Your notes

GCSE History: revision notes

Restoration England, 1660–1685

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The Restoration, 1660–65

- After the Commonwealth, Charles II returned in 1660, after promising forgiveness and religious toleration in the **Declaration of Breda**.
- Parliament passed the **Clarendon Code**, including the Act of Uniformity (1662), which forced clergy to use the Book of Common Prayer; many Puritan ministers lost their posts.
- The **Royal Society** (1660) promoted science, and coffee houses became places for news and debate.

Plague and fire, 1665–66

- The Great Plague (1665) killed about 100,000 people in London. The Great Fire of London (September 1666) destroyed much of the City, including old St Paul's.
- Christopher Wren designed the new St Paul's Cathedral and many City churches.

Religion, foreign policy and the Popish Plot

- Charles signed the secret Treaty of Dover (1670) with Louis XIV of France. The **Test Act** (1673) kept Catholics out of public office; Charles's brother James, a Catholic, had to resign as Lord High Admiral.
- Titus Oates invented the **Popish Plot** (1678), a claim that Catholics planned to kill Charles; innocent people were executed. In the **Exclusion Crisis** (1679–81), the Whigs tried to stop James becoming king and the Tories opposed them.
- Charles died in 1685, becoming a Catholic on his deathbed, and James II became king.

Key terms

Restoration	The return of the monarchy under Charles II in 1660.
Declaration of Breda	Charles II's 1660 promise of pardon and toleration.

Clarendon Code	Laws against dissenters from the Church of England.
Royal Society	The scientific society founded in 1660.
Test Act	The 1673 law keeping Catholics out of public office.
Popish Plot	Titus Oates's invented Catholic plot of 1678.
Exclusion Crisis	The 1679–81 attempt to stop James becoming king.
Whigs and Tories	The first political parties, formed in the Exclusion Crisis.

Quick questions

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

1. What did Charles II promise in the Declaration of Breda (1660)?
2. What did the Act of Uniformity (1662) do?
3. How many people died in London's Great Plague (1665)?
4. When was the Great Fire of London?
5. Who designed the new St Paul's Cathedral?
6. What was the secret Treaty of Dover (1670)?
7. What did the Test Act (1673) do?
8. Who invented the Popish Plot (1678)?

Answers

1. Pardons and religious toleration
2. Forced clergy to use the Book of Common Prayer
3. About 100,000
4. September 1666
5. Christopher Wren
6. An agreement between Charles II and Louis XIV of France
7. Kept Catholics out of public office
8. Titus Oates

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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