

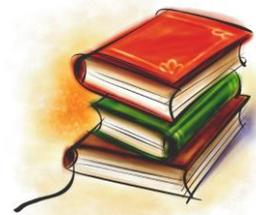
# Atherton High School History Department



## AQA GCSE History Study Booklet

Name-

Teacher-



## Challenging Authority and Feudalism Booklet 1

The exam board expects you to have a knowledge and understanding of the following-

- The baron's dissatisfaction with King John's rule and its resolution; Magna Carta and its terms; Magna Carta, its short and long-term impact
- Issues between King Henry III and his barons; The role of Simon de Montfort; Provisions of Oxford and the Parliament of 1265 and its Short and long-term impact
- The social, economic and political causes of the Peasants' Revolt; Actions by the peasants and by the government; the impact of the Peasants' Revolt



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## The Feudal System

William the Conqueror developed the feudal system. In this system, the king owned **all of the land** and this was where his **wealth and power** came from. He **gave land** to his followers, in **exchange for favours** - to swear loyalty to the king, to fight for the king when required, to pay taxes, to keep the countryside safe.



### Task

What do the nobles have to do for the king in this system?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Most followers received **pieces of land**, spread **across the country** so that they would **not become too powerful in one area** and become strong enough to **challenge the king**. In turn the nobles would **give land** - usually a local manor - to **each of their knights**, in exchange for **support**. The knights would have to **fight for the barons** and protect his castles.



### Task

Discuss the relationship between the king and the nobles

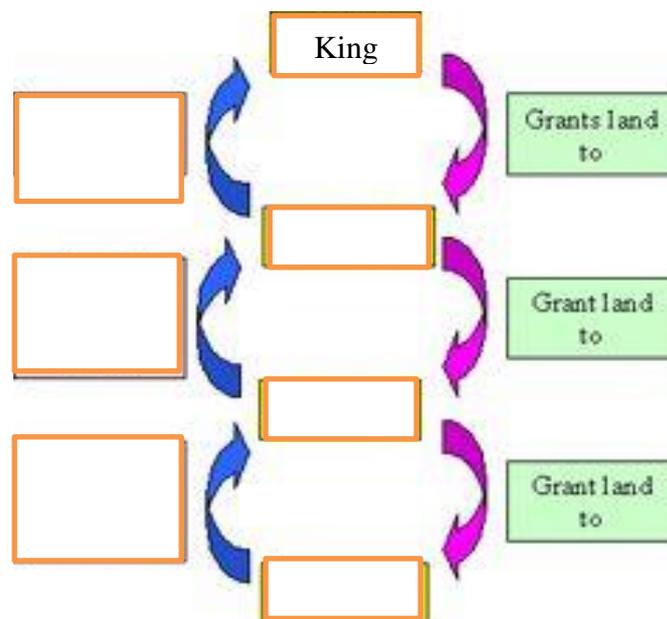
How the nobles help the king	How the nobles could challenge him

The knight's wealth came from the **peasants** or '**villeins**' who did the actual farming and who had to **do work for the knight**, without pay, for three or four days every week in exchange for the land they farmed but did **not own**.



**Task**

Complete the basic Feudal System diagram



1. Who has the best position in the system and why?

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2. Who has the worst position in the system and why?

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3. How well do you feel that the Feudal System worked?

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# King John

<b>1154</b> Henry II becomes King of England. He also rules Normandy, Maine, Touraine, Anjou and Aquitaine in France
<b>1189</b> Richard I, 'the Lionheart', succeeds Henry II
<b>1199</b> Richard dies of a wound in France
<b>1199</b> John becomes king
<b>1204</b> Loss of Normandy and other French territories
<b>1207</b> Dispute with the Pope
<b>1209</b> John is excommunicated
<b>1215</b> Barons' rebellion and <i>Magna Carta</i>
<b>1216</b> Death of John. He is succeeded by his nine year old son Henry III.

John 1167-1216 (reigned 1199-1216). Youngest son of Henry II. Defeated in France and lost Normandy. Lost the crown jewels when his baggage train sank in the marshes of the Wash. This affected his health and he died shortly after from fever and diarrhoea - either caused by eating far too much or by poisoning. Was in the middle of a civil war with the barons when he died.

John's kingdom and enemies meant that he began his reign in a difficult position. But one thing made a bad situation far worse for John: his own personal weaknesses. A series of dreadful mistakes by John turned his reign into outright disaster.

# The failures of King John's reign

## 1. Relationship with the Church

King John's relationship with the Church was not too bad during the French crisis of 1204. However, the death of Hubert Walter, Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1205, led to a falling out between John and the pope. John wanted his choice of archbishop appointed but Pope Innocent III insisted that **Stephen Langton** should be the next archbishop. When the pope chose Langton in 1207, **without John's permission**, John was furious. His traditional right of patronage (supporting someone to get a job) had been denied and he **disliked Langton**.

The issue over who should select English bishops and archbishops - the king or the pope - had long been a **reason for conflict** between kings and the pope. John did nothing different to

go forward. **Falling out with the Archbishop of Canterbury was also** (1087 - 1100) disagreed with Anselm, his archbishop, not speaking to him for years, and John's father, Henry II, indirectly ordered the murder of Thomas Becket in 1170, after years of arguing. **Again, John was unlucky in his enemies: Pope Innocent III was determined and independently-minded.**



Task- Answer the following question in full sentences.

