

AQA GCSE (9–1) History

# MEDIEVAL ENGLAND

THE REIGN OF EDWARD I,  
1272–1307



Rae Linton

# My revision planner

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# How to use this book

## Features

Each topic from the specification is covered in a double-page spread with the following features:

### Key term

- Key terms are **highlighted** and defined in the glossary at the end of the book.
- These are the terms that you need to understand in order to write clearly about a topic. Precise use of language is very important for top marks.

### Revision point

Instead of headings, the content is divided into revision points. These are worth learning in their own right. They summarise the three to five key points about each topic. Take the revision points together and you have the course covered.

### Key point

If you forget everything else remember this.

### Bullet points

This is the detailed knowledge you need to back up the revision point. The GCSE course emphasises the use of relevant, precise and detailed knowledge. Think of the revision point as the headline and the bullets the detail you can use in your answer.

- Learn this your own way – make mnemonics, use highlights.
- Mark this up. Use your pen. This should look like your book once you have finished.
- Sometimes we have used tables and charts to make it easier to remember. A good way to revise is turn a table into bullets or turn the bullets into tables. Whenever you change the format of the knowledge, your brain has to process it.

### Progress tracker

Tick this box to track your progress:

- One tick when you have revised and understood the content.
- Two ticks when you have tackled the Revision Tasks and/or practice questions.

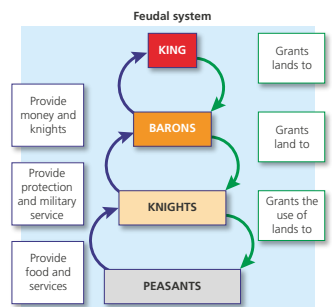
## Part 1 Government, the rights of King and people

### 1.1 England in 1272

REVISED

#### The King owned all the land in England and granted it to those who were loyal

- England in 1272 followed the **feudal system**.
- This meant the King owned all the land and granted land to who he wanted. In return, his followers promised:
  - their loyalty
  - to pay **taxes**
  - to fight for the King
  - to keep the countryside safe
  - to provide food and supplies.
- This was a rigid system of give and take and everyone knew their position in the **social hierarchy**.
- Land equalled wealth, power and status in medieval society.



#### The Church had huge influence over peoples' lives in medieval society

- The Church was the hub of every settlement. People were expected to attend church every Sunday.
- The Church was led by the Pope. **Tension** often arose when people were caught between obeying their Pope or their King.
- The Church had immense power, wealth and influence in the 13th century and bishops ranked alongside **barons** within society.
- It owned large areas of land, some of which were occupied by churches and monasteries.
- Monasteries housed many books and members of the **clergy** were usually the only ones who could read and write. For this reason, clergy often became advisers and officials to the King.
- Monks and nuns also treated the sick in monasteries and nunneries.
- There were separate church courts to try people who broke religious laws.

### Key point

English society in 1272 was balanced between the traditions of the feudal system, an influential Church and the benefits of a thriving economy based around the wool trade.

#### England's increasing wealth in town and country was due to the wool trade

- Agriculture was the main industry in 1272.
- Farming sheep for wool was more profitable than growing crops so more and more land was used for grazing. The growth of the wool trade increased England's wealth.
- Former farm-labouring peasants headed to towns looking for work which led to the growth of towns.
- Populations in towns such as Winchester, York, Lincoln and Norwich as well as London, grew in size as merchants would gather to trade wool. Many merchants became very wealthy and towns would benefit from their wealthy citizens.

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Quick quizzes and answers at [www.hoddereducation.co.uk/myrevisionnotesdownloads](http://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/myrevisionnotesdownloads)

### Answers online

At [www.hoddereducation.co.uk/myrevisionnotes](http://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/myrevisionnotes) we have provided model answers for all tasks and exam-style questions. However, just because you write something different from us, it does not mean yours is wrong! Often, history does not have right and wrong answers. As long as you can explain your point clearly and support your argument with evidence, you can say many different things.

- **Guilds** of craftsmen in towns became increasingly powerful as they controlled their products and workforce.
- Living in a town was not as strict as living under the feudal system in the countryside, though it was more dangerous with a higher risk of disease due to the unsanitary and crowded living conditions.

**TIP**

Make sure you can spell key terms and that you know what they mean. Make sure you use them in your answers to exam questions.

**Explain the significance**

Link up the heads and tails in this table below to summarise England in 1272.

