

World History One DBQ: Henry the VIII & the English Reformation



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The Following task is based on the accompanying documents 1-10. Some documents have been edited for this exercise. The task is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the sources of the documents and the purpose of the document and the author's point of view.

Directions:

1. Read the Historical Context & Answer the corresponding worksheet questions
2. Read the Documents & Answer the corresponding worksheet questions
3. Create a Thesis to answer the question presented in the “Task”
4. Write an Essay to answer the question (**The essay requires an outline, Introduction paragraph, 3 supporting body paragraphs and a Conclusion**)

-or-

Create a project which will present an answer to the question – (**The Project must still integrate a thesis & three items supporting the thesis & a Conclusion**)

Historical Context:

In societies with Monarch based governments the right to rule the country was passed down through the family. The King and Queen’s son became the King after the King and Queen passed away. If there was a daughter and no son then the daughter would become Queen. Most Monarchs preferred to pass down their power to a son.

This was the case in England during the rule of King Henry VIII in the 1500’s. Henry wanted to have a son but he and his wife, Queen Catherine, were unable to do so. Henry blamed his wife and wanted to divorce her. To do so Henry would have to get the Pope’s permission.

As you remember the Roman Catholic Church, and its leader the Pope, was a powerful force in Europe. Pope Clement the II denied Henry’s request for divorce. Unable to change the Pope’s mind Henry VIII made his **Act of Supremacy** in 1534 and declared England free from the Catholic Church and established the **Church of England**. Henry VIII would go on to marry another 5 wives, divorcing one and executing two. His son Edward ruled for nine years and was followed by Henry’s daughters Mary who ruled for five years (she made England Catholic), & Elizabeth for four forty-five years. Elizabeth made England Protestant again and is considered one of their best leaders.

People who disputed Henry’s right to establish the Church of England were often tortured and then executed. Henry took most of the Church’s possessions (esp. land) in England and claimed it as property of the Crown.

Task: How did the motivations for the English Reformation differ from the motivations for the other “Reformations” (i.e. Luther)

Document #1 Henry VIII’s Letter to Pope Leo X on the subject of his book “*Assertio Septem Sacramentorum*” criticizing Martin Luther 1521

Most Holy Father:

No duty is more important for a Catholic ruler than to preserve and increase the Christian faith and religion by his example and by preventing it from being destroyed by any assailant of the Faith or in any way impaired.

...we shall ever defend and uphold the Holy Roman Church, not only by force of arms but by the resources of our intelligence and services as a Christian.

Your Holiness' most devoted and humble son,
Henry, by the grace of God King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland.

<http://keysofpeter.org/henry8/h8%20letter.htm>

Document #2- Letter from King Henry VIII to Lord Benedetto, Henry’s contact to the Pope. Henry was sending his ambassador to ask for a divorce. 1529

Our most dear friend, greetings. In the past we have received kind treatment from you. We feel we owe you such kind treatment in the future, and will not be happy until we are able to do so.

We now sincerely beg that you continue to show us your most fair treatment

We are sending another ambassador of ours to His Majesty for important business of ours and we pray you treat him with the same kind treatment and listen to what he has to say as if it were us who were speaking in person.

A fortunate farewell.

From Our court at London, 18 January 1529"

[http://www.paulfrasercollectibles.com/News/Henry-VIII-\(1491-1547\)-\(PT248\)/1551.page](http://www.paulfrasercollectibles.com/News/Henry-VIII-(1491-1547)-(PT248)/1551.page)

Document #3- The Act in Restraint of Appeals Made by English Parliament 1533

England is an empire governed by one supreme King who has the power of an imperial crown. Through his government the King has the following of people who owe him humble obedience second only to their obedience to God. Just as importantly, the King is given his power, importance, authority, and the right to render justice within his realm by Almighty God himself.

From now on when any cause of the divine law happens to come in question or of spiritual learning, it will be interpreted by the English Church, without the intermeddling of any exterior person or persons, such as the Pope.

The King of this realm may also make laws for the conservation of the rights and liberties of the imperial crown of this realm. This will keep us safe from the annoyance and attacks from Rome and any other foreign ruler attempting to weaken or destroy this realm.

This includes laws that have been created because of disagreements with Rome about matrimony and divorces, required payments and gifts to the Church. These cause great trouble and costs of the King's Highness and the English people.

This must all happen because the great distance and difference between England and Rome makes it impossible for Rome to know the true cause of an English problem and therefore cannot help solve the problem.

Document #4- The First Act of Succession 1534.

