 1525. Also, the heavy rates of taxation were very unpopular.

Enclosures

Enclosure – the practice of individual landowners fencing off land for profitable sheep rearing – was being blamed for poverty in rural areas. Enclosure could lead to farmers being forced off their land and the removal of the common areas where villagers could graze their animals. Many people associated enclosure with greed and selfishness, because it meant ordinary people had less land to graze their animals.

Wolsey tried to find a solution to this problem, partly out of genuine concern for the poor, but also as another way he could attack the wealthy. In 1517, he set up an inquiry to investigate where land had been enclosed without proper permission. This led to over 260 court cases being brought against landowners. In an age when very few people went to court, this was a huge number.

Unsurprisingly, Wolsey’s actions increased his unpopularity among the wealthy landowners of England. In 1523, angry landowners in parliament forced Wolsey to call a halt to any further investigations into enclosed land. In the long term, Wolsey’s stand against enclosure achieved very little. Enclosure continued to take place and rural poverty remained a problem.

The Amicable Grant, 1525

The king of France was spectacularly defeated by Charles V and captured in 1525 (see page 000). Because of this, Henry VIII wanted to seize the opportunity to invade France when it was at its most vulnerable. England had used up most of its money in a failed invasion of France in 1523 (see page 000) and, having already demanded various forced loans and subsidies in the period 1522–24, Wolsey looked for new ways to raise funds. The solution was to impose a new direct tax without gaining the approval of parliament.

This was a potentially dangerous move. One of parliament’s main roles was to make sure the king did not tax the country too hard: both the fifteenths and tenths and subsidy were all granted by parliament. If parliament was ignored, or not consulted on matters of taxation, there was the risk of rebellion against the king’s rule.

The Amicable Grant demanded that priests pay one third of their income and everyone else one sixth as a tax. People were given just ten weeks to find the money.

Reactions to the Amicable Grant

Public patience snapped. As the commissioners went out to collect the tax, they were greeted with anger. More worrying, many people simply refused to pay, saying they had no money. A full scale revolt broke out in Suffolk in May 1525, when 10,000 men met in the main market town of Lavenham. Once there, they expressed loyalty to the king, but made it clear that they also wanted the Crown to be made aware of their anger. The rebels were met by a small force under the Dukes of Norfolk and Suffolk, who negotiated the rebels’ surrender.

• The impact of these protests was far reaching. It was the first significant rebellion of Henry’s reign.
• Henry claimed that he was unaware of the tax and ordered its collection to be stopped.
• Wolsey was humiliated and accepted complete responsibility for the failure of the taxation. Wolsey’s unpopularity increased.
• Henry started to doubt the talents of his chief minister. It marked the beginning of the end for Wolsey.
• No further taxation was attempted by Wolsey again.
• Henry’s wish to attack France had to be abandoned – instead, he sought peace.
• The leaders of the protest movement in Suffolk were pardoned.

Source B

From The Union of the Two Noble and Illustrate Families of Lancaster and York by Edward Hall, published in 1542. This extract tells how Henry abandoned the Amicable Grant.

The king was sore moved that his subjects were so stirred... he thought it touched his honour that his council should attempt such a doubtful matter in his name... Then the king said, I will no more of this trouble. Let letters be sent to all shires, that this matter may no more be spoken of. I will pardon all them that have denied the demand, openly or secretly. Then all the lords knelt down, and heartily thanked the king.

Key term

Moveable goods*

Possessions that could be moved from one location to another such as furniture, household items and livestock. Land and buildings were not moveable, and so did not count under the value of moveable goods.
1.2 The rise of Wolsey and his policies

The might of human agency

1. Describe to your partner a situation where things did not work out as you had intended. Then explain how you would have done things differently to make the situation as you would have wanted. Your partner will then tell the group about that situation and whether they think that your alternative actions would have had the desired effect.

2. a. Write down what Wolsey’s aims were for the Amicable Grant.
   b. Write down what Wolsey’s actions were.
   c. To what extent was Wolsey successful?
   d. Make a spider diagram: write Wolsey’s actions in the middle and then add as many consequences of his actions as possible around them. Think about the long-term consequences as well as the immediate ones.
   e. How important were the consequences of Wolsey’s actions for his future?

3. To what extent are individuals in control of the history they help to create? Explain your answer in a paragraph, with reference to specific historical examples from both this topic and others.

The Eltham Ordinances

In 1526, Wolsey turned to reforming both the domestic and political aspects of the king’s household.

As a result of the hundreds of people attending court on a daily basis, Henry’s palaces were dirty, bad behaviour was common and money was spent without thought. To tackle this, Wolsey drew up a detailed list of rules known as the Eltham Ordinances. Many of the measures he proposed were long overdue, and some are listed below.

- Servants who were sick or not needed were laid off.
- The number of people who were allowed expenses for things like food, drink, fuel and lodgings was cut.
- Meals were at set times, instead of constant.
- Dogs were banned to promote cleanliness, although the ladies were allowed to keep their small spaniels.

In total, the Eltham Ordinances were 79 chapters long. Within the ordinances, Wolsey also passed reforms to change the King’s Privy Chamber. Wolsey reduced the Gentlemen of the Chamber from 12 to six men. The public reason for this was to save money. Wolsey’s other main concern, though, was to side-line his political rivals. As soon as this reduction was carried out, Wolsey lost interest in applying the other domestic measures.

