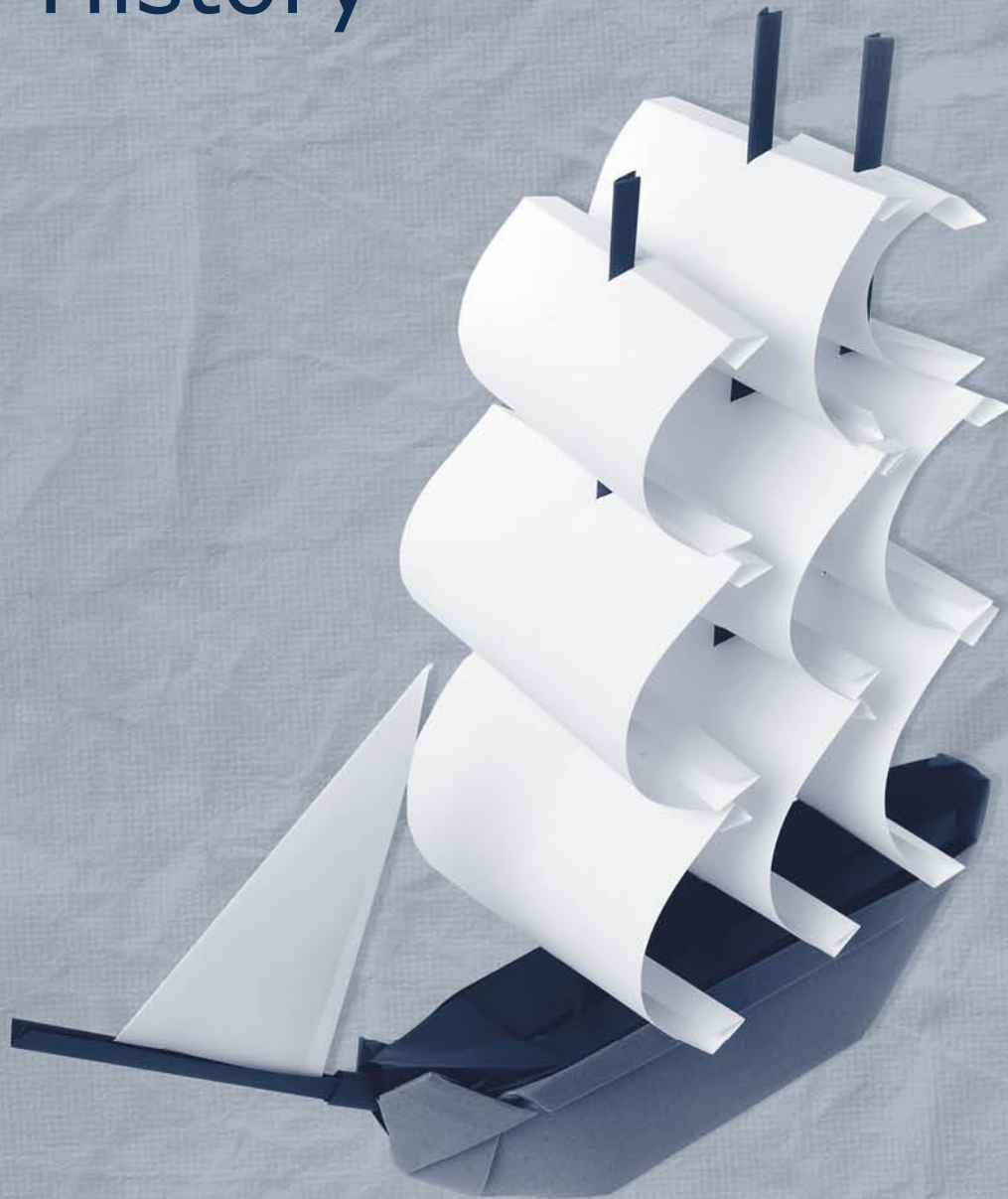


# Pearson Edexcel A Level in History



## TOPIC BOOKLET

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Paper 3 Option 30: Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII,  
1399–1509

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## Option 30: Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399–1509

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This topic booklet has been written to support teachers delivering **Paper 3 Option 30 Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399–1509** of the 2015 A level History specification. We're providing it in Word so that it's easy for you to take extracts or sections from it and adapt them or give them to students.