This present Parliament, your most humble and obedient subjects, believe ourselves bound to provide for the perfect security of both you, and your heirs, upon which depends all the joy and wealth of this realm

This Parliament *abhors and detests* the Roman Church's involvement in the lives and rule of emperors, kings and princes out of their own self interest when doing so is against the powers given to those rulers by God.

In consideration of this, Parliament declares your highness' marriage to the Lady Katherine to be void because it goes against the laws of Almighty God. Now the marriage between you and your beloved wife Queen Anne, shall be established, and taken for true, sincere, and perfect ever hereafter. And by law now all children between your highness and your beloved wife Queen Anne, be inheritable, and inherit, the imperial crown.

Any person who does anything to hurt your royalty, or your marriage with Queen Anne shall be judged high traitors and shall suffer pains of death.

To ensure the success of this Act, people shall swear an oath to truly, firmly, and constantly observe, fulfill, maintain, and defend this Act.

And any person who refuses to take the Oath shall be considered guilty of high treason; and shall suffer such pains and imprisonment, losses and forfeitures, and also lose privileges of sanctuaries, in like manner and form as is above mentioned for the misprisions of treasons afore limited by this Act.

Document #5- Henry VIII's Act of Supremacy (1534)

The King's Majesty justly and rightfully is and ought to be the supreme head of the Church of England, and so is recognized by the clergy of this realm. By the authority of this Parliament, the king, his heirs and successors, shall be taken, accepted, and reputed the only supreme head in earth of the Church of England, called Anglicans Ecclesia.

Document #6 The Pope Suppressed by King Henry VIII, 1534



<http://www.art.com/products/p14190584-sa-i2951992/the-pope-suppressed-by-king-henry-viii-1534.htm>

Document #7- Account of the executions of John Fisher and Thomas More written by the Tudor chronicler Edward Hall 1535

This year three monks were condemned of high treason against the king, and sentenced to be drawn, hanged, disemboweled, beheaded and quartered. John Fisher, bishop of Rochester, was also condemned for treason against the king. The jury ruled he should be hanged, cut down alive, his bowels taken out of his body and burnt before him, his head cut off, and his body be divided into four parts and his head and body be set in such places as the king should assign. The effect of the treason was denying the king to be Supreme Head of the Church of England, according to a statute, The Act of Supremacy, made in the last session of Parliament.

This year also, Sir Thomas More, sometime chancellor of England, was arraigned for high treason and condemned. He was beheaded and his head was set on London Bridge. The effect of his death was for the same cause that the bishop of Rochester died for.

<http://englishhistory.net/tudor/1535exec.html>

Document #8- David Starkey, a British historian and Tudor family expert, said in an interview with Associated Press Television News.

It is an event of enormous magnitude, the most important event in English history... This is the moment at which England ceases to be a normal European Catholic country and goes off on this strange path that leads it to the Atlantic, to the new world, to Protestantism, to Euro-skepticism.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/06/23/king-henry-viii-divorce-l_n_219694.html

Document #10 Timeline of the life of Henry VIII and the English Reformation

- 1509 - Henry VIII becomes king.
- 1517 - The Protestant Reformation begins; Martin Luther's 95 Theses
- 1521 - Document # Henry VIII's writes Letter to Pope Leo X on the subject of his book "*Assertio Septem Sacramentorum*" criticizing Martin Luther. Henry VIII receives the title "Defender of the Faith" from Pope Leo X
- 1529- Document # -Letter from King Henry VIII to Lord Benedetto, Henry's contact to the Pope about obtaining a divorce. Henry VIII fails to obtain a divorce from the Pope; He calls the "Reformation Parliament" and begins cutting ties with the Church of Rome
- 1533 - Henry VIII marries Anne Boleyn and is excommunicated by Pope Clement VII
- 1533 - Document # The Act in Restraint of Appeals Made by the English Parliament establishing & explaining England's separation with Rome
- 1534 – Document # Act of Supremacy: Henry VIII head of the Church of England
- 1535 - Sir Thomas More is beheaded for not taking the Oath of Supremacy
- 1536 - Anne Boleyn is beheaded; Henry VIII marries Jane Seymour; Religious buildings & monasteries are taken over by the Government.
- 1537 - Jane Seymour dies after the birth of a son, the future Edward VI
- 1540 - Henry VIII marries Anne of Cleves, then divorces her; marries Catherine Howard
- 1542 - Catherine Howard is executed
- 1543 - Henry VIII marries Catherine Parr
- 1547- King Henry VIII Dies & his son Edward VI becomes King
- 1549 - Introduction of uniform Protestant service in England based on Edward VI's Book of Common Prayer