Summary

- For 15 years, Wolsey dominated Henry’s government. He rose from humble origins, and was hard working.
- The nobility did not like Wolsey because of his humble origins, but he became too dangerous to criticise.
- Wolsey also did not forget his origins, and helped the lower classes by taking a stand against enclosure and increasing access to fair justice in the Star Chamber.
- For Henry VIII, Wolsey’s greatest contribution to domestic politics must have been expanding government revenue through taxation.
- His position became weaker because he abused his power: his policies and actions created many enemies.

Checkpoint

Strengthen

S1 Describe how Wolsey attempted to make justice fairer.

S2 Describe the range of reactions to the Amicable Grant.

Challenge

C1 In what ways did Wolsey’s humble origins shape the type of policies he pursued as chief minister?

C2 Why did Wolsey become so unpopular with many in the nobility?

If you are not confident, list the pros and cons of all of Wolsey’s domestic reforms from Henry’s perspective.

1.3 Wolsey’s foreign policy

Learning outcomes

- Understand Wolsey’s main foreign policy aims.
- Understand Wolsey’s successes and failures in foreign policy.

Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1512</td>
<td>England and Spain form an anti-French alliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1512-14</td>
<td>Henry VIII’s first war with France: a battlefield victory for Henry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1515</td>
<td>Death of Louis XII and accession of Francis I as King of France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1516</td>
<td>Death of Ferdinand II and accession of Charles I as King of Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1518</td>
<td>Treaty of London promising a ‘universal peace’: a triumph for Wolsey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1519</td>
<td>Charles I becomes Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1520</td>
<td>Henry VIII and Francis I meet at the ‘Field of the Cloth of Gold’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1522-25</td>
<td>Henry VIII’s second war with France ends in failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1525</td>
<td>Charles V’s victory over Francis I at Pavia shocks Europe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Henry’s European rivals

Young Henry VIII was first and foremost a warrior. His favourite hobbies of jousting, archery and hunting all had the purpose of preparing him for battle. Henry dreamed of military glory and, ultimately, this meant only one thing: the re-conquest of France. However, in reality, England did not have the population and resources to compete with the European superpowers of France and the Habsburg* Empire (see Figure 1.5 below).

Key term

Habsburg*

The Habsburgs were a royal Catholic family that ruled Spain during Henry VIII’s reign. Many branches of this family also ruled other parts of Europe, including Austria.

The difficulties in achieving English glory were made clear to Henry when he invaded France in 1512. It ended in humiliation, with his army undermined by drunkenness and disease.

Undeterred, Henry launched a second campaign in 1513. This time, Henry captured the towns of Therouanne and Tournai, and defeated the French army at the Battle of the Spurs. Henry could boast about this victory as a success. However, in reality, the two towns were of little value and the battle was only a minor one. Moreover, this second campaign emptied the king’s treasury.

However, by 1514, Wolsey had established himself as Henry’s chief diplomat and became the man who had to balance his master’s dreams with reality. For the next 15 years, Wolsey was the driving force behind England’s foreign policy.

The major players Henry had to contend with in Europe were Francis Valois, the king of France from 1515, and Charles I, the king of Spain from 1516.
1.3 Wolsey's foreign policy

Like Henry, they were young, bright and ambitious, but also far more powerful than Henry. It was the rivalry between France and Spain that dominated foreign affairs. They had conflicting claims over various parts of Europe. Because of this, Spain and France often fought over these disputed territories.

Spain was the more attractive ally for England over France. Henry was married to Catherine of Aragon, Charles V’s aunt, while England’s economy was reliant upon the cloth market focused in the Netherlands (also under Spanish control). Not only was France a traditional enemy, but Francis I was so similar to Henry in terms of character that a rivalry was inevitable, as shown in Source A.

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Figure 1.5 Europe during the reign of Henry VIII.

Source A

A conversation about Francis I, between Henry VIII and the Venetian ambassador, who had just passed through France.

‘Is he as tall as I am?’

‘Yes, Your Grace, just about.

‘And as broad across the shoulders?’

‘Not quite.’

‘Ah! And his legs?’

‘Rather thin, Your Majesty.’

‘Look at mine!’ And the King opened the folds of his tunic to reveal his thighs. ‘And my calves too are every bit as beautiful.’

This rivalry was confirmed when Francis I won a spectacular victory against Spanish forces in northern Italy in 1515 and seized Milan. Francis was in the thick of the fighting. Henry was deeply jealous and also worried about his rival’s growing power. Wolsey immediately tried to gather allies in Europe against France, but his efforts achieved very little.

Shortly after, Francis made peace with Spain and then the Holy Roman Empire, leaving England standing alone against the main powers of Europe.

Wolsey’s successes and failures in foreign policy

Wolsey’s foreign policy aims

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Figure 1.6 Wolsey’s foreign policy aims.
1.3 Wolsey's foreign policy

The Treaty of London, 1518

Ever ambitious, Wolsey saw his first chance to place England at the centre of European diplomacy in 1518 when he put forward the idea of a ‘universal peace’. He wanted to permanently end warfare between France, England and Spain.

