



Urmston Grammar Sixth Form – Transition Work

History Department

Year 11 into 12 Transition Programme
History A Level: The Crisis of Monarchy 1603-1702

The historian Mark Kishlansky writes that the seventeenth century was a 'wheel of transformation in perpetual motion.' It was a century of massive political and religious upheaval and understanding the events of this century is critical for understanding the nation you live in today.

The course begins with the death of Queen Elizabeth I, the last of the Tudors, and the accession to the throne of England of James I. One of the more difficult aspects of getting to grips with this century of change is understanding the religious divisions that existed in Britain and Europe and how these divisions led people to act in certain circumstances. Therefore, this transition work will aim to give you a deeper understanding of the religious context to the 17th century. The religious divisions that existed in Britain and Europe when James became King of England in 1603 were a legacy of the Reformation that had taken place across the continent in the 16th century. The Reformation had given English monarchs hugely increased powers as Henry VIII had made himself head of the Church of England, but it had also presented huge challenges for the monarch as they now had to deal with lots of different views on religion and lots of interpretations of the Bible. Elizabeth I was very keen for everyone in England to attend her Church of England – it was a matter of royal power and control – but the legacy of the Reformation meant that there were still Catholics and groups of Protestants who were not happy with her Church and some who just refused to attend it. Some groups of Catholics even plotted to kill Elizabeth to try to return the country to the Catholic Church with the Pope at its head. So let's try and get our heads around all this religious turmoil. The more reading, watching, listening and thinking you do before day 1 of your A level history course in September the quicker you will hit the ground running.

TASK 1: Watch:

- a) Watch Reformation - Europe's Holy War - David Starkey ([BBC- Reformation Europes Holy War - video Dailymotion](#)) - Question: What impact did the Bible being translated from Latin into the mother tongues of the people of Europe (English, German etc) have on religion?
- b) Documentary on the Reformation (<https://youtu.be/Faf6ISLbPQ8?si=K0flprB--yyP2tNH>) - Question: Who were the Anabaptists of Munster, what happened to them and why did the authorities react so violently towards them?

TASK 2: Reading and note taking – The Legacy of the Reformation in Britain (tasks A, B, C)

The legacy of the Reformation and the causes of the English Civil War

TASKS A-C

In order to understand the problems that faced all of the Stuart monarchs – but especially the first two - you must understand something of the impact of the Reformation in England, Ireland and Scotland in the 16th century. The Reformation was the process whereby England broke away from the Catholic Church in Rome. It was begun under Henry VIII and became permanent under Elizabeth I. (you should know this now after all the work you have already done) Only by understanding this background will you be able to see that, in Early Stuart England, after the Reformation, the following applied: (see if you can fill in the gaps)

There was only one national P _____ nt Church to which everyone was f _____ to belong to and attend.

The monarch was head of the C _____ and saw the Church as a tool of controlling people. Anyone who did not go to Church was f _____ d and anyone who tried to set their own Church up would be in serious trouble. Anyone who tried to continue to be a C _____ was also in serious trouble.

The Church and its officials including Bishops and archbishops were firmly under the control of the K _____ / Q _____

However, the Reformation and the publication of the Bible in _____ had unleashed many different interpretations of how to achieve salvation and of what the correct way to w _____ God was. These

divisions were of major political importance because they could challenge the monarch's power as head of the ONE national church.

Catholicism had become h_____ and f_____ by much of English society. It was linked to terrorist plots, foreign invasion, torture, violence, confiscation of property and treason.

TASK A: Read the file **An Introduction to Stuart Britain** and the file **Stuart England**– Religious Divisions. Write your notes under each question or on file paper if you cannot print this out.

1. How were the ideas of Martin Luther different to those of the Catholic Church?
2. Why did many people begin to criticise the Catholic Church?
3. Read the box on John Calvin on page 13 as well as the following section on Britain and the Reformation. What ideas did he add to the Reformation? Why was preaching important to a Calvinist
4. How did the Reformation create political conflict in Britain? Mention Calvinism in Scotland as well as England.
5. Why did Elizabeth come up with a middle way in religion? What was the Middle Way?
6. How Protestant was the Elizabethan Settlement?
7. How serious was the Catholic threat to Elizabeth and how successful was she in dealing with the threat?
8. Why do you think that Elizabeth and Parliament's attitude towards Catholics in England hardened from the 1570s?
9. Why did Puritanism emerge as a threat to Elizabeth and her Church? How serious was the Puritan threat to the Elizabethan Church
10. To what extent did Elizabeth achieve a religious settlement in England in the 16th century?

