



HISTORY



Transition work from GCSE to A Level History

AQA 1C The Tudors; England, 1485-1603

This booklet is designed to enable you to engage quickly and successfully with the AS Tudors course.

The aim is to provide you with a background to the intrigues of the final years of the Wars of the Roses looking in particular at the demise of the Yorkists and the evil (or may be not!) Richard III. It is also to introduce the founding father of the Tudors, Henry VII, and we look at what happened at Bosworth Field on 22 August 1485 and the securing of his dynasty.

Complete all the reading and the questions/tasks set to get ready for a world of A level learning!

Any issues or queries contact Miss Beasley

Visual sources and websites for the Wars of the Roses;

- <http://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/prospective-undergrads/virtual-classroom/primary-source-exercises/sources-wars-roses>
- <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook1n.asp>

- H Castor, *She-Wolves: England's Early Queens*, [DVD]
- D Starkey, *Monarchy*, [DVD] - Series 1, Series 2

Visual sources and websites for The Tudors:

- www.johnguy.co.uk
- www.history.ac.uk
- www.activehistory.co.uk
- www.bbc.co.uk/history
- www.tudorplace.com
- The Six Wives of Henry VIII, Elizabeth DVDs – D Starkey
- A History of Britain DVD – S Schama

Resource list provided by AQA for the Tudors:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/history/AQA-70411C-70421C-RL.PDF>

How did the Wars of the Roses begin?

Fourteenth-century politics was dominated by the long reign of Edward III (1327–77). He brought success and harmony to the country through his victories against the French in the Hundred Years War and through his policy of granting concessions to the nobility in order to win their support. This harmony, though, was bought at a price.

Edward's policy of conciliation towards the nobility was to result in problems for future monarchs. His successor, his grandson Richard II, tried to rule in a more autocratic fashion, but never succeeded in winning the trust of the nobility. Richard II was deposed by Henry, Duke of Lancaster, who became Henry IV.

Henry IV's son, Henry V, was successful because of his inspirational victories against the French. He returned as a hero after the overwhelming defeat that his archers inflicted on the French at Agincourt. But even he was not successful in restoring a balance of power that was more favourable to the Crown than to the nobility.

■ 2E The two sides

Lancastrians	Yorkists
HENRY VI	Richard, Duke of York
Margaret of Anjou (wife of Henry VI)	EDWARD IV (son of Richard of York)
Edward (son of Henry VI)	Richard, Duke of Gloucester (son of Richard of York; the future RICHARD III)
	George, Duke of Clarence (son of Richard of York)*
	The Earl of Salisbury
Lady Margaret Beaufort (mother of Henry VII)	The Earl of Warwick (son of Earl of Salisbury)*
HENRY VII (Earl of Richmond)	EDWARD V (son of Edward IV)
	Richard (son of Edward IV)

*Changed sides.

The story of the Wars of the Roses themselves must start with the Lancastrians and Henry V's only son, Henry VI. He inherited the throne when he was only nine months old. The Government was well run by the regency council during the period of his minority rule. The real problems began when Henry took personal control in 1437. He was a weak and vacillating monarch, easily dominated by his advisers, by the nobility and by his strong-willed and formidable wife, Margaret of Anjou. Henry VI's failure to provide leadership at the centre of government left a power vacuum that members of the nobility at court attempted to fill. This instability was heightened by the fact that, until the birth of Edward in 1453, Henry had no heir.

This tense political situation finally reached breaking point with two events in 1453:

- The French defeated the English at Castillon in France, effectively bringing the Hundred Years War to a humiliating end.
- Henry began suffering from a mental illness, catatonic schizophrenia, and was unable to communicate with anyone.

Although Henry VI recovered physically in 1455, he was not able to establish control. The court was now dominated by Queen Margaret and she was locked in rivalry with Richard, Duke of York, the leader of the Yorkist family. This tension spilled over on 22 May 1455 with the battle of St Albans. This battle is



best seen as a murderous preliminary round in the conflict. But the war itself began when Richard of York was forced to flee abroad with the powerful Nevilles (the Earl of Salisbury (father) and the Earl of Warwick (son)).