1. What did the Pope and king John argue over? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### England banned from the Church

Pope Innocent sent officials to persuade John to accept his choice of archbishop, but John raged and threatened revenge. As a result, in March 1208, the pope placed England under interdict (stopping religious practices). Interdicts meant that all church services were cancelled, including baptism, marriage and burial for six years. At a time when church services were central to the lives of the English people, this caused great distress. John was blamed and this is reflected in documents written at the time.

However, not all the bishops and abbots left John's service and he was also able to take advantage of the situation as by 1213, the incomes of several empty positions in the Church were providing money for the king.

Task- Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. Why did the Pope place England under a ban? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why did this cause great suffering to the English people and who did they blame?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### The excommunication of John

By the summer of 1209, with John still refusing to accept Langton as archbishop, Pope Innocent excommunicated him from the Church. This was most serious punishment available to the Church. It removed the blessing of the Church and the excommunicated person was barred from taking part in any aspect of the Church's life. For John this was a serious blow - it freed his people from their promise of loyalty to him as king, it gave the barons further reason to rebel, and Philip could now claim it was his 'religious duty' to invade England.

## 2. Relationship with the nobles

One of John's main challenges was **getting the large sums of money** needed for his **planned battles to reclaim Normandy**. Income from the royal lands had been **fading slowly since the Normans took over**. Matters were not helped by his brother, Richard I's sale of royal properties in 1189 to raise money for his Crusade. English kings had broad feudal rights which could be used to produce income, including the **scutage system**, in which **military service was avoided by a cash payment to the king**. John increased his efforts to **maximise all possible sources of income**. John also used revenue scutage as a way of **controlling the nobles**.

John collected scutage payments **eleven times in his seventeen years as king**, as compared to **eleven times in total** during the reign of the **previous three monarchs**. In many cases these were raised in the **absence of any actual military actions**, which ran against the original idea that scutage was a substitute for actual military service. John found that these measures allowed him to raise further funds through taking **lands of nobles who could not pay or refused to pay**.

John lost a number of key battles in France, especially at **Bouvines** in 1214. John lost **Normandy**, the land of his ancestors. Another demand for scutage in 1215 met real resistance from the nobles. **They had lost their lands in France and therefore money**.



1. Why was John was given the nicknames 'Soft-sword' and 'Lack-land' by the nobles

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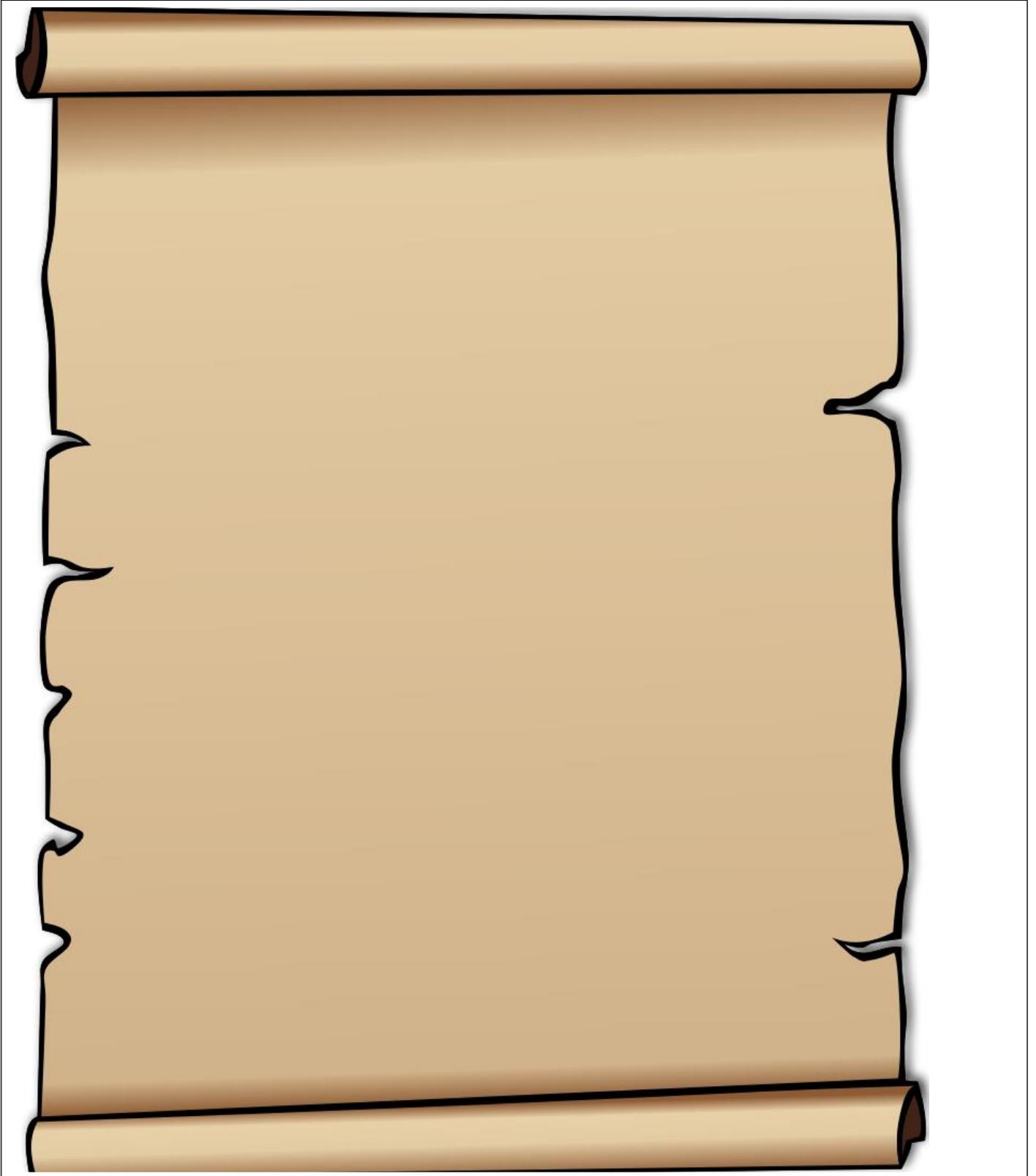
2. Why do you think John has been described as "avaricious, miserly, extortionate and money-minded"

