

Key Dates		Key Characters	
1471	Edward IV of the House of York becomes King of England, usurping Henry VI of the House of Lancaster	Henry VI	Lancastrian King of England between 1422 and 1461 and then again between 1470 and 1471. Famed for his appalling abilities as a king
Early April 1483	Edward IV dies suddenly	Edward IV	First of the Yorkist kings, originally from 1461 to 1470 (when his record was very bad) and then again from 1471 to 1483 (when his record was very good)
25th June 1483	Richard III (younger brother of Edward IV) claims the throne before Edward IV's son (Edward V) can be crowned as king	Richard III	Usurped the throne from his young nephew
1483-1485	Yorkist plots develop between the mother of Edward V and the Lancastrian Prince Henry Tudor who is exiled in France	Edward V	Son of Edward IV; probably killed by Richard III
21st August 1485	Henry Tudor dates his reign from this date	Henry Tudor	Lancastrian prince who fled Richard III- returned to win Battle of Bosworth and become King Henry VII
22nd August 1485	Henry Tudor defeats Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth		
Key terminology/ concepts			
Divine right of kings	Idea that the right to be king and rule came from God- a monarch was God's chosen appointee to rule on Earth. Not fully developed by 1485	Parliament	Body that was comprised of Lords, Commons and the monarch. Parliament could pass laws (known as Acts) that were binding in the whole country. It could also allow the collection of extraordinary taxation
Christendom	The area of the land in which Christianity was the accepted language giving the Pope authority over the area	Government	Split into two areas- national and local. National government was centred on the king- the creation of policy and laws. Local government was left to officials appointed by the monarch who would enforce national policy
Council	The collection of men that advised the monarch on issues related to government. In a sense, the monarch took counsel, certainly in 1485	Taxation	The collection of money from citizens. This would be either ordinary (meaning it happened annually) or extraordinary (meaning it had to be sanctioned by parliament)
Social class	England was broken down into different classes- all the way from the king down to the poorest peasants at the bottom of society	Nobility	The group at the top of society (also called lords). There were not a great number of lords- they all owned extensive lands and had responsibility for specific areas of the country
Gentry	The group below the nobility- children of nobility and other influential people	Yeomen	The richest farmers who were often just below the gentry in society
Court	The collection of people that lived with and surrounded the king	Privy chamber	The area in which the monarch lived- not everyone at court had access (only really appeared after William Stanley conspiracy)
Justice of the Peace	Civil servant responsible for administering local courts and helping to govern a local area	Sheriffs	Responsible for peace keeping in local areas