It was into this political storm that Henry Tudor, the future Henry VII, was born in 1457.

Stages of the war

The war can be divided into three stages.

Stage 1: 1459–61

The Yorkists returned to England and marched successfully to London, where Richard of York claimed the Crown. A quick series of fierce battles followed. During the battle of Wakefield, Richard, Duke of York, was killed and his son, after winning the battle of Mortimer Cross, seized the initiative and marched on London. He took the throne to become Edward IV.

After this Henry Tudor was separated from his mother and put under the guardianship of a Yorkist, William Herbert.

Stage 2: 1469–71

Edward IV established himself on the throne and successfully resisted the early challenges to his Crown. However, a powerful and very unlikely coalition of Lancastrians and former Yorkists (Margaret of Anjou, the Earl of Warwick and George, Duke of Clarence) unseated him in 1470. The pathetic Henry VI was reinstated as the figurehead monarch.

Edward IV returned in 1471 and the royal Lancastrian line was extinguished when the seventeen-year-old Lancastrian Prince Edward was murdered on the battlefield at Tewkesbury and his father, Henry VI, was stabbed to death in the Tower of London.

The only remaining Lancastrian candidate was the relatively insignificant Earl of Richmond, Henry Tudor. He had to flee to Brittany with his uncle, Jasper Tudor.

Stage 3: 1483–87

Edward IV's reign from his restoration in 1471 was one of achievement and consolidation. His position was strong for a number of reasons:

- His acquisition of the lands of the duchies of York and Lancaster and the confiscated lands of the Earl of Warwick made him the pre-eminent landowner in the country, so he had nothing to fear from other mighty nobles.
- An heir, Edward, was born in 1470.
- Lady Margaret Beaufort and her son, Henry Tudor (later Henry VII), were the only 'Lancastrians', but Edward had no reason to regard them as a serious threat because of the weakness of their claim.
- He provided law and order, and effective, authoritative government.
- He was sufficiently wealthy to have the means to 'live of his own', and so he was able to avoid introducing unpopular, heavy taxation.
- He governed through a council of his own choosing and stamped his personality upon the Government.
- He was a man of great stature (6ft 4in) and had an imposing presence. He had two sons and five daughters, and so there seemed to be no threat to his inheritance.

By 1483 Henry Tudor had been in Brittany for twelve years. As he looked across the Channel, what hope could he have had of deposing the formidable Edward IV?

Suddenly, though, in March 1483 Edward IV fell ill with pneumonia (a French chronicler at the time attributed his illness to the consumption of too much fruit at the Lenten dinner). He died from a massive stroke on 9 April, aged only 40. His young son, Edward V, succeeded him, but within three months Richard III had become king.



So why did Richard become king?

Edward IV's death should not have threatened the stability of the Yorkist inheritance. He had an heir (his son, Edward V, who was twelve years old) and a reliable regent (his brother, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, who had proved himself to be a loyal and effective servant for Edward IV in the north).

The explanation of why the Wars of the Roses flared up again in 1483 must lie with Richard. No one predicted Richard's next moves. In a devastating three-month period he:

- took the young Edward V into custody
- executed Lord Hastings (a loyal servant of Edward IV and the strongest supporter of Edward V)
- gained possession of Richard, Duke of York (the nine-year-old brother of Edward V)
- made Parliament proclaim him King Richard III
- probably ordered the murder of the two princes (Edward V and his brother, Richard) in the Tower of London.

The usurpation and, in particular, the widely held belief that he had murdered the princes took him beyond what was seen as acceptable political behaviour. Contemporaries were horrified by what he had done and he made many enemies, lost crucial friends and brought plans for rebellion into being. This made it harder for him to survive and throughout his reign he was waiting for the challenges that he knew would come.