Under the terms of Wolsey’s proposal, each state would promise to follow a non-aggressive foreign policy – which meant that neither England, France nor Spain would attack one another. If one power did go to war, they risked being attacked by the other two states. The 20 leading rulers of Europe signed up to this proposal, including the pope.

The Treaty of London was a stunning success for Wolsey.

- It brought immense prestige to Henry VIII, who came to be seen as the great European peacemaker.
- England started to be viewed as a significant power.
- It placed Henry and Wolsey at the centre of European politics – as the creators of European peace.
- It was praised across Europe as a political and diplomatic triumph.

However, the high hopes of the Treaty of London did not last. By 1521, the war between France and the Habsburg Empire had restarted. Before this, in 1519, Charles I of Spain was elected Holy Roman Emperor. He now became Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor. This event transformed European politics and made war between France and Spain inevitable, for three major reasons.

1. Francis I had hoped to gain the post of Holy Roman Emperor, but Charles was chosen instead.
2. France was now surrounded by Habsburg land.
3. As Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, Charles had inherited a claim to the duchy of Milan, which was currently under French control.

The ‘Field of the Cloth of Gold’, 1520

As key figures in European diplomacy, Wolsey and Henry organised a series of conferences with Francis and Charles to prevent war. Realistically, they also wanted to see what would be offered in return for English support if a war did break out. After all, England could be a valuable ally for either side. It was well placed to invade northern France, or disrupt Spanish control of the Netherlands.

The most spectacular of these diplomatic meetings took place between Henry and Francis in the ‘Field of the Cloth of Gold’, just outside Calais, in June 1520. Both men wanted to show off their prestige and so no expense was spared in a fortnight of feasting and jousting, carefully organised by Wolsey. The highpoint was an unplanned wrestling match between the two kings.

Although it was a grand occasion between two powerful monarchs, nothing of any substance was achieved.

- No decisions were made that would bring peace to Europe. This meeting merely increased suspicion in Spain that England was already taking sides.
- England’s relationship with France did not improve as a result of this meeting and the two countries would be at war with each other in less than two years.
- Despite this, Henry viewed the ‘Field of the Cloth of Gold’ as a success because it brought him immense honour and prestige. The king was exactly where he wanted to be: in the centre of European politics, meeting on equal terms with one of its superpower rulers. For Henry, appearances were everything: being seen as a great king mattered far more than ruling England effectively.

War with France, 1522–25

The Treaty of London and the ‘Field of the Cloth of Gold’ were the highpoints in Wolsey’s foreign policy. After this, he experienced increasing difficulties and set-backs.

Initially, England’s contribution consisted of a minor raid on French soil led by the Earl of Surrey. In 1523, however, a triple attack on Paris was agreed between the two allies. They were to be joined by the Duke of Bourbon, a leading French nobleman who had taken up arms against Francis following a dispute over inheritance.

In August, the Duke of Suffolk began his advance on Paris with 11,000 troops. However, the promised troops from Charles never turned up, while the Duke of Bourbon failed to raise any support. Within 50 miles of the capital, Suffolk was forced to retreat.

Because of these setbacks, English enthusiasm for the war declined. However, that changed when Francis and Charles fought in the Battle of Pavia in what is now northern Italy in 1525. The outcome stunned Europe: the French army was destroyed and Francis I was taken prisoner. It was clear that Charles V had used Henry’s troops to distract the French while he attacked on the Italian peninsula.

Henry and Wolsey immediately pressed Charles to exploit this victory by a joint invasion of the now leaderless France. Under the plan they submitted to Charles, France would be divided between the two allies and Henry would take the French crown.

Charles, however, had different ideas. He had no wish to expand Henry’s power. He also released Francis after securing a promise that the humiliated French king would not seek revenge. Having been let down so obviously by their Habsburg ally, Wolsey opened negotiations with France, signing a peace treaty in 1525.

Henry’s second war against France had not gone well.

- It had become obvious that Charles did not view England as an equal or valued ally.
- Charles had deserted Henry in 1523 when the Duke of Suffolk attempted to capture Paris, and had instead used English forces to distract France while he focused his efforts on the Italian peninsula.
- Charles had not been prepared to share any of the spoils from his own success at Pavia.
- The financial cost to Henry had been high, totalling £430,000. The tax increases and forced loans had hurt Henry’s own popularity in England.

After three years of war, Henry had nothing to show for his efforts.

Extend your knowledge

Wolsey and the Treaty of Bruges

Wolsey formally agreed to side with Charles V in the Treaty of Bruges in August 1521. The deal Wolsey negotiated was a good one for England. He secured a one year delay in sending an English army to France. Wolsey hoped, by this time, the conflict might be over and England would be spared the expense of war. Wolsey also welcomed the prestige gained by allying with Europe’s most powerful leader.


1.3 Wolsey's foreign policy

Support for France, 1525–29

Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>1525–29</th>
<th>Wolsey’s diplomatic U-turn results in an Anglo-French alliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1526</td>
<td>England and France declare war on Charles V</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1527</td>
<td>Charles V and Francis I make peace in the Treaty of Cambrai and leave England isolated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Treaty of More

Once Charles had won the Battle of Pavia, he did not repay Henry for his help. With all faith in Charles destroyed, and concern for Charles’ growing power, Wolsey carried out a dramatic change in foreign policy by siding with their old enemy, France. In 1525, the Treaty of More was signed, bringing peace to the two countries. Under the treaty, Henry agreed to give up his claims to France in return for an annual payment.