Feature	Significance
English society followed the feudal system	so many peasants found themselves out of work.
Monks were able to read and write	due to the demand for wool and the increase in its trade.
Land for growing crops was turned over to sheep farming	so merchants became a wealthy section of society.
England became a wealthy country	with all the land coming from the King.
As towns' populations grew, trade increased	so had influence over peoples' religion and health.

**Spot the mistakes**

For all your answers, you need accurate and precise knowledge. This paragraph has five factual errors. Find and correct them.

The King owned all the land in England and gave it to his knights in return for their loyalty. The main industry at the start of Edward II's reign in 1272 was farming. The majority of people worked in the fields, growing crops. This soon changed to goat farming as the demand for wool increased and farmers realised more money could be made from wool than crops. This new industry challenged the traditions of the feudal system as barons found themselves out of work and having to move to towns to find jobs. The woollen industry created a variety of new jobs as well as a new class of people within the feudal system: the bishops, who became wealthy citizens of increasing larger towns.

**Test yourself**

- 1 What was the feudal system?
- 2 How did the Church exert so much influence over society?
- 3 Why did England's economy grow in the late 13th century?

**Practice question**

Write an account of what England was like in 1272 at the start of Edward I's reign.

(8 marks)

AQA GCSE (9–1) History Medieval England: the reign of Edward I, 1272–1307

1.1 England in 1272

**Tip**

Throughout the book there are regular tips that explain how you can write better answers and boost your final grade.

**Revision task**

These tasks develop your exam skills. Sometimes you write in the book, sometimes you write in your notebook.

Our advice is to work through each chapter twice:

- The first time learning the content.
- The second time using the revision tasks and practice questions.

Answers to revision tasks are provided online.

**Test yourself**

- As you revise the content the first time, use these to check your knowledge and recall.
- Try answering them without looking at the bullets. See how you get on.
- Usually the answers are obvious but in case they are not, there are answers at [www.hoddereducation.co.uk/myrevisionnotesdownloads](http://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/myrevisionnotesdownloads).
- Don't worry about these questions second time through. Focus on the revision tasks instead.
- If you want to revise on the move, there are also self-marking knowledge quizzes on each topic here: [www.hoddereducation.co.uk/myrevisionnotes](http://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/myrevisionnotes). These can be used on your phone or computer.

**Practice question**

- All the main question types are practised either as a part of a revision task or as practice questions.
- Model answers to the practice questions are available online: [www.hoddereducation.co.uk/myrevisionnotes](http://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/myrevisionnotes).

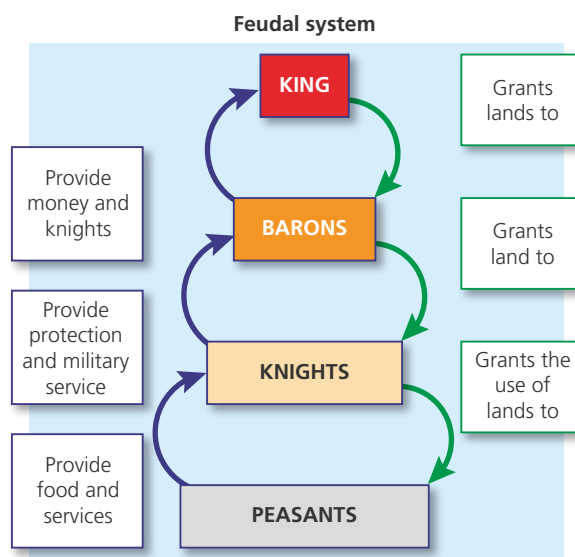
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- 3 Why did England's economy grow in the late 13th century?

**Practice question**

Write an account of what England was like in 1272 at the start of Edward I's reign.

(8 marks)



## 1.2 Henry III's legacy

REVISED

### Edward I's experiences as a young man would influence his reign

- As a young man, Edward learnt several languages and enjoyed hunting, reading and fighting.
- He spent his life trying to live up to the **chivalric ideals** of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table and used the legend of King Arthur to partly justify his military campaigns.
- As a Prince, Edward was considered conceited, wilful and liable to change his mind so was seen as unreliable. But he was prepared to fight for his father and his own beliefs. By 1268, he had built a reputation as a courageous soldier and a strong leader in times of conflict.
- He was deeply religious and went on **Crusade** several times. During his reign, he built an Abbey at Vale Royal in Cheshire.

#### Key point

Edward I inherited a weakened monarchy whose authority had been challenged and undermined by the barons through a civil war fought during Henry III's reign.

