

HIS-224: England 1399-1689
Midterm exam study questions
October 13, 2006

The exam will be administered from 6:30 to 10:00 PM on Wednesday, October 18th in SSC 107. Each person will be allowed up to two hours for the exam. Although the entire required part of the exam will consist of essay questions, there will be two parts to the exam and the length of the essays will vary between them. (There will also be extra credit questions based on Lori Anne Ferrell's lecture in class on Monday and her lecture that evening.)

Section I: The questions in this section raise very large issues, encompassing much of the course material to date. There are two questions below; ONE of these will appear on the exam. The wording will be exactly the same as what appears below (unless I discover a need to correct a grammatical error or clarify an ambiguity). In order to be prepared for this section, you need to be prepared to answer both of these questions, since you will not know in advance which one I will put on the exam. This essay will be worth 2/3 of the exam grade.

1. Most historians agree that English kingship and government changed markedly during the period that we have covered. However, they disagree about when the change took place. Some credit Edward IV and some Henry VII with creating a "New Monarchy"; others acclaim a "Tudor Revolution in Government" under Henry VIII. What do *you* think? Was monarchy significantly transformed in the period from 1399 to 1603? If not, explain why you don't think so. If so, explain how and when.
2. During our discussion of Graves's book on Henry VIII, some students observed that Henry VIII had the *potential* to be a great king, even though he wasn't. For this essay, consider the factors that lead to royal greatness or royal failure during this period. To what extent is success or failure in the monarch's control, and to what extent does it depend on luck and circumstances? Explain with details from at least four monarchs' reigns.

Section II: The questions in this section are more focussed and narrowly defined than those in the previous one. The answers will, as a consequence, be somewhat shorter. There are five questions below. I will put two of them on the exam, and you will have to write on only one. This essay will be worth 1/3 of the exam grade.

1. How much did traditional religion change in England due to the Reformation under Henry and Edward? What would have seemed most different to the man or woman in the average village parish? What, if anything, would have seemed most continuous from pre-Reformation times?
2. In contrast to its major neighbors, such as Spain and France, England was seen as remarkably unified and stable for much of the 1400s. To what extent was England unified and stable socially, economically, and geographically during that period? To what extent was it more diverse and divided than its image conveys?

3. Henry VI, the last Lancastrian monarch, was deposed as a result of the “Wars of the Roses.” All five Tudor monarchs faced rebellions and conspiracies, yet none was removed from his or her throne. Pick any two of the Tudor monarchs and explain why they defeated threats to their rule while Henry VI did not.
4. The Royal Supremacy is the exceptional feature of the English Church, and makes it unlike reformed churches elsewhere in Europe. What impact did the Supremacy have on the development of the English Church from 1533-1603? How might that development have been different if authority had been granted to the church itself rather than to the monarch?
5. Managing finances and the nobility were two of the most difficult and dangerous tasks faced by English monarchs from 1400 to 1603. Discuss one of those (money or men), explaining what the management issues were, what the difficulties were, and how different monarchs did or did not succeed in the task. (You don’t need to address every monarch, but you should discuss at least four, and two of them at least must be Tudors.)