The Treaty of Westminster

The following year, Wolsey helped to organise (but did not join) the League of Cognac. This created an alliance of France, the pope, Venice and Florence, with the aim of preventing further conquests on the Italian peninsula by Charles V. The forces of Venice and Florence then began fighting Habsburg forces, but with little success.

In 1527, Wolsey strengthened relations with France further still by signing the Treaty of Westminster. This threatened Charles with armed intervention if he did not seek to improve relations with his neighbours.

Other developments

England was now firmly committed to fighting Charles and his Habsburg Empire, but further events in 1527 caused Wolsey to question whether he had made the right decision in turning on England’s former ally.

1. First, Henry began pressing for a divorce from Catherine of Aragon (see page 000) and made this Wolsey’s chief mission. Catherine was the aunt of Charles V.

2. Second, Habsburg troops ransacked Rome and the pope became a virtual prisoner of Charles V. This was bad news for Wolsey: the pope alone possessed the power to grant Henry’s divorce, and would not do so whilst under the control of Catherine’s nephew.

Wolsey had no control over these developments, but they significantly complicated his foreign policy. Wolsey’s decision to side with France ruled out any possibility of Charles assisting Henry in seeking a divorce. Wolsey had to rely on the hope that military success by the League of Cognac would break Charles’ dominance on the Italian peninsula. This was a risky strategy as Charles was very powerful.

In 1528, France and England declared war on Charles, and Francis I invaded the Italian peninsula. However, despite the declaration of war, no English troops were sent to fight. This discredited the idea that England was a serious international player.

Wolsey also had to call off a trade embargo* of the Netherlands due to protests from English cloth workers, who needed access to the markets in Antwerp.

Most importantly, in June 1529, Charles defeated the French at the Battle of Landriano in northern Italy. As a result, Charles’ power over Italy and the pope remained, and Wolsey’s hopes of securing a divorce for Henry were over.

Key term

Trade embargo*

The hostile act of cutting trade links with another country.

The Treaty of Cambrai

In August 1529, following his defeat, Francis made peace with Charles in the Treaty of Cambrai. Wolsey was only informed of the peace negotiations at the last minute. England was no longer being treated as an equal by either France or the Habsburg Empire.

A summary of foreign policy under Wolsey is shown in the table below.

Main aims of foreign policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Successes</th>
<th>Failures</th>
<th>Mixed outcomes</th>
<th>Events outside of Wolsey’s control</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treaty of London, 1518</td>
<td>Treaty of More, 1525</td>
<td>Alliance with France, 1525–29</td>
<td>Battle of Pavia, 1525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treaty of Westminster, 1527</td>
<td>Treaty of Bruges, 1521</td>
<td>Treaty of Bruges, 1528</td>
<td>League of Cognac, 1526</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activities

1. Make a timeline of the main foreign policy events up to 1529. For each event, say if Wolsey was following an anti-French, anti-Habsburg or neutral policy. Was it a success or failure?

2. Highlight Wolsey’s greatest success and greatest failure on your timeline. Explain your choices.

3. Do you think Wolsey’s foreign policy was more of a success or a failure? Explain your decision.

Exam-style question, Section B

Describe two features of England’s war with France, 1522–25.

Exam tip

This question is only worth four marks. You therefore need to be clear and concise in your writing. This takes practice. Also remember to give two points.

Summary

- Directing Henry’s foreign policy was Wolsey’s most important task. Given the relative weakness of England, this was not an easy job.
- Wolsey managed to increase English influence in Europe.
- The ‘Field of the Cloth of Gold’ should be viewed as one of Wolsey’s greatest achievements, alongside the Treaties of London and Bruges.
- However, England was not as powerful as France or the Habsburg Empire, and struggled to compete with them.
- Wolsey’s efforts to achieve military gains against France 1522–25 achieved nothing and he was powerless to prevent Charles V from ignoring English interests.
- The French alliance of 1525–29 was a failure. It made Wolsey’s task of securing Henry’s divorce more difficult.

Checkpoint

Strengthen

S1 Describe what Wolsey hoped to achieve with the Treaty of London.

S2 Describe how Henry sought to portray himself as a great leader at the ‘Field of the Cloth of Gold’.

S3 Explain why Wolsey decided to abandon the long-held alliance with Charles V in 1525.

Challenge

C1 ‘Wolsey’s foreign policy failed to turn Henry into a leading player in Europe’. Write two paragraphs, one in support and one opposing this statement.

C2 Why was it difficult for England to be a leading European power at this time? If you are not confident answering these questions, ask your teacher for some hints.
**Learning outcomes**

- Understand why Henry wanted a divorce from Catherine of Aragon.
- Understand the reasons for Wolsey’s fall from power.

By 1527, the king was in love: but not with his wife, Catherine of Aragon. Anne Boleyn – stylish, intelligent and playful – had caught his eye. Although normally reluctant to write, passionate love letters poured out of Henry. He claimed that he had been shot by the ‘dart of love’. This love affair, however, was just one part of a wider story developing in the 1520s. Focused on Henry’s need for an heir, it resulted in lives destroyed and Henry’s court transformed.

