

SUMMER PREPARATORY WORK

AS LEVEL HISTORY

Central
Saint Michael's
Sixth Form

A UNIVERSITY-STYLE SIXTH FORM



A Level History: Summer Assignment

The Aims of the Assignment

- To introduce you to analytical approaches and skills in A level History
- To develop your historical writing skills

Task: Read the sources below and write a 600 word essay on this title:

“Discuss the view that there were many similarities between the styles of government of Henry VIII in England and Hitler in Germany.”

Advice:

- You should read and research text books and websites on Henry VIII and Hitler.
- You can use the sources as illustration
- Try and identify different views on the two contexts of history presented in the question
- You should focus on: tyranny & dictatorship, the role of religion in the state, personal freedoms, the role of women and religious persecution.

Source A: A monk writes of his fears in 1530.

Henry our gracious Lord and King, is determined that the monastic estates shall be his. It is not just the abbot and the monks who will be displaced, but whole villages in England will face dissolution. At Wharram in York, the Abbott was roughed by the Church Commissioner's men and the villagers were chased.

Source B: A Teacher writes to her sister in Munich, Germany in 1936

Germany has entered a dark age, my Jewish doctor has left. He and his family just obtained tickets and the local rumours say that they have left Germany. What had this doctor done that was so wrong? For years he had seen his patients just like any other doctor, and now he is expelled from his profession and Germany.

Source C: Henry VIII Becomes Supreme Head of the Church, in 1531, by a proclamation in churches.

God Almighty has granted us Henry, Defender of our Faith, and Supreme Head of the Church of England. Let all men know that Henry the King of England is the way to God and the truth. England is truly free of idolatry and superstition. All people must accept our sovereign Lord, Henry as the witness to our souls.

Source D: A Historian writes on Henry VIII and his desire for power:

Henry was a tyrant; he wanted total power for himself and his male successors. He faced his circumstances and events by: divorcing a wife of 20 years who loved him, declaring himself the supreme head of the Church of England and showing no hesitation in destroying and killing those who opposed him, or who were slow in accepting change.