



# CONCURSUL INTERJUDEȚEAN DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA

Ediția a IV-a

ETAPA JUDEȚEANĂ  
5 APRILIE 2025

CLASA A X-A

Varianta 3

**I. Fill in the blanks with the following words:** *government, political, safeguard, grandeur, constitutional, discourse, royal, identity, perception, constrained.*

The British royal family, known as the Windsors, has a long history that intertwines with the country's (1) \_\_\_\_\_. The name *Windsor* was adopted during World War I when King George V decided to change the family name from its German-sounding original, Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, to something more palatable to the British public. This decision highlights the importance of public (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and national identity in the monarchy's evolution over time.

The role of the monarch in the United Kingdom is often seen as a paradox. On paper, the Queen possesses significant powers, including the ability to appoint ministers and dissolve Parliament. However, these powers are largely ceremonial and bound by (3) \_\_\_\_\_ conventions. The Queen's speech at the state opening of Parliament, for example, is written by the government, illustrating how the monarchy's authority is more symbolic than practical in the modern political landscape.

In reality, the Queen's power is (4) \_\_\_\_\_ by political norms and the necessity of parliamentary approval. While she technically has the authority to appoint a Prime Minister, she must choose someone who commands the confidence of the House of Commons. This ensures that the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ operates smoothly and reflects the will of the elected representatives, demonstrating the democratic underpinnings of her role despite the constitutional monarchy's apparent absolutism.

Experts often debate the significance of the monarchy, suggesting several roles it plays within British society. One view is that the monarch serves as a unifying figure, allowing citizens to criticize the government without undermining national pride. Another perspective is that the monarch can act as a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ against governmental overreach by withholding royal assent from harmful legislation. Additionally, the monarch represents the nation in ceremonial capacities, enabling the government to focus on policymaking.

The British monarchy transcends political function; it embodies a cultural and national symbol that resonates with the public. It provides a sense of continuity, stability, and national pride, particularly during tumultuous times. Events such as (7) \_\_\_\_\_ celebrations and ceremonies foster a collective identity and offer an escape from the challenges of everyday life. The monarchy's (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and pageantry play a crucial role in the social fabric of the nation.

In contemporary Britain, the monarchy is not a contentious issue in political (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Most citizens hold a neutral or mildly favorable view of the royal



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family, with only a small percentage identifying strongly as monarchists or republicans. While there has been some decline in enthusiasm for the monarchy in recent decades, it remains a popular institution. The ongoing conversation about the monarchy's relevance and future reflects a broader interest in how it should adapt to the changing (10) \_\_\_\_\_ landscape.

(Adapted from <https://www.bbc.co.uk/history>)

(20 points: 10 x 2p)

### II. Match the two columns:

1. The symbol of the House of York was	a. 1455, marking the start of the Wars of the Roses.
2. The conflict ended in	b. through the right of descent from Edward III.
3. The rivalry was not just political,	c. a white rose, while Lancaster's symbol was a red rose.
4. The conflict between the houses of York and Lancaster began in	d. the Battle of Towton, which was one of the bloodiest.
5. Key figures in the conflict included	e. but also involved significant familial ties and betrayals.
6. The eventual victor, Henry Tudor, claimed the throne as	f. Richard III and Henry VI, each representing their respective houses.
7. The main claim to the throne was disputed	g. 1487 with the rise of the Tudor dynasty after the Battle of Bosworth Field.
8. The war saw significant battles such as	h. intermittent periods of peace and renewed hostilities.
9. The phrase <i>The Wars of the Roses</i> is believed to have been coined	i. Henry VII, uniting the warring factions through marriage.
10. The Wars of the Roses were characterized by	j. in the 19 <sup>th</sup> century, long after the conflicts had ended.

2

(Adapted from <https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/quiz/>)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

(20 points: 10 x 2p)

### III. Match the headings to the extracts. There are THREE extra headings you do not need to use:

A. First Act of Supremacy	C. Henry VIII marries Anne of Cleves	E. Prince Arthur marries Catherine of Aragon	G. The Value of the Monarchy
B. The battle of Bosworth	D. Birth of the future Mary I	F. The Dissolution of the Monasteries	H. Margaret Tudor marries James IV of Scotland



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### The Tudors

1	
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The Tudor age began on a remote field in Leicestershire. The battle of Bosworth pitted the forces of the Yorkist king Richard III against those of his Lancastrian challenger, Henry Tudor. Richard's reign had begun only two years before upon the death of his brother, Edward IV, who appointed him lord protector during the minority of his 12-year-old son and heir, Edward V. But Richard had soon declared Edward and his younger brother illegitimate and claimed the throne for himself – they later became known as the Princes in the Tower. The two boys had disappeared in the Tower of London in the summer of 1483, and had almost certainly been put to death – at whose orders is still hotly debated.