One important conclusion that can be drawn from the reign of Richard III is that Henry's triumph in 1485 had as much to do with the lack of support for Richard as it had to do with the appeal and strengths of the would-be usurper.



Lessons for Henry

Henry VII did not just follow the Wars of the Roses and have to deal with their aftermath; the early years of his reign were *part* of the civil war. Henry Tudor used his Lancastrian credentials to help to stake his claim to the throne and through his usurpation he reopened the Wars of the Roses. Henry knew that the dynastic instability that he had helped to perpetuate might haunt him in his reign. It is therefore vital that we establish the lessons Henry had to learn from the Wars of the Roses if he were to govern successfully.

ACTIVITY

Use the text you have just read to find examples from the Wars of the Roses to support the points in the table below. Look particularly at the reigns of Edward IV and Richard III.

Lessons for Henry VII to learn from the Wars of the Roses	Supporting example or explanation
1 Support is very fragile, even among the monarch's close family and advisers.	
2 The monarch's position is insecure.	
3 It is important that the monarch has a strong personality and is a strong ruler.	
4 It is important to establish a strong and legitimate claim to the throne.	
5 The king must create an effective working relationship with the nobility.	
6 Actions and decisions must be taken carefully because the political situation is tense, unpredictable and unstable.	
7 The feelings, anger and ambitions of both sides run very deep.	

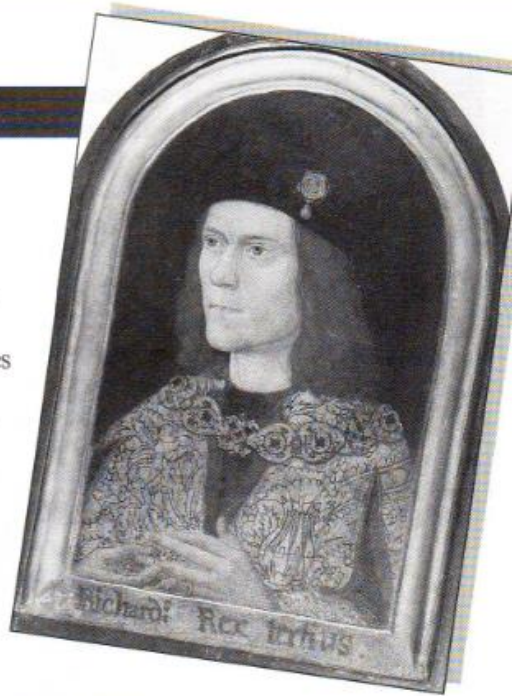
Unstuck strategy 1 - Highlight key information in the text to help you pull out the important evidence to answer the questions

Glossary - Unstuck strategy 2, to assist with the text

Acquisition	Gaining control of.
Autocratic	A ruler who has complete power.
Battle of Agincourt	A famous victory for England over France by King Henry V.
Brittany	Area of France.
Chronicler	Paid reporter of the key events of the time.
Concessions	Agreeing to something in response to demands.
Conciliation	the action of stopping someone being angry.
Consolidation	Bringing together.
Consumption	Eating.
Contemporaries	People alive at the same time as you.
Deposed	Removed from power.
Dynastic	relating to a succession of people from the same family who rule a country (The Tudors).
Formidable	Inspiring fear or respect.
Hundred Years War	A war between England and France that lasted from 1337 – 1453.
Lenten	Lent, a key time before Easter in the Christian calendar.
Minority rule	Name given to the rule of Henry VI when he was too young to rule himself.
Nobility	Rich people living in England.
Perpetuate	Make something continue indefinitely.
Pneumonia	Infection of the lungs.
Pre-eminent	Most important.
Regency Council	A group of men who ran England whilst Henry VI was too young to rule.
Regent	Ruling in place of the King who is too young to rule by himself.
Successor	The person who is next in line.
Usurpation	Taking power immediately.
Vacillating	Wavering between different opinions or actions

