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**Key topic 1: Henry VIII and Wolsey, 1509–29**

**Henry the VIII, Renaissance Prince: England in 1509: society and government. The young Henry and his accession to the throne.**

**Key features of society in towns and villages; the importance of London; the significance of the cloth and wool trade.**

**Henry’s inheritance of a secure throne with no major challengers and a full treasury.**

**Henry’s character and views on sovereignty and monarchy. His personal style of government.**

**Henry as a well-educated man and a talented athlete. His view of monarchy as the central point of national life. His growing belief in the divine right of kings.**

**Strengths, weaknesses and aims as monarch. Henry’s encouragement of talented men regardless of birth. His dislike of the daily duties of a monarch.**

**His aims: to establish England as a major force in European affairs, and to recover lands in France.**

**The rise of Wolsey and his policies: Reasons for Wolsey’s rise to power. His personality, roles and wealth.**

**Wolsey’s ambition for power and willingness to carry out the king’s wishes.**

**Wolsey’s roles as Lord Chancellor and cardinal by 1515. His accumulated massive personal wealth, as shown by the building of Hampton Court.**

**Wolsey as a reformer, e.g. his support for laws against enclosure. His recovery of crown lands granted to nobles.**

**Introduction of the subsidy, an efficient tax system.**

**Use of the courts to speed up justice, especially for the poor.**

**Eltham Ordinances and greater efficiency of the Privy Council.**

**Reasons for and reactions to the Amicable Grant. Introduction of Amicable Grant in 1525 to pay for French campaigns. Resulting discontent and rebellion, for example in Suffolk. Its subsequent withdrawal. Humiliation of Wolsey and postponement of the French campaign.**

**Wolsey’s foreign policy Aims of Wolsey’s foreign policy.**

**Wolsey’s aims to carry out the king’s wishes and act as a peacemaker between European states.**

**Significance of the campaign against France, 1512–24.**

**Organisation of the Treaty of London, 1518, the highpoint of his diplomacy.**

**Field of the Cloth of Gold, 1520: impressive display of English wealth.**

**Relations with Charles V, e.g. the support given in the 1520s and the lack of resulting gains; alliance with France against Charles.**

**Wolsey, Catherine, the succession and annulment**

**Catherine’s marriage to Henry in 1509. Her pregnancies and Princess Mary as the only child who survived.**

**Henry’s desperation for a son to continue the dynasty as Catherine passed child-bearing age by the mid-1520s. Henry’s infatuation with Anne Boleyn; his attempts to gain an annulment in England and reasons for their failure, including the role of the Pope Clement VII**

**Opposition to the annulment from, for example, Charles V and churchmen and ministers in England; popular support for Catherine.**

**Reasons for Wolsey’s fall from power, including the failure of the divorce proceedings in London, 1529. The influence of the Boleyns.**

**Failure of Wolsey’s foreign policy in the later 1520s.**

**Wolsey’s failure to deliver the annulment to the king in 1529.**

**Anne Boleyn’s bitter opposition to Wolsey, and the influence of Anne, her father and two brothers in turning Henry against Wolsey.**

**Wolsey’s dismissal in 1529.**