

Unit Y135: England 1445–1509: Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII

Enquiry Topic: Wars of the Roses 1445–1461

Key Topics

The Outbreak of the Wars 1445–1450

Content Learners should have studied the following:

The government of England c.1445; the growth of opposition, the issue of taxation, Henry VI's advisors, patronage, Cade's rebellion (1450); Henry's illness (1453–1455); the problem of the nobility; Somerset and York; failure in France to 1450 and its impact on Government.

The early actions of Richard, Duke of York

York's return from Ireland (1450); York's attempted coup (1452); reaction to the birth of Henry's heir (1453); York's first Protectorate (1454); York's removal from the Protectorate; York's response to the actions of Margaret of Anjou and the second Protectorate (1455).

War and the defeat of Richard, Duke of York

Battle of St Albans (1455); capture of Henry VI; restoration of York to the Protectorate; government of Margaret of Anjou; the role of Neville; the 'love-day' (1458); flight of the Yorkists; 'Parliament of the Devils'; Battle of Northampton (1460); York as heir; death of York (1460) and Edward's claim to the throne.

British Period Study: England 1461–1509

Key Topics

Edward IV's first rule and the crisis of 1470–1471

Content Learners should have studied the following:

Edward IV's management of the government; Edward's relations with the nobility; unrest; marriage to Elizabeth Woodville including the Earl of Warwick; relations with France; Edward's fall from power and the restoration of Henry 1470–1471 including the role of Margaret of Anjou.

Edward IV and Richard III 1471–1485

Edward IV's management of government; relations with the nobility; finances; Richard III's accession; claim to the throne, the Princes in the Tower, the removal of the Woodvilles and Hastings; the Buckingham rebellion; government under Richard III, policy towards the nobility; defeat by Henry Tudor and reasons for his overthrow.

Henry VII's rule in England 1485–1509

Henry's claim to the throne; Yorkist opposition, Lovel, Stafford and Suffolk, the Pretenders, Simnel and Warbeck; relations with the nobility, rewards and punishments; royal finances and their administration, opposition to taxation in Yorkshire and Cornwall; administration, the personnel, Councils, local government and parliament.

Henry VII's foreign policy 1485–1509

England's position in Europe in 1485, Henry VII's aims; relations with Burgundy, France, Scotland and Spain; treaties of Medina del Campo, Redon, Etaples and Ayton; marriage negotiations; trade agreements, including Magnus Intercursus and Malus Intercursus.