**Catherine of Aragon and the succession**

For two decades, Henry had been, in many ways, a caring and affectionate husband, in love with his wife. In return, Catherine of Aragon had been a loyal wife, supporting him when he needed her.

Henry first met Catherine when he was a young prince. She, however, was betrothed to his older brother, Arthur. As the princess of Spain, this was a political marriage to join the two nations in an alliance. Married in November 1501, Arthur died unexpectedly the following April. It was decreed by the pope that the marriage had not been consummated*. This was important: it meant Catherine could be married to Prince Henry instead, and the Anglo–Spanish alliance maintained.

There was genuine affection between the royal couple, and Catherine became everything a 16th-century queen should be. Deeply religious, educated and regal, she submitted to Henry in all matters. She became widely respected among the English people for her charitable work. She also defended Henry’s interests. In 1513, Henry appointed her as his regent* while he led an invasion of France.

Catherine’s unhappy history of childbirth was not just a personal tragedy. It was also a political problem and led to Henry seeking the annulment* of their marriage in 1527. Henry believed that he needed a healthy male heir in order to guarantee the future of the Tudor dynasty. Catherine’s unhappy history of childbirth was not just a personal tragedy. It was also a political problem and led to Henry seeking the annulment* of their marriage in 1527. Henry believed that he needed a healthy male heir in order to guarantee the future of the Tudor dynasty.

By 1524, Catherine had many difficult pregnancies. Primary sources confirm she was pregnant six times, with only one baby, Mary, surviving. The emotional and physical toll on the queen must have been terrible. By 1524, Henry had stopped sleeping with Catherine. Aged 39, her chances of becoming pregnant again were low. Unfortunately for Catherine, she had failed to provide Henry with the one thing he needed: a surviving son.

**Henry’s reasons for seeking an annulment**

Catherine’s unhappy history of childbirth was not just a personal tragedy. It was also a political problem and led to Henry seeking the annulment* of their marriage in 1527. Henry believed that he needed a healthy male heir in order to guarantee the future of the Tudor dynasty.

Having only a female heir might encourage others with a claim to the throne – both at home and abroad – to challenge for the throne.

**Key terms**

**Consummated**

Confirming a marriage by having sex: a marriage was not considered valid until then.

**Regent**

A person who governs the kingdom in the king’s absence.

**Source A**

Part of a love letter from Henry VII to Anne Boleyn, c1527. Her power over him is clear.

On turning over in my mind the contents of your last letters, I have put myself into great agony, not knowing how to interpret them, whether to my advantage, as you show in some places, or to my disadvantage, as you show in some others, beseeching you earnestly to let me know expressly whether to my last letters, I have put myself into great agony, not knowing how to interpret them, whether to my advantage, as you show in some places, or to my disadvantage, as you show in some others, beseeching you earnestly to let me know expressly whether...

**Source B**

An extract from Leviticus, a book in the Bible, supporting Henry’s case for a divorce.

If a man shall take his brother’s wife it is an impurity: ... they shall be childless.

**Source C**

Anne Boleyn, c1533–36, by an unknown artist. Edward Hall, a Tudor MP, described her as having a long neck, wide mouth and eyes which were black and beautiful. The portrait also shows her wearing her famous ‘B’ pendant.

Henry already knew Anne’s family. Anne was the daughter of Sir Thomas Boleyn, a courtier and minister, and was the niece of the Duke of Norfolk, who was becoming a key advisor to the king.

Anne refused the king’s initial advances, letting it be known that she would only sleep with him when they were married. This strategy worked and made the king all the more determined to secure an annulment.
Henry's attempts to gain an annulment

The task of obtaining the annulment of Henry's marriage to Catherine fell to Wolsey in 1527. Although this required the approval of the pope, Wolsey assured Henry that this could be easily achieved. As cardinal and Papal Legate, as well as an internationally respected statesman, Wolsey had influence in Rome. He also assumed the pope would want to help Henry, who was his ally.

However, it soon became clear that Rome was not going to co-operate. As seen previously, Charles V was the nephew of Catherine, and his victory over the French at Pavia in 1525 left him dominating Rome. For a short time in 1527, he even imprisoned the pope. This caused problems for Wolsey. For the pope, the risk of upsetting Charles V by granting the annulment was too great. At the same time, the pope also did not want to lose the support of his English ally. The result was a papal policy that sought to delay making a final decision for as long as possible.

With pressure mounting from Henry, Anne Boleyn and her supporters, Wolsey tried a range of strategies, hoping one would pay off.

First, Wolsey tried to find evidence in the Bible to support an annulment. Henry had only been allowed to marry Catherine as a result of a special dispensation (permission) from the pope. Based on Henry’s interpretation of Leviticus, a book of the Bible, it was argued that the dispensation should never have been given because the marriage had not been consummated. Wolsey also argued that the marriage had not been consummated because Arthur had died without children.

Another approach from Wolsey focused on challenging the pope’s original decision to allow Henry and Catherine to marry on technical grounds. By arguing that it was incorrectly worded, it would make the marriage between Henry and Catherine invalid. This approach had the advantage of giving Rome a non-controversial reason for annulling the marriage. However, Catherine’s supporters located a correctly worded Spanish version of the decision – Wolsey could no longer use it as an argument for the annulment.

