

Tudor Life: A Comparative Investigation

Learning objective: To analyse the social hierarchy and daily experiences of people living during the Tudor period (1485–1603).

Use this scaffold to construct a balanced historical report. Refer to Ellie's notes on Tudor history to ensure your facts are accurate. Use formal language and ensure you provide evidence to justify your points.

The Tudor era was a transformative period in English history, defined by significant contrasts between the lives of the wealthy elite and the struggling labouring classes.

Word bank: Furthermore · In contrast · Conversely · Consequently · Significantly · Wealth disparity · Social hierarchy · Privileged · Hardship · Evidence suggests

1. The Social Hierarchy: Describe the differences between the lives of the nobility and the commoners. Start by saying: 'At the top of the social hierarchy resided...', (3 marks)

2. Dietary Habits: Compare and contrast the diets of the rich and the poor. Explain why there was such a stark difference in the food they consumed... (3 marks)

3. Childhood and Education: Justify why education was not accessible to all children during this time. Start by saying: 'Education in the Tudor period was primarily reserved for...', (3 marks)

4. Daily Labour: What might happen if a commoner failed to pay their taxes or follow the laws of the realm? Consider the impact on their family... (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a Tudor historian. Write a short persuasive paragraph explaining why the invention of the printing press was the most significant turning point for Tudor society. Use the phrase 'This was momentous because...' and provide two pieces of supporting evidence.