

Tudor Life: A Personal Perspective

Learning objective: To understand the structure of Tudor society and identify the differences in lifestyle between various social classes.

Imagine you are a historian working alongside Ellie the elephant. Use this diary entry template to step into the shoes of a person living in Tudor England. Select a social role—such as a wealthy merchant, a skilled artisan, or a humble farm labourer—and describe your daily experiences, ensuring you reflect the historical realities of the era.

Word bank: monarch · hierarchy · prosperity · apprenticeship · subsistence · tapestry · steward · guild

1. The Social Hierarchy: Identify your chosen role in Tudor society. Explain why your position in the hierarchy influenced your daily diet, clothing, and the work you performed. (3 marks)

2. Daily Labour: Describe a typical day of work. Justify why your particular trade or role was essential to the functioning of a Tudor town or village. (3 marks)

3. Economic Exchange: You have £2 to spend at the local market. List three items you would purchase and explain the value of these items in the context of Tudor life. (2 marks)

4. Compare and Contrast: Compare your life to that of a Tudor noble. What might happen if you attempted to switch roles for a single day? Explain your reasoning. (4 marks)

5. Societal Influence: Explain why the monarch's decisions or laws might have directly affected your life and your family's financial security. (3 marks)

6. Historical Evidence: If an archaeologist were to dig up your home in 500 years, what specific object would best represent your status? Justify your choice. (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Creative Task: Write a short, formal petition to the monarch regarding a change you wish to see in your local community. Use persuasive, formal language and explain the potential impact of your request on the wider population.