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**Task- You are a rebel baron. Write a letter to your father, who is loyal to the King, explaining why you have joined the rebels.**



# The Magna Carta

## What was Magna Carta?

Faced with rebellion from the barons and the threat of invasion from France, John came to terms with the rebels in order to buy time. A final agreement with the rebels was reached at Runnymede near Windsor in **June 1215**.

Archbishop Langton and other churchmen created **Magna Carta** ('The Great Charter').

**The charter weakened the power of the king** and created a precedent (example) for the handing over of powers (devolution) from the Crown to the people. It had 63 chapters covering five main areas:



- the protection of the rights of the Church
- the feudal concerns of the barons (limiting the king's demands on taxes and fines, his control over the nobles' sons and widows)
- the administration of justice (Workings of the law courts)
- the guarantee that John would carry out his promises (this included setting up a group of 25 barons sharing power with the king)
- the protection of the 'free men' (Those who held their land and possessions freely - that is, without being owned by their landlord. At the time, 95 percent of the population were **actually unfree**) of England, including the right to fair judgement and the right to advise the king.

### Source C

No free man shall be taken or imprisoned or dispossessed or outlawed or exiled or in any way ruined, nor will we go or send against him, except by the lawful judgements of his peers or the law of the land.

**Magna Carta, Chapter 39.**

### Source D

No scutage (payment in place of military service) or aid (tax) is to be levied in our realm except by the common counsel of our realm.

**Magna Carta, Chapters 12 and 14.**



Task- Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. Why did John decide to come to terms with the rebels? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What was signed in June 1215 ? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What did it do to the power of the King? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is Magna Carta the first example of? \_\_\_\_\_

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***What was the significance of Magna Carta?***

The idea of a charter to protect the ancient freedoms of the English realm (kingdom) was not new. Henry I had sworn to do this in 1100, and so had Stephen in 1135 and Henry II in 1154. But this was a tradition, not a legal contract between the king and his people. ***Magna Carta*** became such a contract because John had so many powerful enemies. The nobles and churchmen responsible for Magna Carta became regents (guardian rulers) to his nine-year-old son.

The death of John removed the need for the strictest clauses in the Charter which called for tighter control over the king. When ***Magna Carta*** was reissued in 1217, the clause about the council of 25, which ruled jointly with the king, was removed. Clauses protecting the Church and the nobles remained. The new pope, Honorius III, supported the reissue and Archbishop of Canterbury, Stephen Langton, declared excommunication on those who went against ***Magna Carta***. With a new king, Henry III, on the throne and most of the rebel barons of 1215 passing into old age, it was believed that government would continue as before. However, when Henry III began to abuse his powers as king, ***Magna Carta*** was used to defend the ancient freedoms of the country. Later rebellions in the period 1258-65 saw ***Magna Carta*** used as a stepping stone to set up the first parliament.

**Magna Carta had set in writing, for the first time, how the government should be run. This formed a precedent (example) for future changes. It was viewed as a contract between king and barons.**

### **How much royal power did John lose by agreeing to Magna Carta?**

After Magna Carta, the activities and ambitions of the king, were restricted by what his government would allow.

**However, the king kept many of his powers. English kingship at the beginning of the thirteenth century was still based mainly on authority and ownership. Great changes had occurred but the king was still chosen by God to rule, as nobody else was. It remained the king's task to guard both his people and the Church, and to maintain peace in his kingdom.**

**Task- List the tasks that still remained the job of the King despite the Magna Carta of 1215.**

- \***
- \***
- \***

### ***What happened next?***

**A handful of nobles loyal to the king crowned the boy Henry III at Gloucester. The nobles were led by the elderly Earl of Pembroke, who had served Henry II, Richard I and John. Several rebels now joined them and a battle against French troops and English rebels in the streets of Lincoln won the day for the young king. Then the French Prince Louis' navy was defeated off Sandwich. The French invasion had failed.**

### **The re-issues of Magna Carta**

John's death in 1216 and the succession of his nine-year old son Henry meant that *Magna Carta* was re-issued. **It was re-issued in 1216, 1217 and 1225 to build support for the new king amongst the barons. It was now recognised as law, and Henry III confirmed the Charter in 1237.**

# What impact did the Magna Carta have on the lives of ordinary people?

How did *Magna Carta* affect ordinary people?