Meanwhile, huge pressure was placed on Catherine to renounce her marriage and become a nun. This would automatically terminate the marriage and so avoid the need for the pope’s approval. In one message sent to Catherine, the king warned her that, if an attempt was made on his life, she would be blamed for it. The message accused her of hating the king and becoming too friendly with the public by nodding, smiling and waving to them. Furthermore, he would no longer see their daughter, Princess Mary. It was a cruel letter designed to force her into becoming a nun, but it did not work.

Wolsey’s final attempt to annul the marriage was focused on persuading Rome to allow the case to be decided in England. As Papal Legate, the decision would then fall to Wolsey, who would do as the king wished. Long discussions followed as the precise arrangements were worked out. Eventually, a compromise was reached in April 1528. Cardinal Campeggio and Cardinal Wolsey would rule on behalf of the pope in England. Henry believed nothing else would now get in his way.

However promising, this approach also failed.

Catherine of Aragon's opposition to the annulment

To the queen, the idea of being cast aside was anathema. She wanted more than anything to remain the wife of the king and continue to dominate the king, as some had suggested, he served him, and when he ceased to serve him to Henry's satisfaction, he fell from power.

Why did the case for the annulment fail?

- Cardinal Campeggio had been given instructions by the pope not to reach a final verdict.
- Because of this, Campeggio's delaying tactics made Henry frustrated. Although partly due to illness, the Cardinal only arrived in England in October 1528.
- When the case finally opened in Blackfriars court in June 1529, Campeggio insisted on doing everything by the book.
- In July 1529, Campeggio broke up the court for the summer without a final decision being reached.

Unfortunately for Henry and Wolsey, Campeggio was near the end of his life and could not be pressured into making a decision. Instead, Henry’s anger was vented on Wolsey. The fact that this had been another dead-end became clear when the pope decided, at the end of the summer of 1529, that the matter had to be heard in Rome after all.

Opposition to the annulment

The trial for annulment against Catherine of Aragon was held at Blackfriars court. During the trial, Catherine was called to speak. She ignored the officials and made her way over to her husband. She knelt before him and delivered her plea not to cast her aside. This was one example of the total opposition Catherine had to the idea of a divorce.

Catherine could stand up to Henry because she had powerful supporters, including John Fisher, the highly respected Bishop of Rochester, and Thomas More, advisor to the king. Public support for the queen was strong. She also had the backing of Europe’s most powerful man, Charles V, her nephew.

Because of Catherine’s family connection with Charles, the pope was simply not in a position to support an annulment.

Figure 1.7 Catherine of Aragon’s opposition to the annulment.
1.4 Wolsey, Catherine, the succession and annulment

Recap: Henry VIII and Wolsey, 1509–29

**Reasons for Wolsey’s fall**

Wolsey’s end came quickly. When Campeggio suspended work on the divorce case in July 1529, it was clear that the chief minister’s divorce strategy had failed. In October, Henry punished Wolsey by stripping him of most of his powers and possessions, and exiling him to York. In November 1530, Wolsey was summoned to London for trial on charges of praemunire*. His health broken, Wolsey died on the journey southwards and so was spared the fate of almost certain execution. His last words expressed regret that he had served his king better than his God.

**The influence of the Boleyn family**

Wolsey’s downfall was also caused by the influence of the Boleyn family. The Eltham Ordinances highlighted how Wolsey sought to prevent rivals from gaining close access to the king. Up until 1527, he was largely successful. As the relationship between Henry and Anne developed, Wolsey was unable to prevent a powerful new group in court developing around Anne, led by her father Thomas Boleyn and her brother, George.

The Boleyns argued that Wolsey was deliberately trying to disrupt the divorce proceedings. They said he favoured Catherine and believed the king would eventually tire of his love affair with Anne. As each effort failed, so their attacks on the chief minister increased. Anne in particular grew to hate Wolsey. Many other nobles with grudges against Wolsey eagerly sided with them. With the final failure of proceedings in summer 1529, the Boleyns helped persuade Henry that his chief minister had to go.

Henry’s faith in Wolsey was undermined by three high profile failures.

1. His failure with the Amicable Grant.

2. His failure to secure the annulment for Henry.

3. His failure to build an alliance against Charles V.

**Summary**

- Henry’s need for a son, his worries about the validity of the marriage in the eyes of God and his love for Anne Boleyn all contributed to the king’s decision to seek an annulment.
- Wolsey was charged with this task and pursued a wide variety of strategies. The most hopeful was having the pope pass a decree in May 1529, although did not live to face trial.
- Wolsey failed to secure an annulment because he could not overcome the queen’s determined opposition and the pope was dominated by Catherine’s nephew and supporter, Charles V.
- Wolsey’s failure led to his downfall as the king lost confidence in him, encouraged by the powerful Boleyn faction. He was charged with praemunire, although did not live to face trial.

**Exam-style question, Section B**

‘Wolsey’s failure to gain an annulment for Henry was the main reason why he fell from power in 1529’. How far do you agree? Explain your answer. You may use the following in your answer:

- The treaty with France
- The Boleyn faction

You must also use information of your own. 16 marks

**Activity**

1. Imagine that you have been placed in charge of teaching a pupil in the year below about Henry VIII. For each of the following topics, decide what four key points you would want them to learn.

   a. England in 1509
   b. Henry’s coronation
   c. Henry’s marriage to Catherine of Aragon
   d. The rise of Thomas Wolsey
   e. Wolsey’s economic policies
   f. Wolsey’s foreign policy

2. Wolsey became the second most important person in England. An alternative way of looking at this subject is to identify specific factors behind Wolsey’s rise to power. Historians normally focus on his intelligence, charm, capacity for hard work, exceptional ability and luck. Provide at least one piece of specific evidence to support each factor. Rank them in order of importance.