The turbulence that followed presented Henry Tudor, who was waiting in the wings (or rather Brittany), with his chance. Although his claim to the throne was tenuous, he was one of the few surviving Lancastrian descendants and whipped up what support he could for an invasion. His forces were considerably outnumbered by those of the king, but Richard was undone by the treachery of the powerful Stanley brothers, who changed sides halfway through the fighting. He was hacked to death in the heat of the battle. Legend has it that his crown was found under a hawthorn bush and brought to Henry Tudor, who was proclaimed king – Henry VII.

2	
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Henry VII had ambitious marriage plans for his eldest son and heir, Arthur, Prince of Wales. He knew that securing a bride of sufficient stature would not only further legitimise his dynasty, but provide England with a much-needed international ally. The lady upon whom he had set his sights was Catherine of Aragon, daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain. Allying with these powerful Catholic monarchs would greatly strengthen Henry's hand against England's traditional enemy, France, so he pursued negotiations with vigour. The Treaty of Medina del Campo was duly signed on 27 March 1489, pledging Arthur and Catherine (then aged two and three) to be married when they came of age.

3

The Spanish princess eventually arrived in England in October 1501; Catherine and Arthur were married the following month and took up residence at Ludlow Castle in the Welsh Marches.

3	
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The eldest daughter of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York, Margaret was born in 1489. Although it was sons that counted in royal families, daughters were useful for forging alliances; even before her sixth birthday, Henry had made plans for Margaret's marriage. Greatly troubled by the King of Scots' support for Perkin Warbeck, Henry resolved to tempt him into an alliance by offering his eldest daughter in marriage. A truce was concluded in 1497, but it wasn't until January 1502 that the marriage treaty was finally agreed. Some of Henry's councillors were against the match, arguing that it would give the Stuarts a claim to the English throne. But Henry retorted: *I foresee that our realm would suffer no harm, since England would not be absorbed by Scotland, but rather Scotland by England.*





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The marriage was completed by proxy a year later at Richmond Palace and, in August 1503, Margaret arrived in Scotland. The wedding ceremony between the *thistle and the rose* was conducted soon after.

Just as Henry's councillors had predicted, it gave the Scottish rulers a claim to the English throne, although it was one that they would have to wait a while to capitalise upon. A century after the marriage, one of Margaret and James's descendants would take the English throne.

4

Although the early years of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon's marriage were happy and harmonious, a string of stillbirths and miscarriages had started to put a strain on their relationship. The joy that accompanied the birth of a son on New Year's Day 1511 proved short-lived: the little prince died just seven weeks later. The birth of a healthy princess, christened Mary (and later to become Mary I), in February 1516 eased relations between Henry and Catherine. Even though she was not the hoped-for son, she could still be useful in the international marriage market and, more importantly, she was proof that Catherine could bear healthy children.

But Mary would be the only surviving child from the marriage, and Henry became increasingly convinced that he had displeased God by taking his late brother's widow as a bride. For the first few years of her life, though, Mary was a source of delight to her parents. A pretty and precocious child, she entertained a visiting French delegation with a performance on the virginals when she was just four and a half years old. (.....)

5

In November 1534, during one of the most revolutionary parliaments of the Tudor age, the Act of Supremacy was passed. This legislation is often seen as the beginning of the English Reformation, although the foundations had been laid during the previous five years.

It declared Henry VIII to be supreme head of the Church of England and rejected all *foreign authority*.

At a stroke, this ended centuries of papal jurisdiction over the religious life of England. The initial inspiration for this seismic shift had been the king's desire for a divorce from Catherine of Aragon: when the pope refused to grant it, Henry's ministers concluded that the only option was to reject his authority. But the wording of the act made it clear that there were more revolutionary changes to come. It stipulated that Henry and his heirs *shall have full power and authority from time to time to visit, repress, redress, reform, order, correct, restrain, and amend all such errors, heresies, abuses, offences, contempts, and enormities, whatsoever they be*. This gave Cromwell carte blanche to undertake a thoroughgoing reformation of the English church, but its revolutionary tendrils would reach even further than that. By the end of his ascendancy, the entire government of the realm had been overhauled by his reforms.

(Adapted from <https://www.historyextra.com/period/tudor/guide-tudors-history-key-moments-facts-timeline-kings-queens/>)

(20 points: 5 x 4p)



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IV. Write a text based on the picture below (180-200 words). Please remember to give a title to your text.



5

(<https://creator.nightcafe.studio/studio?open=creation&panelContext=%28jobId%3A9hJmv6KRpHvYPmIdHfHq%29>)

(40 points)

**NOTA: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. \*\*\* Total 100p \*\*\* Timp de lucru 90 de minute.**