3.1 Richard III

Richard III is the most controversial king in English history. Most historians think that his seizure of the throne was motivated by ambition and not by his belief that the two princes were illegitimate, making Richard himself the rightful heir. Nor do they doubt that the princes were murdered in the early months of Richard's reign. However the fact that there is no precise and uncontestable evidence about how they died or whether Richard gave the order to kill them has led some people to doubt Richard's guilt. To them, notably many members of the 'Richard III Society', Richard was a hero, ever loyal to his brother, Edward IV, and incapable of taking the throne without good cause. Some people have suggested that the Duke of Buckingham, Richard's right-hand man during his coup, could have ordered the murder without Richard's knowledge. One contemporary jotting says that the boys died 'by the vise of the Duke of Buckingham'.



ONE OF THE EARLIEST SURVIVING PORTRAITS OF RICHARD III, PAINTED 1516–1522 AND PROBABLY BASED ON A CONTEMPORARY PAINTING.

For:

- Richard had been loyal to Edward IV in 1470–71 when Edward's other brother, George, Duke of Clarence, had been a traitor, allied with Edward's enemies.
- Richard had governed the north of England successfully for Edward after 1471 and had given no hint of treachery.
- Richard had been popular with many people in the north. After his death, the city council in York recorded on paper its sorrow at hearing of his death – a dangerous thing to do. Richard may even have intended to be buried in York.
- He showed many signs of being a good and efficient king amidst the preoccupations of rebellions.
- Elizabeth Woodville, the mother of the Princes, came out of sanctuary with her daughters to spend Christmas 1484 at Richard's court.

Against:

- Richard never produced his nephews to contradict rumours of their murders in 1483.
- By marrying Anne Neville, Warwick's daughter, Richard inherited Warwick's power and support in the north. By 1483 Richard had built on this to create for himself a huge territory, virtually making himself a sub-king in the region. However other significant northern lords, the Earl of Northumberland and Lord Stanley, may well have resented Richard's arrival and pre-eminence in the north.
- After the rebellion in 1483 Richard gave many lands in the south to his northern supporters. They filled the gaps left by gentry who had rebelled and gone into exile. These northerners were disliked by the local people.
- Richard destroyed the peace of the country with his coup and subjected England to more years of uncertainty, rebellions and danger.
- In 1483 many Yorkists rebelled against him, preferring to support the unknown Henry Tudor rather than their old king's brother.

Activity - Hero or Villain?

Based on the information you have on Richard III so far, what is your opinion of him? Write a PEEL paragraph explaining your argument, giving at least 2 pieces of evidence to prove your point.

Unstuck strategy - Rumour and hearsay is not enough to decide if someone a hero or villain!. You must base your argument on provable facts.

Richard III: villain or victim?

Richard III is a king with a bad reputation. He is often described as evil, a deformed hunchback, or a wicked uncle who murdered his nephews so that he could be king.

FactFile

- Richard was the brother of King Edward IV. Edward left two young sons who were next in line to the throne.
- When Edward died Richard became Protector. He was to rule until his nephew was old enough to rule alone.
- Richard was popular. He was a good general and had been loyal to his brother.
- Richard was made king after it was announced that the two princes were not the proper heirs as King Edward had not been properly married to their mother. People preferred a strong king to a young boy, although Richard could have forced the announcement.
- Richard passed good laws as king and had a good reputation abroad.
- The two princes disappeared in 1483 and Richard became unpopular as people spread rumours that he had murdered them.
- Richard reigned from 1483–85. His reign ended with the battle of Bosworth in which he was killed. Henry Tudor became King Henry VII in 1485. The Tudor family stayed on the throne until 1603.

QUESTIONS

- 1 Read Source A. Would you expect Shakespeare's description of Richard to be accurate? Think about:
 - when it was written
 - why it was written.
- 2 Read Source B. Is Source B more likely to be reliable than Source A? Explain your answer carefully.

Source A

*I, that am stunted,
deformed, born only half
finished, so lame and ugly
that dogs bark at me
when they pass. I am
determined to be a villain
– sly, false and
treacherous.*

▲ Adapted from Richard III, Act I Scene I, by William Shakespeare, written in 1592.