We've provided an overview of the topic which helps to provide contextual background and explain why we think this is a fascinating topic to study. The overview could be used, for example, in open evening materials or be given to students at the start of the course.

You'll also find some content guidance; a student timeline, which can be given to students for them to add to and adapt; a list of resources for students and for teachers; and information about overlap between this topic and the 2008 specification.

For more detail about planning, look out for the Getting Started guide, Course planner and schemes of work.

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## Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399–1509

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### Overview

This is a study of a period that has inspired playwrights and popular novelists from Shakespeare to George Martin. Here is a real *Game of Thrones* with murders, plots, battles and betrayals. The 110 years cover the reigns of seven kings, the last six Plantagenets and the first Tudor. It begins with a violent seizure of the throne by the Duke of Lancaster, cousin of the reigning monarch Richard II, who is then starved to death in Pontefract Castle. It is an appropriate beginning for this saga which ends with a new dynasty establishing a hold on the throne at the end of the century.

The first of the 'Aspects in depth' looks at the downfall of Richard II and the short term consequences to 1405. The new king is forced to battle to keep his throne against such colourful characters as Henry Percy (Hotspur) and Owain Glyndwr (the so-called wizard of Wales). He succeeds, but at the personal price of broken health. The throne passes peacefully in 1413 to his hero son Henry V, who seems to establish the Lancastrian grip on power by nearly conquering France. This forms the basis of the second depth study. Unfortunately, Henry V dies too young, leaving a baby as King of France and England. The baby grows up into a totally unsuitable monarch, married however to a formidable queen, Margaret. The third depth study looks at the challenges to Henry VI and the onset of the so-called Wars of the Roses. Another branch of the Plantagenet royal family asserts its claim to the throne and Edward IV, Duke of York, replaces the poor and confused Henry VI. Edward had most of the key skills that Henry VI lacked, but after a period of apparent success, tensions with the Yorkist family and Edward's early death ensured renewed instability. This forms the basis of the fourth aspect in depth, which ends with the death of Richard III on the field of Bosworth. Finally the last depth study has a focus on Henry Tudor and his attempts to cling on to the throne that he won against the odds in 1485.

The breadth studies invite an analysis of two key themes underpinning the events of these years, the relationship of the crown with its most powerful subjects and the resources of the crown in governing the country. Great landowning families like the Percies and the Nevilles in the North of England were both vital to the crown in ruling effectively and potential challengers to royal authority. New families could be built up to check those who were suspect, but this could raise problems for the future. The financial resources available to the crown was a vital component in success as was the connected issue of relations with parliament. The whole study forms a fascinating introduction to the business of government and, as in every age, personality matters.

This option comprises two parts: the 'Aspects in breadth' focus on long-term changes and contextualise the 'Aspects in depth', which focus in detail on key episodes and give students the opportunity to develop skills in analysing and evaluating source material.

Together, the breadth and depth topics explore the dramatic developments in late medieval England that centred around the personalities and political skills of a series of kings, queens and their powerful subjects, and the impact of these developments on the kingdom. Within the primarily political focus on the nature of kingship and authority in England, this option also explores the wider social and economic contexts of political struggle.

**Aspects in breadth: 'The Divinity which doth hedge a King': changes in royal authority, 1399–1509**

- 1 Changing relationships between crown and the nobility: 'over-mighty subjects'
- 2 Changes in the sinews of power

**Aspects in depth: kings challenged and kings triumphant**

- 1 The crises of 1399–1405
- 2 Henry V and the conquest of France, 1413–21
- 3 Renewed crises and challenges, c1449–61
- 4 The Yorkists divided, 1478–85
- 5 Henry VII: seizing the throne and trying to keep it, 1485–97

## Content guidance

This section provides additional guidance on the specification content. It should be remembered that the official specification is the only authoritative source of information and should always be referred to for definitive guidance.

### Aspects in breadth

The main focus of the 'Aspects in breadth' is on the exercise of royal authority, the extent to which the power of the monarchy changed and the factors determining its growth or shrinkage throughout the period.

