Your notes

GCSE History: revision notes

Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509–40

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Henry VIII and Wolsey, 1509–29

- Henry VIII became king in 1509 and married Catherine of Aragon. Thomas Wolsey became **Lord Chancellor** and a cardinal in 1515, and ran the government.
- Wolsey arranged the Field of the Cloth of Gold (1520) with France. His Amicable Grant (1525), a tax to pay for war, caused a revolt and had to be dropped.
- Wolsey failed to get the Pope to annul Henry's marriage to Catherine, who had no surviving son. He fell from power in 1529 and died in 1530.

Cromwell and the break with Rome, 1529–36

- Thomas Cromwell became Henry's chief minister. The Act in Restraint of Appeals (1533) stopped appeals to Rome, and Henry married Anne Boleyn in 1533.
- The **Act of Supremacy** (1534) made Henry Supreme Head of the Church of England. Those who refused to accept it, such as Thomas More, were executed.

The monasteries and the Pilgrimage of Grace, 1536–40

- Cromwell's survey, the **Valor Ecclesiasticus** (1535), led to the dissolution of the smaller monasteries (1536) and then the larger ones (1539). Their land and wealth went to the Crown.
- The **Pilgrimage of Grace** (1536), led by Robert Aske, was the biggest rebellion of the reign. It was crushed and its leaders executed.
- Anne Boleyn was executed in 1536. Jane Seymour gave Henry a son, Edward (1537), but died. Cromwell arranged the marriage to Anne of Cleves (1540); it failed, and Cromwell was executed in 1540.

Key terms

Lord Chancellor	The king's chief minister.

Annulment	A declaration that a marriage was never valid.
Act of Supremacy	The 1534 act making Henry head of the Church of England.
Break with Rome	Henry's split from the Pope's authority.
Dissolution of the monasteries	Closing the monasteries and taking their wealth (1536–40).
Valor Ecclesiasticus	Cromwell's 1535 survey of the Church's wealth.
Pilgrimage of Grace	The 1536 northern rebellion led by Robert Aske.

Quick questions

Cover the answers and test yourself: remembering is what makes it stick.

1. Who was Henry VIII's chief minister from 1515 to 1529?
2. What was the Amicable Grant (1525)?
3. Why did Wolsey fall from power in 1529?
4. What did the Act of Supremacy (1534) do?
5. Who replaced Wolsey as Henry's chief minister?
6. What was the Valor Ecclesiasticus (1535)?
7. Who led the Pilgrimage of Grace (1536)?
8. Which wife gave Henry a son?

Answers

1. Thomas Wolsey
2. A tax to pay for war that caused a revolt
3. He failed to get the Pope to annul Henry's marriage
4. Made Henry Supreme Head of the Church of England
5. Thomas Cromwell
6. A survey of the Church's wealth
7. Robert Aske
8. Jane Seymour

What to do next

Practise 10 questions on this topic

Try 3 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

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