TASK B: Read through the file **the Civil Wars** and answer the following on paper or print out the document after typing in your notes.

How did the Reformation and the religious changes brought about by Edward, Mary and Elizabeth increase the power of Parliament?

What was the main consequence of the Dissolution of the Monasteries and how might it have led the English gentry and nobility to become supporters of the new Protestant faith?

Why did the gentry become more educated as a result of the Reformation? How might this have led to a growth in Parliament's power and role in governing the state?

Can you work out how the Reformation unleashed by Henry VIII both increased the power of the Monarch but at the same time meant that it became more vulnerable?

Why did Elizabeth see it as her priority to bring about a religious settlement?

What do you think were the main causes of the growing hatred and suspicion of Catholicism in the reign of Elizabeth? Why did Protestantism come to be associated with English national identity and freedoms? (read the box on p6.)

What do you think the Puritans meant by 'further reformation'?

How did Elizabeth react to the Puritans and Presbyterians? Why did she react that way?

Complete a glossary of religious terms by defining: Anglican, Arminian, Puritan, Predestination, Presbyterian, Separatist, Book of Common Prayer – add any other key terms you have come across

[illegible]

TASK C: OPTIONAL EXTRA - Read through the file **The Reformation** and add anything

TASK 7: (optional) Listen to a podcast or two

Podcasts - good background and context for the course. Make sure that you add anything new to your notes from previous tasks. You must listen to 1, 2 and 10. Try to listen to as many as you can within the time allocated to this work.

1. A general discussion on the legacy of the reformation

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08lfbyd>

2. A discussion on the Puritans - they are the group not happy at how far the Reformation has gone in England - they want far more reform of the church- they are going to be a big problem for James I and a huge problem for Charles I - in fact hardline Puritans are the ones who cause the civil war and execute the King after persuading many moderate Protestants in England that the King is trying to return England to Catholicism

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p00q6l4t>

3. Puritans are hardline Calvinists - the more extreme one want the abolition of Bishops in the C of England and they want godly reformation ie the abolition of sin! and they think the government should be working towards this - they are religious extremists. The Church of England under Elizabeth adopted some of Calvinism (core beliefs and doctrine) but kept many elements of the old Catholic faith.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00qvqpz>

4. I haven't listened to this one but it sounds extremely relevant - the Book of Common Prayer was an extremely controversial document when James I became King - it was controversial under Liz I - it is the service book of the C of E and contains too many old Catholic elements for Puritans.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03ct4n4>

5. Mary Queen of Scots - Mary Stuart - was Elizabeth's heir but she was a Catholic and that was too much of a problem for many Protestant Englishmen. She also got herself in plots to overthrow Elizabeth and so was executed having fled to England after Scotland had a full-on Protestant Reformation. Her execution showed just how far the English political elite was willing to go to avoid a Catholic monarch - she was after all God's divinely anointed sovereign but that couldn't save her from English fear of Catholicism

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b088fs7z>

6. Foxe's Book of Martyrs was the book that all good English protestants had on their bookshelf in the 16th and 17th centuries - well those that could read anyway. It was a graphic description of the burnings of English Protestants under Mary I - Bloody Mary. It was the basis of the fear that a return of Catholicism in England under a Catholic monarch would lead to violent oppression of Protestantism

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00vy2dd>

7. To be a Protestant under Elizabeth, James and Charles was to be a patriot but to be a Catholic was to be a potential traitor to the crown and country - the Spanish Armada was an important cause of that fact - Spain trying to invade England and force Catholicism on the country again.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00v1qyb>

8. Programme on the Jesuits - set up by the Pope to travel to Protestant countries like England and work for counter-reformation - a return of England to Catholicism.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007731w>

10. This is really good as this is where the A level course starts - the death of Elizabeth I and James I becomes King of England - son of Mary Queen of Scots but brought up by hardline Calvinists so a Protestant.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00n5nqr>