#### **Theme 1 Changing relationships between crown and the nobility: 'over-mighty subjects'**

This key element focuses on the problems and potential strengths associated with 'over-mighty subjects'. Students will need to have broad understanding of the relationship of kings with the more powerful members of the nobility and how kings such as Henry V and Edward IV could use these creatively to enhance royal authority, but how in adverse circumstances, the great magnates could undermine royal authority and produce disorder and almost anarchy in some regions, in part due to local rivalries. Students will also need to understand how Kings such as Henry VI sought to deal with challenge and disorder to extend their control over the localities.

Students should be able to explore key events in the exercise and growth of royal power and consider how far they represented turning points: the crushing of the conspiracy against Henry V in 1415; the redemption of Edward IV in 1471; the increased control of the localities in the 1470s; the statutes in 1468 and 1504 against retaining and the execution of Warwick 1499.

#### **Theme 2 Changes in the sinews of power**

The second strand relates to the resources of the crown and the impact of relations with foreign powers. Successful wars could enhance royal authority but the cost could in the long term undermine it. It could bind the nobility to the monarch but also provide nobles with powerful retinues at royal expense. Students should be aware, for example, of how both Edward IV and Henry VII used the pretence of war to enhance revenue. The relationship with parliament needs to be examined with students understanding the concept of the 'King-in-Parliament' and how parliament could both enhance royal authority and provide much needed revenue.

Students should be able to explore key events in the exercise and growth of royal power and consider how far they represented turning points: the Parliament of 1406; the final loss of France (except Calais) in 1453; the Treaty of Picquigny 1475; and the Spanish Marriage in 1499.

The focus of the 'Aspects in breadth' is on the process of change over a long period of time, rather than concentrating exclusively on one or two reigns. Students will not be expected to explore the frequent military clashes in any detail. The economic history of England in these years is not the central theme, but the dwindling population and resources had clear impact on royal power and that of the nobility, and students should be aware of this, as they should be of trade and the growing importance of custom duties to the royal coffers.

### Aspects in depth

The focus of the 'Aspects in depth' is the challenges faced by different kings throughout the period, through the study of five aspects in depth which together range over the chronology.

Although the topics are clarified separately below, students should appreciate the linkages between them since questions, including document questions, may be set which target the content of more than one topic, for example the consequences of usurpation for Henry IV and Henry VII.

Students will be required to interpret and evaluate a documentary extract in its historical context, but the knowledge they will need to have will be central to that specified in the topics. Questions will not require them to demonstrate knowledge of references in documents to events or individuals other than those explicitly specified.

#### Topic 1: The crises of 1399–1405

The focus of the topic is on the crisis of 1399 and its aftermath. Students need to be able to understand why Henry seized the throne from Richard and the consequences of this. They should understand the reasons why he was able to survive the multiple challenges of 1403–05. Students should be aware of the importance of the Duchy of Lancaster in providing support to Henry in enabling him to do this. They should also be aware of relations with France and Scotland in these years and how foreign powers could enhance a domestic challenge.

#### Topic 2: Henry V and the conquest of France, 1413–21

The focus of the topic is on the short-lived success of Henry V as a king. Students need to be able to understand why Henry chose to renew the war with France and to have outline knowledge of the campaigns in France and the conditions that made success possible. They should also be aware of the issue of Lollardy and the perceived challenge it posed and Henry V's response.

They should be aware of the double-edged nature of renewing the war in France: some gains in crown prestige and some monetary gains to the nobility, but long-term costs to the monarchy.

#### Topic 3: Renewed crises and challenges, c1449–61

The focus of the topic is on the problems arising from the personal defects of Henry VI and the challenges posed to his authority by the downfall of the Duke of Suffolk in 1449 and the rebellion of Jack Cade in 1450. Students need to be able to understand the growing Yorkist challenge and why it was resisted so fiercely. Students need to have knowledge of the events of these years and although detailed knowledge of the battles is not necessary, the impact of such clashes as at Towton is clearly important. They should understand what made these years of

crisis and produced the deposition of Henry. Coverage of the long drawn-out struggle in France which ended in 1453 is not required.