Source B

From the time that Richard became King the two young boys were kept shut up in a single, stone walled room in the Tower. That night murderers hired by Richard crept up to them and stifled (suffocated) them pressing down thick feather pillows over their faces. The men carried the bodies to a hole under the stone staircase, covered them over and walled them in.

▲ From *Castles and Kings* by Henry Treece, written in 1958.

Source C

Richard was fairly small. His body was deformed - one shoulder being higher than the other. He had a sour face which clearly showed his craft and deceit.

▲ Written by Polydore Vergil in 1517.

Source D

Richard was born with teeth and with hair streaming down to his shoulders. His right shoulder was higher than his left.

▲ From *History of the Kings of England*, written by John Rous in 1490.

- 3 a) Were Sources C and D written before or after Richard died?
 b) Are you surprised that people are writing unkind descriptions of Richard when Henry VII is on the throne?
 Explain your answer.

Look at this information about the authors of Sources C and D. Can you trust them?

Polydore Vergil	John Rous
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was sent to England by the Pope in 1501, sixteen years after Richard's death. He had never been to England before. • He became friends with Henry VII and was asked to write a history of England for him. Source C comes from this book. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Rous was a hermit priest from Warwick; he rarely went to London. • He wrote a book in 1477, including a picture of Richard without any deformity, and a flattering description of him. • After Richard's death he wrote a new version that cut out all the parts which praised Richard. • When Henry VII became king he wrote a new book, dedicated to Henry including praise of Henry and criticisms of Richard.

- 4 Explain why you think Polydore Vergil would be biased against Richard III.
- 5 Do you think John Rous is a good historian? Explain your answer as much as you can.

Source E

Henry was capable of such a crime – they were quietly but efficiently murdered. Elizabeth Woodville, the boys' mother was locked into a nunnery. Henry spread the word that Richard had done the killing. Henry Tudor, murderer and liar – it is time to tell the truth.

▲ Written by the historian Philip Lindsay in 1972.