*Magna Carta* was the first legal document establishing how power should be shared between the king and his people. It protected the Church, widows, freemen and merchants from interference from the king, and it protected free justice. **But considering that 98 percent of the population were neither free, landowners nor churchmen, it actually had little effect on people at the time.** *Magna Carta* was more to do with the rights of the nobles in 1215 and their concerns in controlling the king's powers.

The real significance of *Magna Carta* lay in its long-term effects. It formed the basis of future rebellions by the barons during the reign of Henry III. These rebellions spread to local landowners and town traders. The idea of the 'common counsel of the realm' (people getting a say) spread from the narrow group of nobles and churchmen to merchants, lesser landowners and, finally, to the ordinary people by the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. **The Charter was law and, for hundreds of years, was used to protect the rights of the 'free men'.** During the civil wars of the 1640s, members of parliament frequently quoted it to defend and to protect the rights of men and to limit the powers of the king. When the American colonists were fighting for their rights and independence from the British monarchy in 1776, *Magna Carta* was praised as an example of freedom for the people. Today, one of



Task- Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. Why did the Magna Carta not really help ordinary people at the time? \_\_\_\_\_

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# Henry III and his Barons

Henry became king of England in 1216, on the death of his father King John. He was **nine years old**, and a **meeting of Barons** helped him to rule. **Magna Carta was re-issued in 1216** when Henry became king. It was **re-issued again in 1225** just before Henry became of age to rule the country alone.



Task- Answer the following question in full sentences.

1. Why were the nobles in a strong position at this time? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why would they want Magna Carta to be re-issued? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why would Henry's advisors agree to this? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Henry and the Pope

Henry was a very **religious** king. This is usually good but his **links to Rome** created **money problems** for England as he **increased payments** given to Pope Innocent IV to help **fight wars in Europe**. This would mean an **increase in taxes** for the nobles. When Henry **failed to make a payment** the Pope had asked he threatened to **excommunicate** Henry (Like had happened with his father John).

Henry gave away **top jobs in English Churches** to **Italians**. This stopped English men being **promoted** in the Church. This led the nobles to become **increasingly frustrated** by Henry giving in to the **Pope's demands**.



### Henry and his advisors

Henry was close to the French, especially his half-brothers, the **Lusignan's**, due to his marriage. This relationship **alarmed** the barons as the English **severely disliked** the French. Their alarm increased when Henry started to **allow French men into parliament**. The barons started to feel that England was **coming under foreign rule**. Many of the barons felt increasingly **isolated** and it seemed that **history was repeating itself**.



### Henry and his wars

Henry **raised taxes** to fund his campaigns to **win back the land** that his father, John had **lost in France**. In 1230 he took his army to the French territories of **Brittany and Gascony**. He **lost and returned to England**. He sent **Simon de Montfort**, a very powerful baron, to France to try again. He **established order ruthlessly** and **took back the lands** Henry wanted. The king was **sympathetic** towards the French and asked for an **inquiry into Simon's actions**. Despite being **found innocent**, Simon was **furious and felt let down** by his king. He felt **betrayed** by King Henry and even considered fighting **WITH** the French!





# The Provisions of Oxford

In the spring of 1258, Henry III faced open challenges from several leading noblemen. Henry was accused of giving too many jobs to 'foreigners' and spending too much on wars. In 1257 the harvest had been a disaster and, by the summer of 1258, hundreds of thousands of people were starving.

In June 1258 a council met at Oxford and began the reorganization of the English state.

This went much further than *Magna Carta*:

- A council of fifteen members was appointed to help the king govern.
- Four knights from every county were to be elected and report complaints to an independent officer.
- Sheriffs were to be in office for one year only and to live in their own county.
- Foreigners were to be removed from their castles and the kingdom.



Henry III had no choice but to swear an oath to keep these 'Provisions of Oxford', which were written not in Latin but in Middle English, an early form of modern English.



**Task-** Answer the following question in a full sentence.

Why did the Provisions of Oxford go much further than *Magna Carta*? \_\_\_\_\_

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The Provisions of Oxford gave the barons the majority of power, as they said that the barons could make decisions without the king's presence or approval. Moreover, the king could not make decisions without approval of the council. The Provisions of Oxford had a real impact on royal authority.