**Topic 4: The Yorkists divided, 1478–85**

The focus of the topic is on the dizzy changes in fortune of the House of York in these years and the factors which brought these about. Students need to be able to understand why Edward decided to destroy his brother, George, Duke of Clarence, in 1478 and the role played by France in encouraging tensions between the brothers. The simmering tensions amongst some of Edward's supporters, notably between his brother, Gloucester and his Woodville in-laws should be studied and their connection to the crisis following Edward's death. Students should also be aware of and be able to exemplify the contrast between Edward's successes and Richard's failures as king.

**Topic 5: Henry VII: seizing the throne and trying to keep it, 1485–97**

The focus of the topic is on Henry VII's seizure of the throne and his attempts over the next twelve years to hold onto it. Students need to be able to understand how and why he survived, defeating Lincoln and Simnel at Stoke in 1487 and then faced the threat of the imposter, Warbeck, until the latter's capture in 1497. Students need to have knowledge of the pretenders and important individuals associated with them such as Margaret of Burgundy and Sir William Stanley, and the two regional rebellions stimulated in part by Henry's attempts to raise taxation. They should be able to explain his continuing insecurity.



## Student timeline

The timeline below could be given to students (and could be further edited and added to by them). Dates relating to the 'Aspects in breadth' are given on the left; dates relating to the 'Aspects in depth' are given on the right. Students may find it useful to colour-code events or themes.

Inclusion of dates and events in this timeline should not be taken as an indication that these are prescribed or that students must know them all: the official specification and associated assessment guidance materials are the only authoritative source of information and should always be referred to for definitive guidance.

Aspects in breadth		Aspects in depth
	1399	Death of John of Gaunt Richard II extended the banishment of Henry Bolingbroke and seized his lands Henry deposed Richard Henry IV crowned king
	1400	Death of Richard II Welsh revolt started, led by Owain Glyndwr as 'Prince of Wales' Henry IV invaded north Wales
	1401	Conwy Castle captured Henry led expedition into south Wales
	1402	Owain Glyndwr defeated Edmund Mortimer Henry IV invaded Wales but was forced to retreat Alliance formed between Glyndwr and Mortimer
	1403	Revolt spread, with castles and manor houses attacked Glyndwr received French aid and almost captured Caernarfon Castle Henry Percy defected to support Glyndwr Battle of Shrewsbury and death of Percy
	1404	Harlech Castle and Aberystwyth Castle fell to Welsh French attacked Caernarfon Castle Owain called a parliament in Machynlleth Treaty agreed between Glyndwr and the French
	1405	The Tripartite Indenture signed between Owain Glyndwr, the Earl of

Aspects in breadth		Aspects in depth
		Northumberland and Edmund Mortimer French forces landed and marched inland, confronting Henry at Woodbury Hill, Worcester Glyndwr retreated into Wales Henry invaded Wales but retreated
Long parliament	1406	French withdrew from Wales
	1413	Death of Henry IV Henry V crowned John Oldcastle escaped from Tower of London
	1414	Oldcastle led unsuccessful Lollard rebellion
Conspiracy against Henry V: 'Southampton Plot'	1415	Henry V sailed for France and captured Harfleur Battle of Agincourt
	1416	Treaty of Canterbury signed French-Genoese fleet defeated by English
	1417	Henry V began second campaign in France, landing in Normandy
	1418	Siege of Rouen began
	1419	Rouen surrendered French royal court fled Paris for Troyes Burgundian Alliance signed
	1420	Treaty of Troyes signed Henry V married Catherine Valois, daughter of Charles VI
	1421	Henry V returned to France for a further campaign
	1422	Death of Henry V Henry VI became King of England and France
Bonville appointed Royal Steward of Cornwall	1437	
Earl of Devon appointed Steward of the Duchy of Cornwall	1440	
	1445	Henry VI married Margaret of Anjou
	1448	William de la Pole made Duke of Suffolk Edmund Beaufort made Duke of Somerset