**Checkpoint**

**Strengthen**

S1 Summarise, in no more than 200 words, the four main strategies used by Wolsey to obtain an annulment.

S2 Describe why the annulment hearing at Blackfriars court did not go according to Wolsey’s plan.

**Challenge**

C1 Why did Wolsey fail to secure an annulment for Henry? Did he have any moral concerns over his marriage or his love for Anne Boleyn?

C2 If you are not confident about any of these questions, discuss the answers with other students and record your conclusions.

**Recall quiz**

1. What was the size of England’s population when Henry became king in 1509?
2. Why was a papal dispensation needed before Henry VIII could marry Catherine of Aragon?
3. List the key parts of government at the time of Henry VIII.
4. Name the important government position granted to Wolsey in 1515.
5. How much money did Wolsey raise through the subsidy up to 1529?
6. Describe the Eltham Ordinances.
7. Name the two most powerful leaders in Europe that Wolsey had to deal with and the countries they ruled over.
8. Why was 1525 a significant year in Wolsey’s foreign policy?
9. Give two reasons why Henry VIII became convinced that his marriage to Catherine was not supported by God.
10. What name is given to the powerful group in Henry’s court that opposed Wolsey?

* Praemunire: Treason by a member of the clergy as a result of working in the interests of the pope, not the king.
Writing historically: managing sentences

Successful historical writing is clearly expressed, using carefully managed sentence structures.

Learning outcomes

By the end of this lesson, you will understand how to:

• select and use single clause and multiple clause sentences.

Definitions

Clause: a group of words or unit of meaning that contains a verb and can form part or all of a sentence, e.g. 'Thomas Wolsey was Henry VIII's chief minister'.

Single clause sentence: a sentence containing just one clause, e.g. 'Thomas Wolsey was Henry VIII's chief minister.'

Multiple clause sentence: a sentence containing two or more clauses, often linked with a conjunction, e.g. 'Thomas Wolsey was Henry VIII's chief minister and he dominated government for 15 years.'

Co-ordinating conjunction: a word used to link two clauses of equal importance within a sentence, e.g. 'and', 'but', 'so', 'or', etc.

How can I structure my sentences clearly?

When you are explaining and exploring complex events and ideas, you can end up writing very long sentences. This can make your writing difficult for the reader to follow.

Look at the extract below from a response to this exam-style question:

Describe two features of the Field of the Cloth of Gold. (4 marks)

The Field of the Cloth of Gold, organised by Cardinal Wolsey, was a high level meeting between Henry VIII and Francis I, the King of France, both young, ambitious rulers who were keen to impress each other, in 1520.

1. The writer of the response above has linked every piece of information in his answer into one, very long sentence.

How many different pieces of information has the writer included in this answer? Re-write each piece of information as a single clause sentence. For example:

The Field of the Cloth of Gold was organised by Cardinal Wolsey.

2. Look again at your answer to Question 1. Which of the single clause sentences would you link together? Re-write the response twice, experimenting with linking different sentences together using co-ordinating conjunctions such as 'and', 'but' or 'so'. Remember: you are aiming to make your writing as clear and precise as possible.

3. Now write a paragraph in response to the exam-style question below, using only single clause sentences to state each different piece of information.

Describe two features of England's war with France, 1522-25. (4 marks)

4. Now re-write your response to Question 3. Experiment with linking different sentences together using co-ordinating conjunctions such as 'and', 'but' or 'so'. Remember: you are aiming to make your writing as clear and precise as possible.

How can I use conjunctions to link my ideas?

There are several types of multiple clause sentence structures that you can use to link your ideas. If you want to balance or contrast two ideas of equal importance within a sentence, you can use co-ordinating conjunctions to link them.

Look at the extract below from a response to this exam-style question:

Explain why Henry VIII wanted to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon in 1527. (12 marks)

Nature doomed their marriage. Catherine miscarried five times and had only a daughter and in 1527 was middle-aged. This not only made her unlikely to provide another male heir in the future but also made Henry doubt the legitimacy of their marriage. In the end he wanted an annulment not through conscience but because he feared for his succession and he had fallen for another woman, Anne Boleyn.

These co-ordinating conjunctions link equally important actions that happened at the same time. These paired co-ordinating conjunctions contrast two possible causes.

5. How else could the writer of the response above have linked, balanced or contrasted these ideas?

Experiment with re-writing the response, using different sentence structures and different ways of linking ideas within them using co-ordinating conjunctions.

Did you notice?

The first sentence in the response above is a single clause sentence, containing one verb: 'Nature doomed their marriage.'

6. Why do you think the writer chose to give this point additional emphasis by structuring it as a short, single clause sentence? Write a sentence or two explaining your ideas.

Improving an answer

7. Now look at the final paragraph below of the response to the exam-style question above.

Henry's rival, Francis I, called Catherine Henry's 'old deformed wife'. Anne Boleyn was young and beautiful. Anne resisted Henry's advances. Anne insisted Henry must first make her his wife. Henry was in love. He was determined to win Anne. She promised him everything he wanted.