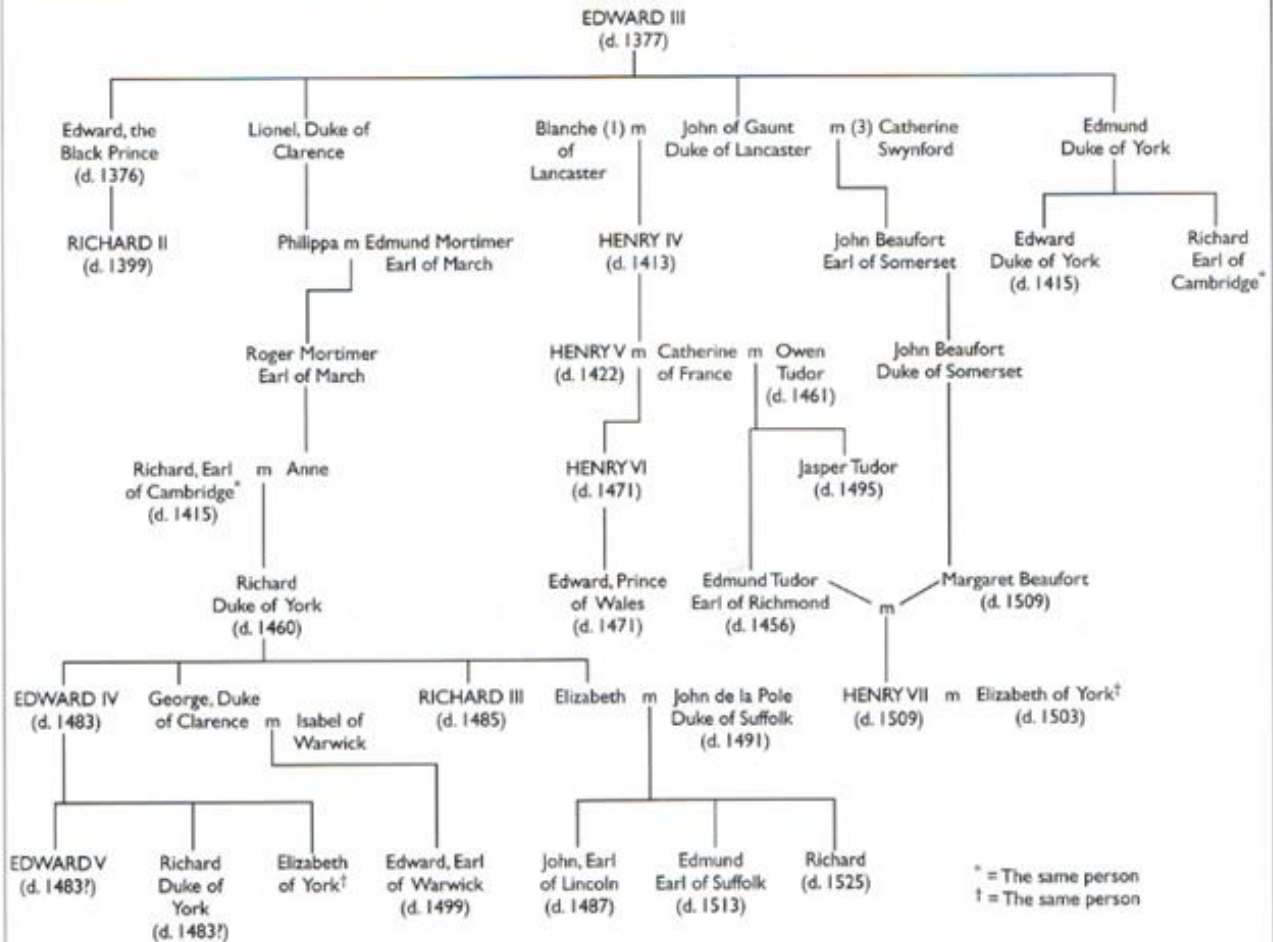
FactFile

- When Henry VII became king he published a list of all the crimes of which he accused Richard. He did not mention the two princes.
- It was not until 1502 that Sir James Tyrell produced his confession of how he had been hired to murder the princes by Richard. From this time there was more and more emphasis on Richard as physically deformed and evil and more emphasis on the murder of his nephews.
- Some modern historians suggest there is not enough evidence against Richard. Unreliable and inaccurate witnesses have changed the evidence. Bones have been excavated from the Tower of London but experts are not convinced that they are those of the princes.
- Henry VII also had a good reason to murder the princes.

- 6 a) Why might Henry VII have murdered the two princes?
 Explain your answer.
 b) Why might Henry VII have locked up the princes' mother in a nunnery?
- 7 What evidence is there in Source E that Philip Lindsay might be as biased as earlier sources?
- 8 Richard III did not lock up the princes' mother but let her stay at his court. How might this support his innocence?

B

ACTIVITY



To assess the strength of Henry's claim to the throne in 1485, read the hereditary rules for monarchs and then answer the questions that follow.

Hereditary rules for monarchs

- 1 The claim descends lineally to the legitimate issue of the sovereign. Because of this, sons of the monarch's eldest son have priority over the monarch's other sons and their children.
- 2 Males are preferred to females. (Females were not prohibited from being monarchs, but the last queen regnant had been Matilda in the early twelfth century and the result had been civil war.)
- 3 Male issues of subsequent marriages of the sovereign take precedence over daughters of previous marriages.

Questions on the family tree

- 1 To understand the competing claims to the throne in the fifteenth century, it is necessary to go back to Edward III and his sons. Although none of Edward's sons became king himself, the descendants of four of them eventually became kings. In the following table, which kings were descended from each son of Edward III?