Aspects in breadth		Aspects in depth
	1449	English forces seized Fougères, despite truce French reconquest of Normandy
	1450	Duke of Suffolk arrested and executed Jack Cade led an unsuccessful rebellion Duke of Somerset returned from France Richard, Duke of York returned from Ireland
Earl of Devon besieged Bonville in Taunton Castle	1451	
Battle of Castillon Clash between Nevilles and Percys	1453	Henry VI suffered first bout of mental illness Edward of Lancaster born Duke of Somerset imprisoned
Battle of Stamford Bridge between Nevilles and Percys	1454	Richard, Duke of York appointed Lord Protector
Clashes between Earl of Devon and Bonville	1455	Henry VI recovered from illness York’s protectorate ended Somerset restored York marched on London and defeated Henry's supporters at St Albans; Somerset killed York’s second protectorate begins
	1459	Battle of Blore Heath: Yorkist victory Battle of Ludford Bridge: Lancastrian victory Richard of York fled to Ireland
	1460	Battle of Northampton: Yorkist victory Richard of York returned Battle of Wakefield: Lancastrian victory; Richard Duke of York killed
	1461	Battle of Mortimer Cross: Yorkist victory Second Battle of St Albans: Lancastrian victory; Warwick defeated Yorkists proclaimed the son of the Richard, Duke of York, as Edward IV Edward IV defeated Lancastrians at Towton Henry VI and Margaret fled to Scotland

Aspects in breadth		Aspects in depth
Statute outlawing retaining except in cases of menial servants, estate officials and legal advisers	1468	
<p>Battle of Barnet: victory for Edward IV; death of Warwick the Kingmaker</p> <p>Battle of Tewkesbury: Queen Margaret and the Prince of Wales captured</p> <p>Henry VI killed in the Tower of London</p> <p>Henry Tudor, the Earl of Richmond and Lancastrian claimant to the throne, fled to France</p> <p>Edward IV now undisputed king</p>	1471	
Treaty of Picquigny	1475	
	1478	Clarence attainted in parliament and killed
	1483	<p>Death of Edward IV</p> <p>Edward V became king with Richard Duke of Gloucester as protector</p> <p>Edward V and his brother placed in Tower of London</p> <p>Edward V and his brother declared illegitimate by parliament</p> <p>Richard Duke of Gloucester crowned as Richard III</p> <p>Buckingham's rebellion</p>
	1485	<p>Henry Tudor landed at Milford Haven in Wales</p> <p>Battle of Bosworth: Richard III killed</p> <p>Henry married Elizabeth of York</p>
	1487	<p>Lambert Simnel taken to Ireland and crowned as King Edward VI</p> <p>Simnel landed in Lancashire</p> <p>Battle of Stoke</p>
	1489	Yorkshire Rebellion
	1490	Perkin Warbeck first claimed to be Richard, Duke of York in Burgundy
	1491	Warbeck landed in Ireland
	1492	Warbeck accepted by Charles VIII of France and Margaret of Burgundy
	1495	Warbeck landed in Kent, but was forced to retreat to Ireland

Aspects in breadth		Aspects in depth
		Warbeck tried to take Waterford but failed and fled to Scotland Act of attainder for William Stanley passed for supporting Warbeck; Stanley executed
	1496	Warbeck invaded north of England with support of James IV of Scotland but was unsuccessful James IV withdrew support and Warbeck returned to Ireland
Arthur, Prince of Wales betrothed to Catherine of Aragon	1497	Cornish Rebellion Warbeck landed in Cornwall but was forced to give himself up
Warwick executed Prince Arthur and Catherine of Aragon married	1499	Execution of Warbeck
Death of Arthur	1502	
Statute outlawing retaining without a royal licence	1504	
Death of Henry VII	1509	

## Resources and references

The table below lists a range of resources that could be used by teachers and/or students for this topic. This list will be updated as and when new resources become available: for example, when new textbooks are published.

Inclusion of resources in this list does not constitute endorsement of those materials. While these resources – and others – may be used to support teaching and learning, the official specification and associated assessment guidance materials are the only authoritative source of information and should always be referred to for definitive guidance. Links to third-party websites are controlled by others and are subject to change.