# Simon de Montfort and the First Parliaments

By 1261 Henry had gone back on the provisions and, in 1263, civil war broke out. **In 1264 the rebels defeated the king's army at the Battle of Lewes and Prince Edward was taken hostage.** During the next eighteen months the leader of the rebels, Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, ruled as the 'Steward of England'. Councils, or 'parliaments' (from the French *parler*, meaning 'to talk') were called. **Those called to these meetings included not only nobles but also knights and merchants from the shires (counties). This was massively different to anything imagined by the rebels of 1215 and Magna Carta, representing a greatly enlarged 'community of the realm'. However, it was short-lived.**



**The main problem Simon de Montfort had to deal with was not Henry III but his 25-year old son, Prince Edward.** Edward was tall and handsome, dedicated to military exercises, tournaments and hunting. He also had a violent temper. **Initially, Edward had looked to side with Simon and the rebels, as he was impatient to get more power from his father, but after the Battle of Lewes Edward wanted revenge.**

In May 1265, Edward escaped from his guards at Hereford and gathered an army. **Many who joined him** were fearful of their betrayal of Henry and sick of de Montfort's self-importance. **Edward stormed through Gloucester and caught de Montfort unawares at Evesham.** Here the rebel army was slaughtered, including de Montfort, **whose body was slaughtered into pieces.**

De Montfort arrived in England in 1231 from Normandy and found favour with Henry III to such an extent that he married his sister, Eleanor. But de Montfort eventually turned against the king after years of financial problems. He became the leader of rebellious barons in 1258 and, partly due to his extreme personal faith, had the support of leading churchmen and initially the pope. Following the victory at Lewes in 1264, he grew increasingly arrogant. After his death at Evesham in 1265, hundreds flocked to his grave. He was seen by some as the founder of parliamentary freedom and by others as a self-seeking extremist.



**Task- Answer the following questions in full sentences.**

1. Why did the barons force Henry III to come to Oxford in 1258? \_\_\_\_\_

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2, What was the most important part of the provisions in Oxford? \_\_\_\_\_

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3, What was different about the Parliaments Simon De Monfort summoned? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Why did people turn against Simon de Montfort? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Interpretation A**

De Montfort called a parliament of which the Commons was made up, as it has been since, formed of members from cities and boroughs. He therefore unknowingly determined that England was to be a free country.

From 'A History of England' written in 1830 by Sir John Macintosh; he was a supporter of the French Revolution that saw the removal of the French King and royal family.

**Interpretation B**

Calling parliament was an attempt by De Montfort to re-distribute power within England before the seventeenth century. The 1265 parliament was a biased assembly in which priests were much over-represented whereas the nobles were well under-represented.

Adapted from 'Simon de Montfort' by J.R. Maddicott in 1994; this gives a more balanced account of de Montfort and his parliament.

**Why might the authors have different views on the work of Simon De Montfort?**

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# The Black Death

In 1348, a ship arrived at Melcombe Regis in Dorset, bringing goods from Europe. However, also on board the ship was something that swept quickly across England and would eventually go on and kill a third of Europe's population: the plague. The poor were more likely to be affected and had a massive impact on Medieval society, and became known as the Black Death.



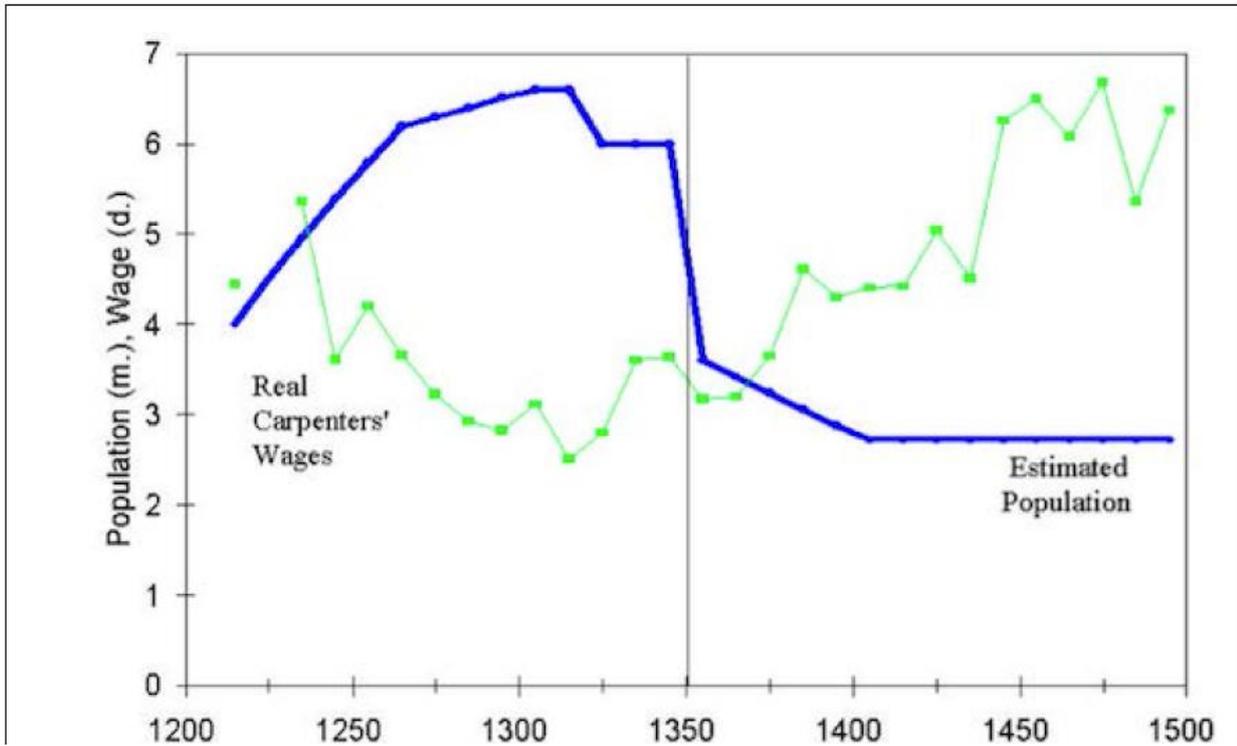
Task - Answer the following questions in full sentences