### The relationship between Edward and his father was difficult

- On his marriage to Eleanor of Castile in 1254, Edward was given land by his father, but Henry III kept a close eye on Edward which meant he was always short of money and could not do as he pleased.
- This led to a difficult relationship with his father, as Edward sought more control and authority over his own affairs. This sometimes led to Edward siding with his father's opponents to assert himself.
- However, in 1268, he was made **Steward of England** as Henry acknowledged the increasing role Edward was playing in running the country.

#### Eleanor of Castile

The daughter of Ferdinand III of Castile became the wife of Edward I (then Prince Edward) in 1254 as part of a political deal with Spain. Despite the arrangement, the marriage seems to have been a happy one. They had 16 children.

### Henry III's weak reign meant Edward inherited a weakened monarchy

- The barons' disagreements with Henry III challenged the long-held rigidity of the feudal system. The barons were angry with Henry because:
  - he gave important positions in government to his French friends. The barons felt Englishmen should govern England.
  - they were losing money and prestige as Henry had increased taxes to fight unsuccessful wars over English territory in France.
- In 1258, the barons' anger led them to demand Henry III sign the **Provisions of Oxford**, granting the barons more influence in government which Prince Edward publicly supported.
- By 1261, Henry was ignoring these Provisions so in 1264 Simon de Montfort led the barons in a **Civil War**.

#### Provisions of Oxford

A council of barons would advise Henry; the barons had to agree before any decisions could be made.

The King could not make decisions on taxes. No foreigners could hold positions in government.

The King and the barons swore an oath of loyalty to uphold the agreement.

### The uneasy relationship between king and barons continued

- Edward realised the barons were becoming more powerful so he realigned himself with his father. He defeated the barons at Evesham in 1265, allowing his father to regain his authority.
- Henry gave the land belonging to the rebel barons to his supporters which continued the barons' resentment.

- Edward urged his father to allow the rebel barons to buy back their land as an act of Redemption. This ensured a return of support for Henry.
- When Edward became King in 1272, tensions between monarch and barons still remained.
- Edward knew he had to find ways to assert his authority as King while maintaining the support of the barons.

## Edward also inherited an uneasy relationship with Wales and France

- In 1267 Henry ended conflict in Wales with the Treaty of Montgomery where Llywelyn ap Gruffudd was acknowledged as the Prince of Wales in return for **homage** being paid to the English King.
- However, Edward would not forget that Llywelyn had sided with the rebel barons against his father and this created an uneasy relationship between the Welsh and the English.
- As the Duke of Aquitaine, Henry had paid homage to the French King, acknowledging his overlordship. This was something Edward was reluctant to do.
- Edward was also keen to regain lands in France which his father had lost.

### Llywelyn ap Gruffudd (c.1233–82)

Llywelyn was known as the Prince of Gwynedd, helping to reunite North Wales. By 1258, he was the senior Welsh prince and declared himself the Prince of Wales. Welsh princes paid homage to Llywelyn rather than Henry III. He supported the barons in the Civil War; rebelled against King Edward I and died in battle.



### Test yourself

- 1 Why were the barons angry with Henry III?
- 2 What did the Provisions of Oxford dictate?
- 3 Why did people's opinions of Edward change?



### Spot the interpretation

Look at **Interpretation A**, which is commenting on whether Edward would be a better King than his father. Next to it are some inferences you can draw from it. Link each inference to specific details in the interpretation.

**INTERPRETATION A** From Treherne, R.F. *Baronial Plan of Reform* (1972)

Edward was no more than an irresponsible, arrogant and headstrong boy, treacherously selfish in the heedless pursuit of his own ends, indulging in every whim at his own pleasure, and incapable of self-discipline or obedience to external authority in anything that conflicted with the passions and hatreds of the moment.

- A** Edward would not listen to anyone's advice.
- B** Edward did not consider the consequence of his actions.
- C** Edward was only interested in having a good time.
- D** Edward was only interested in things that mattered to him.

### TIP

The interpretation question is about what you know about the event and how far you agree with the opinion given in the source. It is not about when the source was written or who wrote it.



### Practice question

Read **Interpretation B**. How convincing is Interpretation B about Edward's readiness to become King? Explain your answer based on your contextual knowledge and what it says in Interpretation B.