Sons	Kings
Edward, the Black Prince	
Lionel, Duke of Clarence	
John of Gaunt	
Edmund, Duke of York	

- 2 From which of Edward III's sons did Henry VII's royal blood come?
- 3 Why was Henry VII's claim to the throne made stronger in 1471?
- 4 What would a marriage of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York bring together?
- 5 How strong was Henry's claim to the throne? Consider the following points:
 - Is his claim direct and unchallengeable?
 - Does he descend in a clear and obvious way from a previous monarch?
 - Was he always an obvious and strong claimant?
 - Did other people have stronger claims?

Unstuck strategy - Highlight the different branches of the family to identify who is Lancastrian and who is Yorkist more easily.

TIF Challenge - Using contemporary sources is a key part of History but sometimes the language they use in the Tudor age is difficult for us to follow. Give yourself the challenge - can you work out what Polydore Virgil, a renowned chronicler of his day is saying and complete the activity questions?

What happened at Bosworth?

The fullest and most useful account of the battle of Bosworth comes from Polydore Vergil's *Anglica Historia* (English History). Vergil was an Italian scholar of European renown. He wrote his history at Henry VII's request, working c. 1503–13. He was able to talk to many people who had been at Bosworth including some, like the Earl of Surrey, who had fought for Richard III.



SOURCE 2.5 Richard III

SOURCE 2.4 Polydore Vergil, *Anglica Historia*, c. 1513

The day after King Richard ... drew his whole army out of their encampments, and arrayed his battle-line, extended at such a wonderful length, and composed of footmen and horsemen packed together in such a way that the mass of armed men struck terror in the hearts of the distant onlookers. In the front he placed the archers, ... appointing as their leader John, duke of Norfolk. To the rear of this long battle-line followed the king himself, with a select force of soldiers.

Meanwhile, ... early in the morning [Henry Tudor] commanded his soldiery to set to arms, and at the same time sent to Thomas Stanley, who now approached the place of the fight, midway between the two armies, to come in with his forces ... He answered that ... he would be at hand with his army in proper array. Since this reply was ... contrary to what was expected, ... Henry became rather anxious and began to lose heart. Nevertheless, without delay he arranged his men ... in this fashion. He drew up a simple battle-line on account of the fewness of his men. In front of the line he placed archers, putting the earl of Oxford in command; to defend it on the right wing he positioned Gilbert Talbot, and on the left wing in truth he placed John Savage. He himself, relying on the aid of Thomas Stanley, followed with one company of horsemen and a few foot-soldiers. For all in all the number of soldiers was scarcely 5,000, not counting the Stanleyites of whom about 3,000 were in the battle under the leadership of William Stanley. The king's forces were at least twice as many.

... As soon as the two armies came within sight of each other, the soldiers donned their helms and prepared for the battle, waiting for the signal to attack... There was a marsh between them, which Henry deliberately left on his right side, to serve his men as a defensive wall. In doing this he simultaneously put the sun behind him. The king, as soon as he saw the enemy advance past the marsh, ordered his men to charge. Suddenly raising a great shout they attacked first with arrows, and their opponents, ... returned the fire fiercely. When it came to close quarters, however, the fighting was done with swords.

In the meantime the earl of Oxford, afraid that ... his men would be surrounded by the evening ... ordered that no soldier should go more than ten feet from the standards. When in response ... all the men massed together and drew back a little from the fray, their opponents, suspecting a trick, took fright and broke off from fighting for a while. In truth many, who wished the king damned rather than saved, were not reluctant to do so, and for that reason fought less stoutly. Then the earl of Oxford in the one part, with tightly grouped units, attacked the enemy afresh ...

While the battle ... raged, ... Richard learnt, first from spies, that Henry was some way off with a few armed men as his retinue, and then, as the latter drew nearer, recognised him more certainly from his standards. Inflamed with anger, he spurred his horse, and rode against him ... Henry saw Richard come upon him, and since all hope of safety lay in arms, he eagerly offered himself for the contest. In the first charge Richard killed several men; toppled Henry's standard, along with the standard-bearer William Brandon; contended with John Cheney, a man of surpassing bravery, who stood in his way, and thrust him to the ground with great force; and made a path for himself through the press of steel.