1. How did the Black Death arrive in England? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Describe the spread of the Black Death across Europe \_\_\_\_\_

## The Statute of Labourers, 1351

The Black Death had the **greatest impact on the peasants**, who made up **most of the workforce**. It led to fields of crops being left to rot, since there **weren't enough people** to bring in the **harvests**, and **some villages were abandoned**.



1. Describe the relationship between population and wages after the Black Death (1348) \_\_\_\_\_

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2. How has the Black Death changed the life of the Carpenter? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. How might the Black Death have changed the lives of Peasants? \_\_\_\_\_

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As there were **far fewer workers after the Black Death**, the peasants started to **demand higher wages**. Good, strong and hardworking **peasants were now in demand**. And so, to **look for better pay**, or a **fairer lord**, many peasants **moved to neighbouring villages**.

**Local lords** and even **the king** started to become **worried** that the peasants were **gaining too much power**, and that the **feudal system** was starting to **break down**. So in **1351**, the king passed the **Statute of Labourers**.

**Adapted from the Statute of Labourers, 1351;**

Every man and woman in the realm must work for those who want them, and shall only receive the same wages as before the plague.

This **angered the peasants**. Some who had left their manor (the area their lord owned) were now **captured and forced to work** for their lord again. However, the peasants **didn't just passively accept** this new situation. Between 1377 and 1379, **70%** of the people brought before the **Justice of the Peace** were accused of **breaking the Statute of Labourers**. It was clear that the peasants that had **survived** the Black Death were **not afraid to stand up for themselves**.



What similarities are there between the Magna Carta (1215) and the Statute of Labourers (1351)?

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# The Peasants Revolt

The Statute of Labourers tried to **control the peasants** and their **rising wages** - but some peasants were in quite a **powerful position**. After all, the Black Death had killed so many workers, and landowners needed workers to bring in the harvests. The peasants **started to question** the way the government was **running the country**.

The old king, Edward III's reputation was not helped by his association with the noble **John of Gaunt**, his main advisor and one of England's **most hated landowners**. Edward was fighting unsuccessful campaign against the French in the **Hundred Years' War**. To help fund these campaigns, Gaunt advised Edward to **raise taxes**.

The **authorisation of Parliament** was needed for the king to **impose a tax** on his people. In 1376 Parliament agreed to a **new poll tax** in **exchange for removing 'corrupt' royal officials**. Edward suddenly died in 1377 and was replaced by his grandson **Richard II** who was only 11 years old. John of Gaunt became the real power behind the throne.

The Poll Tax of 1377 was set at a flat rate of **4d per person** - roughly a **couple of days' wages for a labourer**. The merchants, knights and small landowners refused to increase the amount of tax that they would pay, preferring to pass **most of the tax burden on to the labourers and workers**. By 1380, every person over the age of 15 had to pay **4 groats per year** to the king. This was a **massive increase** from the one groat that had previously been paid.

Many priests started to preach about how the Church had been **exploiting the peasants**. The key people during this were **John Wycliffe and John Ball**. They argued that the Church should not be **charging for pardons** (forgiveness) for sins and that the Church should not have **so much property when others were starving**.

In **1381**, the peasants had **had enough**. They started a **revolt against the system** that they felt **suppressed** them. **The Peasants' Revolt had begun!!**



List 5 different causes of the Peasants' Revolt that you can think from the information you have just read

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

1. 30 May, Fobbing

Soldiers turn up to support the tax collector John Bampton who has come to collect the poll tax. The peasants refuse to pay and threaten Bampton with his life. Scared, he rides straight back to London. The villagers hide in the woods as they are worried that they will be punished for their actions.

6. 14 June, Mile End

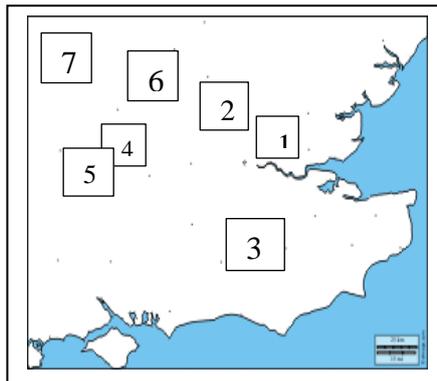
Tyler meets the king and outlines demands. The king is to pardon all involved and are to be made freemen. The king agrees and asks the rebels to go home in peace.

4. 12 June, Bishopsgate

The rebels make it to the outskirts of London and set up camp. Leaving the Tower of London the king sets sail to meet the peasants. When they see his barge, there is so much booing that the king's men will not let him off the boat. Convinced they won't get through the city walls, Richard II says he will meet on 17 June.