### General books on the period and the Wars of the Roses

Resource	Type	For students and/or teachers?
Roger Turvey, <i>The Wars of the Roses and Henry VII: Britain 1450–1509</i> (Access to History, Hodder, 2010)	Textbook	Written for students
Ian Dawson, <i>The Wars of the Roses</i> (Enquiring History, Hodder, 2012)	Textbook	Written for students
Colin Pendrill, <i>The Wars of the Roses and Henry VII: England 1459–c1513</i> (Heinemann Advanced History, Heinemann, 2004)	Textbook	Written for students
Andrew Pickering, <i>Lancastrians to Tudors: England 1450–1509</i> (Cambridge Perspectives in History, Cambridge University Press, 2000)	Textbook	Written for students
A J Pollard, <i>Late Medieval England 1399–1509</i> (Longman, 2000)	Textbook	Accessible for students
Maurice Keen, <i>England in the Later Middle Ages</i> (Routledge, 2003)	Textbook	Accessible for students
Christine Carpenter, <i>The Wars of the Roses: Politics and the constitution in England, c1437–1509</i> (Cambridge University Press, 1997)	Academic	For teachers
Chrimes, Ross and Griffiths (editors), <i>Fifteenth-century England 1399–1509</i> (Sutton Publishing Ltd, 1997)	Academic	For teachers
R Griffiths, <i>The Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries</i> (Shorter Oxford History of the British Isles, Oxford University Press, 2003)	Academic	For teachers
David Grummit, <i>A Short History of the Wars of the Roses</i> (I B Tauris Short Histories, 2012)	Academic	For teachers
D R Cook, <i>Lancastrians and Yorkists: The Wars of the Roses</i> (Longman Seminar Studies, Longman, 1984)	Academic	Accessible to students
M Hicks, <i>The Wars of the Roses 1455–1485</i> (Osprey, 2003)	Academic	Accessible to students
Dan Jones, <i>The Hollow Crown: The Wars of the Roses and the Rise of the Tudors</i> (Faber, 2014)	Academic	Accessible for students

Resource	Type	For students and/or teachers?
C Ross, <i>The Wars of the Roses</i> (Thames and Hudson, 1976)	Academic	Accessible to students
B Webster, <i>The Wars of the Roses</i> (UCL, 1998)	Academic	Accessible to students
Alec Myers (editor), <i>English Historical Documents 1327–1485</i> (Eyre and Spottiswoode/ OUP, 1969)	Academic with documents	For teachers
B Wilkinson, <i>Constitutional History of England in the Fifteenth Century 1399–1485</i> (Longman, 1964)	Academic with documents	For teachers
<a href="http://www.warsoftheroses.com">www.warsoftheroses.com</a>	Website	Accessible to students

### Resources on specific aspects of the option

Resource	Type	For students and/or teachers?
Charles Ross, <i>Edward IV</i> (Yale University Press, 1997)	Academic	Accessible to students
J Hunt J and C Towle, <i>Henry VII</i> (Longman History in Depth, Longman, 1998)	Textbook	Written for students
Sean Cunningham, <i>Henry VII</i> (Routledge, 2006)	Biography	For teachers
A Grant, <i>Henry VII</i> (Routledge, 1985)	Academic	Accessible to students
Anthony Pollard, Percies, Nevilles and the Wars of the Roses, <i>History Today</i> , Volume 43, 1993: <a href="http://www.historytoday.com/anthony-pollard/percies-nevilles-and-wars-roses">www.historytoday.com/anthony-pollard/percies-nevilles-and-wars-roses</a>	Article	Accessible to students
The Historical Association student resources, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Henry V</i></li> <li>• <i>Reflections of the Yorkist Realm</i></li> <li>• <i>1497, Cornwall and the Wars of the Roses</i></li> <li>• <i>The Insanity of Henry VI</i></li> </ul> <a href="http://www.history.org.uk/resources/student_resources_105.html">www.history.org.uk/resources/student_resources_105.html</a>	Online resources	Accessible to students
<i>The Pastons</i> <a href="http://www.timelines.tv/index.php?t=1&amp;e=6">www.timelines.tv/index.php?t=1&amp;e=6</a>	Documentary episode	Accessible to students