Re-write this paragraph, choosing some conjunctions from the Co-ordinating Conjunction Bank below to link, balance or contrast the writer's ideas.

Co-ordinating Conjunction Bank

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conjunction</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>and</td>
<td>not only… but</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>but</td>
<td>also…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>either… or…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>so</td>
<td>neither… nor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>both… and…</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. How else could the writer of the response above have linked, balanced or contrasted these ideas?
Preparing for your exams

Each book has a section dedicated to explaining and exemplifying the new Edexcel GCSE (9–1) History exams. Advice on the demands of every paper, written by Angela Leonard, suggests ways students can successfully approach each exam. Each question type is then explained through annotated sample answers at two levels, showing clearly how answers can be improved.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preparing for your exams</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Paper 2 overview</strong></td>
<td><strong>Paper 2, Question 4a</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your Paper 2 is in two sections that examine the Period Study and British Depth Study. They each count for 20% of your History assessment. The questions on Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509–40 are the British Depth Study and are in Section B of the exam paper. You should save just over half the time allowed for Paper 2 to write your answers to Section B. This will give a few moments for checking your answers at the end.</td>
<td>Describe two features of the Field of the Cloth of Gold. (4 marks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>History Paper 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exam tip</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Section A</strong></td>
<td>Keep your answer brief. Make two points with some extra information to expand your answer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period Study</td>
<td>A feature is identified but there is no supporting information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Section B</strong></td>
<td>A feature is identified but there is no supporting information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tudor Depth Option B</td>
<td>Additional supporting information is directly related to it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Depth Option B</td>
<td>A further valid feature is identified - the meeting's aim, and the supporting information briefly develops this point.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509–40</td>
<td>This is a strong answer because two valid features are given with supporting information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You will answer Question 4, which is in three parts: (a) Describe two features of... (4 marks)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You are given a few lines to write about each feature. Allow five minutes to write your answer. It is only worth four marks, so keep the answer brief and try not to add more information on extra lines.</td>
<td>Example of a false statement: the bus was late because it broke down = statement about cause; the bus broke down as a result of poor maintenance = statement about consequence; the bus service has improved recently = statement about change.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Explain why... (6 marks)</td>
<td>Your answer points in two columns: For and Against. Plan your answer before you begin to write and put some extra information to expand your answer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This question asks you to explain the reasons why something happened. Allow 10 minutes to write your answer. You are given two stimulus (information) prompts as prompts to help you. You do not have to use the prompts and you will not lose marks by leaving them out. Always remember to add in a new point at the end. Higher marks are gained by adding in a point extra to the prompt. You will be given at least two pages in the answer booklet for your answer.</td>
<td>* The chief organiser of the Field of the Cloth of Gold was Cardinal Wolsey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) (i) OR (ii) How far do you agree? (16 marks)</td>
<td>* The meeting's aim, but with no supporting information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This question is worth half your marks for the whole of the Depth Study. Make sure you have kept 30 minutes to answer it. You have a choice of statements (i) or (ii). Before you decide, be clear what the statement is about - what 'concept' it is about and what topic information you will need to respond to it. You will have prompts to help as far as (ii):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The statement can be about the concepts of cause, significance, consequence, change, similarity or difference. It is a good idea during revision to practice identifying the concept focus of statements. You could do this with everyday examples and test one another: the bus was late because it broke down = statement about cause; the bus broke down as a result of poor maintenance = statement about consequence; the bus service has improved recently = statement about change. You must make a judgement on how far you agree and you should think about both sides of the argument. Have your answer before you begin to write and put your answer points in two columns: For and Against. You should consider at least three points. Think about it as if you were putting weight on each side to decide what your judgement is going to be for the conclusion. That way your whole answer hangs together – it is coherent. Don’t just say what your reasons (your criteria) for your judgement – for example: why one cause is more important than another? Did it perhaps set others in motion? You must explain your answer.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Example

- **On the one hand**
  - Point 1
  - Point 2

- **On the other hand**
  - Point 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Verdict</strong></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is an average answer because two valid features are given but with no supporting information. Use the feedback to re-write this answer, making as many improvements as you can.</td>
<td>This is a strong answer because two valid features are given with supporting information.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Exam tip**

- The chief organiser of the Field of the Cloth of Gold was Cardinal Wolsey.
- The meeting's aim, but with no supporting information.
- A feature is identified but there is no supporting information.
- A further valid feature is identified - the meeting's aim, and the supporting information briefly develops this point.

**Strong answer**

- The Field of the Cloth of Gold was a diplomatic meeting arranged by Cardinal Wolsey between Henry VII and Francis I, the King of France, in 1519. Both were young, ambitious rulers who were keen to impress each other.
- One of the aims of the meeting was to prevent war breaking out between France and Charles V, the ruler of Spain and the Hapsburg Empire. Following the Treaty of London in 1518, Henry had taken on the role of European peacemaker.

**Verdict**

- This is a strong answer because two valid features are given with supporting information.

---

**Average answer**

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- The meeting's aim, but with no supporting information.
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### Paper 2, Question 4a

**Describe two features of the Field of the Cloth of Gold.** (4 marks)

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