2. 2 June, Brentwood

Rebels from other villages join forces. When the Chief Justice is sent to the village to get what Bampton had failed to, the men return and threaten him with death. When the Chief Justice leaves, the men find Bampton's clerks and behead them. They start setting fire to the houses of Bampton's supporters.



3. 7 June, Maidstone

Peasants in Kent march to Maidstone. When they get there, they hear a man called Wat Tyler speak. He is made the rebel leader. They also free John Ball from prison and storm Rochester Castle. These men also kill the Archbishop of Canterbury. They destroy tax records by burning government buildings.

5. 13 June, City of London

Rebels enter through the city gates, opened by supporters. They storm the palace of John of Gaunt and burn it. They kill foreign merchants and supporters of the king. Not all peasants were violent as Wat Tyler had given orders to be peaceful. The king offers to meet the rebels and their leader at Mile End the next day.

7. 15 June, Smithfield

Richard II meets the rebels again. Tyler is bold and refuses to leave until the king agrees to his demands. He wants a full change to the system of law. He wants Church lands to be given to the people and to get rid of all bishops bar one. The king agrees. However, one of his men steps forward and kills Wat Tyler. The peasants are confused and some are ready to fight. The king rides forward shouting 'Will you shoot your king? I am your leader, follow me!' The peasants follow the king out of London. The revolt is over.



**Task: Complete the table making a note of the actions of the Peasants and the King during the revolt**

Actions of the Peasants	Actions of the King

**Task: Do you think that the Peasants used the correct tactics?**

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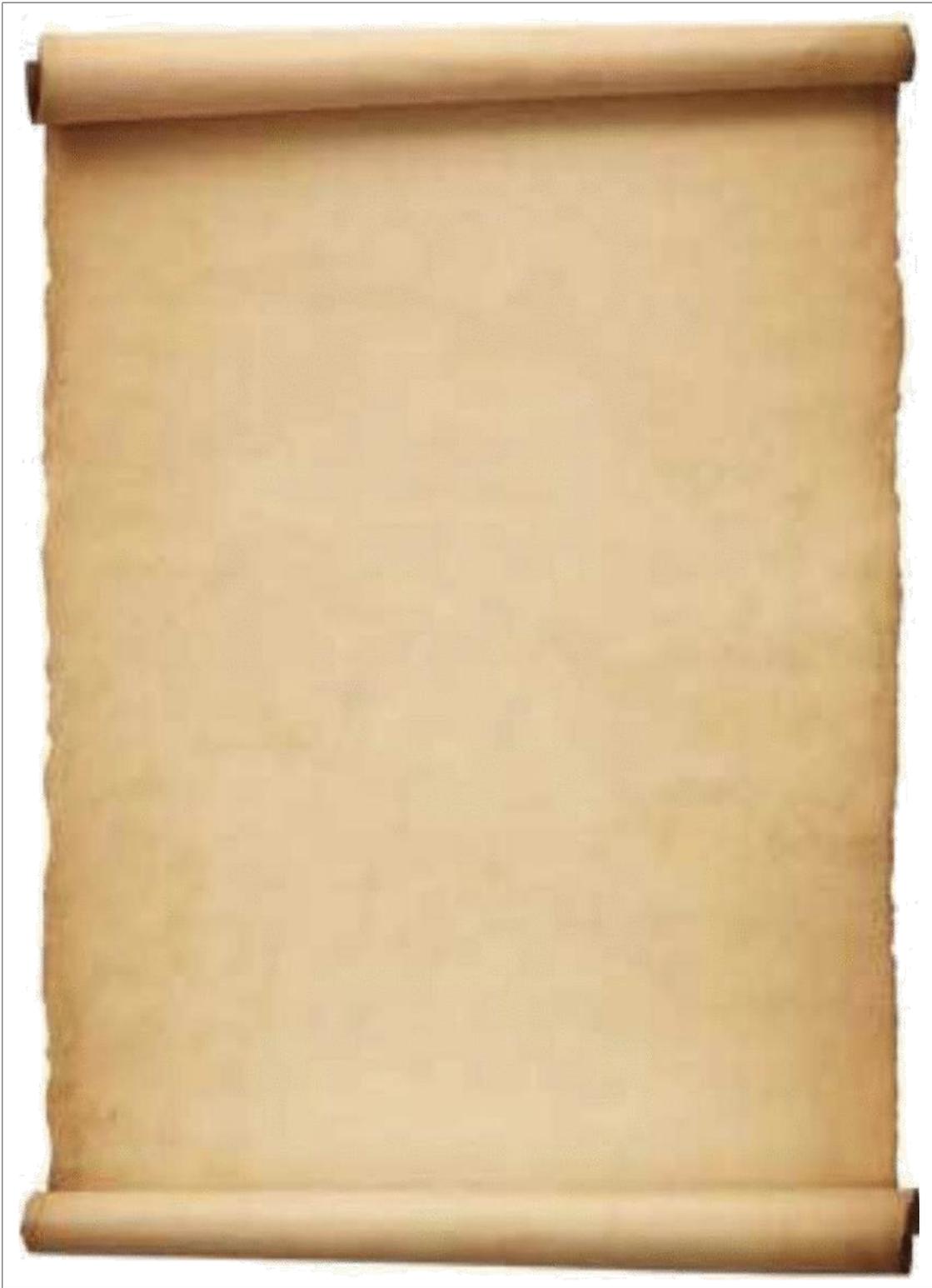
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**Task- Write a speech for Wat Tyler to deliver to the peasants on 13 June.**



It was **common** for Medieval kings to go **back on their word**. King John and King Henry III both went **against the wishes of their people**. It seemed to be happening again after the Peasant's Revolt. King Richard had **made promises** and the peasants went back to their towns and villages. Their leader's **head was put on a spike** and supporters were **hanged from the gallows**. Some uprisings took place in **other towns** but they were easily quashed by **local officials**. There are **many different interpretations** of the **final minutes at Smithfield** and the **killing of Wat Tyler**.