Nevertheless Henry held out against the attack longer than his troops, who now almost despaired of victory, had thought likely. Then, behold, William Stanley came in support with 3,000 men ... At this point ... with ... his men taking to their heels, Richard was slain fighting in the thickest press of his

ACTIVITY

- What, according to Vergil, were
 - the key stages of the battle
 - the main reasons why Henry Tudor won?
- Can you identify any sections of his account that suggest that Vergil's informants fought in the battle?
- How does Vergil portray
 - Richard III
 - Henry VII?
- How valuable do you think this account is for
 - Richard's character and actions
 - Henry's actions at Bosworth
 - the reasons why Henry won?
- 'Vergil was writing for Henry VII. Therefore his account of Henry's success at Bosworth can be of no value for historians.' Explain why you agree or disagree with this statement.

enemies. Meanwhile the earl of Oxford put to flight the remainder of the [enemy] troops ... a great number of whom were killed in the rout ... Many more, who supported Richard out of fear and not of their own will, purposely held off from the battle, and departed unharmed, as men who desired not the safety but the destruction of the prince whom they detested. About 1,000 men were slain, including from the nobility John duke of Norfolk, Walter Lord Ferrers, Robert Brackenbury, Richard Radcliffe and several others. Two days after at Leicester, William Catesby, lawyer, with a few associates, was executed ... Francis Lord Lovell, Humphrey and Thomas Stafford ... and many companions, fled into ... sanctuary ... near Colchester ... There was a huge number of captives, for when Richard was killed, all men threw down their weapons, and freely submitted themselves to Henry's obedience, which the majority would have done at the outset if they had not been prevented by Richard's scouts rushing back and forth ... Amongst them the chief were Henry earl of Northumberland and Thomas earl of Surrey. The latter was put in prison, where he remained for a long time, the former was received in favour as a friend at heart. Henry lost in the battle scarcely a hundred soldiers, amongst whom ... was William Brandon, who bore Henry's battle standard...

The report is that Richard could have saved himself by flight. His companions, seeing from the very outset ... that the soldiers were wielding their arms feebly and sluggishly, and that some were secretly deserting, suspected treason, and urged him to fly. When his cause obviously began to falter, they brought him a swift horse. Yet he, who knew that the people hated him, setting aside hope of all future success, allegedly replied, such was the great fierceness and force of his mind, that that very day he would make an end either of war or life ... He went into battle wearing the royal crown, so that he might thereby make either a beginning or an end of his reign. Thus the miserable man ... had such an end as customarily befalls them that for justice, divine law and virtue substitute wilfulness, impiety and depravity...

Immediately after gaining victory, Henry gave thanks to Almighty God with many prayers. Then filled with unbelievable happiness, he took himself to the nearest hill, where after he had congratulated his soldiers and ordered them to care for the wounded and to bury the slain, he gave eternal thanks to his captains, promising that he would remember their good services. In the mean time, the soldiers saluted him as king with a great shout, applauding him with most willing hearts. Seeing this, Thomas Stanley immediately placed Richard's crown, found among the spoil, on his head, as though he had become king by command of the people, acclaimed in the ancestral manner.

After the battle

SOURCE 2.6 In April 1486 an unknown historian, writing at the abbey of Crowland, completed his history of the Yorkist dynasty with the following lines, which contain one of the earliest references to a war between two roses:

In the year 1485 on the 22 day of August the tusks of the boar [Richard] were blunted and the red rose [Henry], the avenger of the white [the Yorkists], shines upon us.

In Source 2.6 the anonymous author is explaining how Henry the Lancastrian has gained revenge over the unpopular Richard and has brought to an end the horrors of the Wars of the Roses. He has achieved this through his union with the Yorkists (by marrying Elizabeth of York and by receiving the support of Yorkists at Bosworth). However, as we will discover in later chapters, this vision was to be a false dawn.