

A-Level History, HIS1D: Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy 1603-1702

Absolutism Challenged: Britain 1603-49

Section 1: Monarchy and Parliament 1603-1629

KEY TOPIC AREAS 1603-1629:

The Political Nation and Social Basis of Power.

- The Tudor Legacy and the ascension of the Stuarts to the English Throne
- Who are the Political Nation?
- Social basis of Power and the Political Nation's power.
- The importance of land ownership and other rival forms of wealth.

James I and Charles I Character Court and Favourites

- The character of James I and Charles I.
- How James I's and Charles I's characters shaped their monarchies and styles of rule.
- The Favourites of James I and Charles I

Religion and Religious Divisions.

- The importance of the church in early modern Britain.
- Challenges to James I and the Church of England from the Catholics.
- Challenges to James I and the Church of England from Puritans.
- The Development of Arminianism.
- Charles I and religion, 1625-29: the favouring of Arminianism

KEY TOPIC AREAS 1603-1629:

The Finances of the Crown and attempts at reform

- The financial weakness of the crown.
- Attempts to reform and strengthen royal finance during James I's reign.
- Attempts to reform and strengthen royal finances in Charles I's reign, 1625-29

Relations and disputes with Parliament 1604

- James's attitude to Parliament, parliamentary privilege, finance, religion, and foreign Policy.
- State of relations between Charles and Parliament and the reaction of the Political Nation.

The state of relations between Crown and Parliament by 1629

- The state of relations between Crown and Parliament by 1629
- The Three Resolutions.
- The extent of the breakdown between Crown and Parliament and the political Nation by 1629

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KEY WORDS

- Ante-Supper:** the preparation of 2 huge feasts. The first was displayed and then thrown away before the second was eaten
- Arminians:** a denomination of Protestantism who did not want further reform to the Church of England
- Bedchamber:** the monarch's private living space. Gentlemen of the Bedchamber were courtiers who waited upon the monarch in these rooms
- Divine Right:** the idea that the power to rule was given to monarchs by God
- Favourite:** a courtier very close to the King, often inspired jealousy at court
- Feudal:** a system of rule from 1066. Monarchs had the right to grant land to members of the Political Nation in return for military service or payment
- Impositions:** a tax or duty in addition to normal customs taxes set by Parliament
- Inflation:** a general increase in prices and fall in the value of money
- Monopolies:** a prerogative power of the Crown. The king would sell the exclusive right to sell a product or service
- Patronage:** a network of support created to help people achieve political success and move as close to the king as possible
- Political Nation:** members of society who influence how a country is run (elite)
- Prerogative:** the power of the Crown derived from the ideas that the monarch ruled by Divine Right
- Privilege:** a legal right which allows members of Parliament to speak during sessions of Parliament without fear of legal action
- Privy Council:** the King's selected advisers who met in private to shape the wishes of the monarch into policy
- Royal Court:** the group that made up the extended household of a ruler, including advisers and attendants
- Subsidy:** A sum of money to promote Crown policies. Usually raised by parliamentary taxation
- Tonnage and Poundage:** customs taxes on wine and wool. Usually granted to a king for life by his first Parliament
- Unwritten Constitution:** England had no written document which listed the rules by which the state was run. This meant that it was open to interpretation

KEY INDIVIDUALS

- James Stuart:** King James VI of Scotland/I of England, reigned 1603-1625
- Esme Stuart:** Favourite from 1579-81
- Robert Carr:** Favourite from 1607-13 (Overbury Scandal)
- George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham:** James' favourite from 1615-25, Charles' favourite 1625-28
- Charles Stuart:** James' son, ruled as Charles I 1625-1649
- Robert Cecil:** Treasurer from 1608 - 1612 (Book of Bounty/Rates and Great Contract)
- Richard Bancroft:** Archbishop of Canterbury 1604-1611, Bancroft's Canons.
- George Abbott:** Archbishop of Canterbury 1611 - 1633
- Lionel Cranfield:** Treasurer from 1621
- William Laud:** a key Arminian cleric who James allowed prominence in court debates, became the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1633
- Henrietta Maria:** Catholic wife of Charles I

How will you be assessed?