Tyler still kept up the conversation with the mayor. The mayor replied. 'I will not live a day unless you pay for your insolence.' Upon saying which he drew his sword and struck Tyler such a blow on the head as felled him. As soon as the rebel was down, he was surrounded on all sides so his own men might not see him.

**Interpretation from the Chronicle of Froissart written in 1400. Froissart recorded the events of the revolt, but was not there to witness any of it.**

Tyler dismounted his horse in front of the king, carrying his dagger. He called for some water then spat it out in front of the king. Tyler then went to strike the king's valet with his dagger. The mayor of London tried to arrest Tyler and because of this Tyler stabbed the mayor with his dagger in the stomach.

**Interpretation written by a monk in York, 1399, again this monk would not have been there, and is creating the account from word of mouth.**

**How do these two interpretations differ?**

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**Why do these interpretations differ?**

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**Which interpretation is more convincing?**

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# Impact of The Peasants Revolt

## Short and long-term impact of the revolt

The revolt was **not a failure**. The poll tax was **never repeated**, although there were similar changes, and **taxes were never as high again**. Workers' wages **began to rise**, as the situation from before the revolt was **still the same**: there was still a **lack of workers**, so the peasants could **demand higher wages**. The landowners paid up, as they **needed the workers**. Also, **parliament eventually gave in** and stopped trying to **control the peasant's wages**. According to one historian 'the Peasants' Revolt was the rebellion that, more than any other before or since, **struck fear into the ruling classes**'. The leaders of society were rattled.

The demands of the peasants were further realised when some were **able to buy their own land**, because there was **so much unused** after the Black Death. This freed them from having to **work the lord's land**. Gradually, **peasants became independent** and within 100 years, the peasants became **freemen**.

Some historians believe the **revolt was unnecessary**. Their interpretations suggest that **society was already changing** and that **feudalism was naturally coming to an end**. Socialist historians believe the revolt was significant because it was the **first working class rebellion**. Some take this further and present the peasants as **politicised and organised**. This, they believe, marked the **beginning of English ideas of freedom**.

**Task: In your opinion, which protest was more successful - Magna Carta or the Peasants' Revolt**

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## Challenging Authority and Feudalism Points Test

How much can you remember? Try to answer the following questions about Challenging Authority and Feudalism. How many points can you get?

1. Who are the 4 main groups of people in the Feudal System? (4 points)

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2. In which year did John become king? (1 point) \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Who became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1207? (1 point) \_\_\_\_\_

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4. In which place was Magna Carta signed and in what year? (2 points) \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Name 3 of the clauses of Magna Carta? (1 point) \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Who became king after John and how old was he? (2 points) \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Which powerful noble fell out with Henry III? (1 point) \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Name 3 terms of the Provisions of Oxford (1 point) \_\_\_\_\_

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9. What is the meaning of the word 'Parliament' and which language does it come from? (2 points)\_\_\_\_\_

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10. At which battle did Simon de Montfort die? (1 point)\_\_\_\_\_

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11. How did the Black Death get to England? (1 point)\_\_\_\_\_

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12. Why was the Statute of Labourers (1351) set up? (1 point)\_\_\_\_\_

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13. What tax were peasants unhappy about? (1 point) \_\_\_\_\_

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14. Who was the leader of the Peasants' Revolt? (1 point)\_\_\_\_\_

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15. Where is the leader killed and in front of which king? (2 point)\_\_\_\_\_

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Total number of points=22

I got a total of \_\_\_\_\_ points

# Key Words

Word	Definition (What does the word mean?)
Feudal System	System where land was exchanged for work.
Nobles	A person of high rank or birth
Excommunicated	officially exclude (someone) from the services of the Christian Church
Pope	Leader of the Roman Catholic Church
Archbishop	The chief bishop responsible for a large district or area
Abbot	A man who is the head of an abbey of monks
Revolt	Take violent action against an established government or ruler
Scutage	Money paid by a vassal to his lord in instead of military service.
Royalist	A person who supports the monarchy
Liberties	Rights and Freedoms
Pious	Very religious

# Key Words

Word	Definition (What does the word mean?)
Provisions	Set of Laws and Codes
Civil War	A war between citizens of the same country
Treason	Crime of betraying one's country
Statute	A written law passed by a law-making body.
Labourer	A person doing unskilled manual work for wages.
Justice of the Peace	A judge appointed to hear minor cases in a town, county, or other local district
Gallows	Used for hanging criminals
Freemen	A person who is not a slave or serf
Revenue	Income from what you own