(8 marks)

**INTERPRETATION B** From *The Hammer of Scots: The History and Legacy of Edward Longshanks' Conquest of Scotland* (2015)

Edward learned a lot from the [Civil] war. Overcoming his previous reputation as changeable and untrustworthy, he became a trusted and admired leader, and he learned even more during 1270–1272, a period spent on Crusade ... Edward personally earned a great deal of prestige. He had gone to fight for God and Christendom, had proven his courage and prowess, and had stared death in the face. He had also experienced a messy, [lengthy] campaign of occupation, and he had seen first-hand what strong castles could do in holding territory.



## 1.3 The development of rights and justice

REVISED

### Edward I needed to create a balance between asserting the King's authority and keeping the barons on side

- Edward wanted to reassert authority over the barons and the decision-making process in government after the weakness of Henry III's reign.
- Edward I chose his own officials, like Robert Burnell who he had known for many years.
- He also needed to ensure funds to sustain the monarchy and realised that he would have to keep the barons on side so he could be granted taxes. This hopefully would also ward off the possibility of another civil war. To ensure this, he promised them he would listen to them and allow them to have more of a role in government.
- Land equalled money and power in medieval times, so when Edward was crowned King on 19 August 1274 in Westminster Abbey, he removed the crown from his head, saying he 'would not wear it again until he had recovered the lands given away by his father to the Earls, Barons and Knights of England.'
- As soon as Edward arrived back in England in 1274, commissioners were sent out all around the country to ask questions about land ownership; rights and what money was due to the King. Edward felt the barons had taken advantage of Henry III's lack of authority and he wanted to be clear about how much land came under his control. If ownership of land could not be proven, then that land would be returned to the King (see page 14).

### Edward I tried to deal with corruption and improve justice

- As well as royal rights, he investigated abuses of power and earned the nickname, 'the English Justinian'.
- Most of the **sheriffs** and **escheaters** were replaced because they had abused their power and were considered corrupt.
- People from all sections of society were encouraged to bring forward their complaints.
- Complaints and answers to the commissioners' questions were delivered to London hundred by hundred (hundred was the name given to a small area of a county) and were listed in the **Hundred Rolls**. This exercise was repeated in 1279.

#### TIP

To help you explain when answering a question, use words and phrases like:

- 1 Because ...
- 2 This meant that ...
- 3 This was important because ...

#### Key point

Edward was intent on restoring royal rights and prerogatives and rooting out injustice and corruption but his constant need for money increasingly made Parliament more powerful.



#### Test yourself

- 1 What was the Hundred Rolls?
- 2 Why did Edward want to change the way England was governed?
- 3 How did Edward I gain the nickname 'the English Justinian'?



## Support or challenge?

Below are five knowledge statements. Decide whether each statement supports or challenges this overall interpretation of Edward I's intention to assert the Crown's authority.

'Edward I was eager to regain power over the barons.' Add at least one more statement of your own that supports or challenges this view

Statement	Support	Challenge
The Civil War had shown that the barons could be a threat to the monarchy and undermine its authority.		
Edward could not rule without the support of the barons because he needed their agreement to raise taxes.	X	
Edward needed to make sure the barons felt they were being listened to because they had felt ignored by Henry III as he had sought advice from French noblemen.		
The Provisions of Oxford had made concessions to the barons which undermined the Crown's authority and Edward did not want to repeat his father's mistakes.		
Edward was keen to check on the barons' ownership of land as he felt some barons had abused their power.		



## Develop the detail

This table summarises Edward's initial steps to re-establish the Crown's authority. However, each of the statements lacks detail. Make your own version of this table and add details to help you understand the key point being made. An example has been done for you.

Edward I's steps to re-establish the Crown's authority	
Gained the nickname 'the English Justinian'	Edward investigated abuses of power. Most of the sheriffs and escheaters were replaced because they had abused their power and were considered to be corrupt. People from all sections of society were encouraged to bring forward their complaints. Complaints and answers were delivered to London and listed in the Hundred Rolls.
Land ownership	
Relationship with the barons	



## Practice question

Explain your answer based on your contextual knowledge and what it says in **Interpretation C**. (8 marks)

**INTERPRETATION C** From Burt, C. *Edward I and the Governance of England, 1272-1307* (2017), p. 89

Edward's accession thus brought with it continuity in the sense that he, like his predecessors, remained committed to maintaining royal rights. However, it also brought with it a change of emphasis ... Edward now argued that the duty of the king was to act in the interests of justice and peace ... Edward ... understood the extent to which any lord's ... authority depended not just on the maintenance of land and rights, but on the treatment of his subjects.

AQA GCSE (9–1) History

# MEDIEVAL ENGLAND

## THE REIGN OF EDWARD I, 1272–1307

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