One exam that will take 2 hours 30 minutes.

You are advised to spend around:

- 60 minutes on the first section (question one based on 3 interpretations), and
- 1 hour 30 minutes on the second section (answer 2 essay questions)

6 key questions underpin this course:

- How far did the monarchy change?
- To what extent and why was power more widely shared during this period?
- Why and with what results were there disputes over religion?
- How effective was opposition?
- How important were ideas and ideology?
- How important was the role of key individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?

KEY EVENTS 1603-25

- 1603** James VI of Scotland becomes James I of England
Millenary Petition
- 1604** Hampton Court Conference
Buckinghamshire Election
Shirley's Case
Bancroft becomes Archbishop of Canterbury
Treaty of London ends war with Spain
- 1605** Gunpowder Plot
- 1606** Failure of James' plan for union of England and Scotland
Bates' Case
- 1608** Cecil appointed Lord Treasurer – Books of Bounty and Rates
- 1610** Failure of the Great Contract
- 1611** Abbott becomes Archbishop of Canterbury
Authorised Version of the Bible published (King James Bible)
- 1612** Death of Prince Henry
- 1613** Marriage of Princess Elizabeth and Frederick V
- 1614** **Addled Parliament**
Cockayne Project
- 1615** Emergence of Buckingham as favourite of James I
- 1616** Overbury Scandal
- 1618** Outbreak of Thirty Years' War in Europe
- 1619** Buckingham appointed Lord High Admiral
- 1621** **James' Third Parliament**
Lionel Cranfield appointed Lord Treasurer
James tears Protestation Oath out of Commons Journal
- 1623** Prince Charles and Buckingham go on the Madrid Trip
- 1624** **James' Fourth Parliament**
Subsidy Act
Monopolies Act
- 1625** James dies
Charles I crowned king

KEY EVENTS 1625 – 29

- 1625** Charles crowned King
Charles' First Parliament
Charles marries Henrietta Maria of France
Buckingham's unsuccessful expedition to Cadiz
- 1626** **Charles' Second Parliament**
Forced Loan
York House Conference
- 1627** Charles declares war on France
Five Knights' Case
Buckingham's failed La Rochelle expedition
- 1628** Assassination of Buckingham
Petition of Right
William Laud appointed Bishop of London
- 1629** Treaty of Susa ends war with France
Three Resolutions – Personal Rule

Example essay question:

The next 2 questions are essays and you choose 2 from 3 possible questions. They are worth 25 marks each. You should spend around 45 minutes on each question. Here is an example:

'The personalities of the early Stuart monarchs were responsible for a breakdown in relationships with Parliament between 1603-29.'

Assess the validity of this view.

Example Question 1:

This will always be based on 3 interpretations and will be worth 30 marks. You should spend about 60 minutes on this type of question. You have to answer question 1!

1. Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the views are in these three extracts in relation to James I's views on monarchy.

Example extract (there will be 3 like this):

Extract A

James' views on kingship and the art of politics were far more subtle and perceptive than the traditional stereotype of an aspiring absolutist wedded to the Divine Right of Kings suggests. James' respect for the rule of law is very striking. He distinguished carefully between 'a lawful good king' and a 'tyrant'. James praised Parliament as the highest court of law and the Crown's partner in making legislation. James argued that it was crucial for the monarch to work harmoniously with Parliament. Above all, James realised the value of personal contact with the political elite. James' ideas about kingship made him eminently suitable to tackle the challenges of ruling England. An excellent insight into James' view on monarchy is afforded by his speech to Parliament in March 1610. This whole speech appealed to an ideological framework which commanded a remarkable level of agreement. It demonstrated a much greater readiness to engage with the constitutional traditions of England than James is often credited with. Adapted from D L Smith, A History of the Modern British Isles, 1603–1707, 1998