

To understand the life of Henry VIII

1. Personality and Qualities

Henry grew up a tall and **strong** young man. He was **clever**, good at lessons and at sport such as tennis, riding and hunting. He was a skilled marksman with a bow and arrow. He loved **jousting, dancing and women**. Henry had a strong personality, was well educated and was considered very handsome. Although Henry only had one surviving son (Edward VI), he had two daughters (Mary I and Elizabeth I) and by his mistresses he had many bastard children. [Children from women other than his wives].

2. Henry's Court

Although clever, **Henry was lazy**. He found writing "tedious and painful." He left the business of government to others so long as they did what he wanted. More than anything **he wanted to be popular**. He executed two tax collectors at the start of his reign. He also led his army to fight the French in 1513. **He spent a lot of money** on palaces, magnificent clothes and jewels, banquets and entertainment.

3. Problems: No Son, Divorce, Money, the Pope

Henry had many problems. His first wife, Catherine of Aragon, could not provide him with a healthy son, this meant there would be **no King to carry on Henry VIII's work**. Women were not trusted to rule. Henry had been left lots of money by his father, Henry VII, but he spent it all on wars and his lavish lifestyle. This meant he **needed more money** to continue his expensive way of life.

When Henry needed to **divorce** Catherine of Aragon in order to marry Anne Boleyn in 1533, he needed to ask the Pope for his permission but the Pope refused. **The Pope had too much power over Henry**. This meant that Henry had to create a new church, the Church of England, upsetting the Pope and many of Henry's loyal supporters.

4. Solutions: Power, Money, Monasteries

To create a new Church Henry had to **destroy all the monasteries** of England, where Catholic monks lived and worshipped. With no home or place to meet the monks could not stand in the King's way. This also allowed Henry to sell the land and to **raise a vast fortune** to help pay for his court and army. A very clever move. The 'break with Rome' also gave the King more **power over religion**, he no longer had to seek the Pope's permission for anything.

TASKS:

1. What type of man was Henry? 4 sentences and two quotes
[Henry was powerful, impressive, intelligent..., the evidence for this is...]
2. What problems did Henry face? Describe at least four problems
[Henry's main problems were...]
3. Which was his most important problem? Explain your choice. 4 or more sentences
[Henry's most important problem has to be...]
4. Why was a son so important? 2 sentences only
[Henry needed a son so that...]
5. Put all of Henry's problems in a rank order (you have chosen his most important problem in Q3), list the rest giving reasons for the order.
6. How many of his problems were linked? Explain the links.

Example: his divorce was clearly linked to the need for a male heir to take the throne as Catherine had not given Henry a son and so they divorced.

7. Make sure you have read and glued in your copy of the Key Moments in Year 8 chronology, which events do you already know about, are there any questions about this year's course you can think of? Research one or two key dates online if you have time.



History Skills – all the events in your KS3 course are studied in chronological order, the order in which they happened, this allows you to make links between different times and see how one event impacted others. You are also considering primary sources from the time and making a judgement about an individual. Using evidence in your longer answers is essential for getting a good grade and clear paragraphs.

Key Moments in Year 8 Chronology

- Tudor England 1485 – 1603
- Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I, Elizabeth I.
- Stuart England 1603 – 1714
- James I, Charles I, Charles II, James II, William III & Mary II, Anne.
- The English Civil War 1642 – 1651, Parliament vs King Charles I
- The Glorious Revolution 1688
- Act of Union 1707, the Kingdoms of England and Scotland become Great Britain
- The American Revolution 1765 – 1783
- The French Revolution 1789
- Poor Law Amendment Act 1834, workhouses, poverty in Britain, public health