



CONCURSUL INTERJUDEȚEAN DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA

Ediția a IV-a

ETAPA JUDEȚEANĂ
5 APRILIE 2025

CLASA A IX-A

Varianta 2

I. Fill in the blanks with the following words: *succession, diplomacy, hierarchy, nation, dissolution, colonies, power, uprisings, portraits, monarchy.*

The Tudor period, spanning from 1485 to 1603, was marked by significant changes in English society, politics, and culture. It began with the rise of the Tudor (1) _____ under Henry VII, who established a strong central government. One of the most critical aspects of this era was the shift in religious practices, especially during the reign of Henry VIII, who broke from the Catholic Church to form the Church of England. This led to the (2) _____ of monasteries, redistributing their wealth and lands to loyal supporters.

Under Henry VIII and his children, particularly Mary I and Elizabeth I, the (3) _____ experienced a turbulent intrigue landscape. The courtiers of the court became a place of political maneuvering, where diplomacy engaged in schemes to gain favor and influence. The introduction of Protestant reforms ignited conflicts that resulted in various (4) _____, most notably the Pilgrimage of Grace.

The Tudor monarchy also emphasized patronage, using it to secure peace and foster relationships with other European powers. The reign of Elizabeth I saw the rise of Elizabethan drama and the commissioning of (5) _____ that celebrated royal figures and events, promoting the image of the queen as a powerful ruler.

As trade routes expanded, England began to explore new territories, leading to an increase in exploration and the establishment of overseas (6) _____. The influx from these ventures contributed to the growing wealth of the nobility, allowing them to build grand estates and display their status.

The complex (7) _____ of Tudor society placed the king or queen at the top, followed by the nobility and the gentry. Festivals and public celebrations were common, reinforcing the social order and the monarchy's power over the people. The question of (8) _____ became a pressing issue, particularly after Elizabeth I's rule, as concerns about heirs and the continuation of the Tudor line loomed large.

The legacy of the Tudor period is evident in the arts, literature, and the evolution of trade thought. The period set the stage for future changes in governance and the eventual rise of parliamentary power, which would challenge the absolute (9) _____ of the monarch.

In summary, the Tudor era was a time of profound transformation, marked by rebellion, cultural achievements, and political upheaval that shaped the course of English history for centuries to come. The interplay between (10) _____ and the monarchy would continue to influence the nation's development long after the last Tudor monarch had passed from the scene.



CONCURSUL INTERJUDEȚEAN DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA

Ediția a IV-a

(Adapted from <https://www.britannica.com/event/Tudor-period>)

(20 points: 10 x 2p)

II. Match the two columns:

1. Gulliver seems stupid to the Laputans	a. because the Houyhnhnms decide that it is not right for a Yahoo to live among them.
2. Gulliver is given the opportunity to summon the shades of the dead on the island of	b. by a giant eagle and leaves Brobdingnag.
3. Instead of killing him outright, the Lilliputians decide on	c. poisoning the floor they are required to lick as they approach him.
4. <i>Flappers</i> keep the people of Laputa	d. by capturing the Blefusudian fleet.
5. Gulliver is exiled from the land of the Houyhnhnms	e. after surviving a shipwreck.
6. Gulliver is carried away	f. because he is ignorant of music and mathematics.
7. The Lilliputians offer Gulliver something to drink by	g. Glubbudbrib.
8. Gulliver ends up stranded in Lilliput	h. blinding him and slowly starving him to death.
9. Gulliver earns the title of Nardac in Lilliput	i. engaged in conversations.
10. The king of Luggnagg disposes of his enemies in the court by	j. rolling out barrels of wine.

(Adapted from <https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/gulliver/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. The Brief and Unhappy Marriage	C. Anne's Life After Divorce	E. Anne's Journey to England	G. The Annulment and Anne's Acceptance
B. Henry VIII's First Disappointment	D. The Longest-Surviving Wife of Henry VIII	F. Political Marriage Proposal	H. Anne of Cleves and the English Court

Anne of Cleves

1	
---	--

After the death of Jane Seymour in 1537, Henry VIII's advisors, led by Thomas Cromwell, sought to find the king a new wife who would also serve England's political interests. England was increasingly isolated due to hostility from Catholic nations such as France and Spain. To counter this threat, an alliance with the Protestant German states seemed ideal. The Duchy of Cleves, ruled by Duke William,



CONCURSUL INTERJUDEȚEAN DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA

Ediția a IV-a

was an important Protestant power in Europe, making Anne of Cleves a strong candidate for Henry's fourth wife.

Negotiations progressed quickly, and the marriage agreement was formalized in 1539. This union was meant to strengthen England's position against Catholic opposition, but Henry's enthusiasm for the match was based largely on reports of Anne's beauty – reports that would soon prove misleading. Before agreeing to the marriage, Henry VIII wanted to see what Anne looked like. Since royal marriages were often arranged without the bride and groom meeting beforehand, Henry relied on a portrait. He commissioned the famous court painter, Hans Holbein, to travel to Cleves and paint Anne's likeness. When the portrait was completed and presented to Henry, he was greatly pleased with what he saw. He found Anne's features attractive and approved the match. However, Holbein's painting may have been somewhat flattering, or perhaps Henry had unrealistic expectations. When Henry finally met Anne in person, he was deeply disappointed.

2	
---	--

Anne of Cleves embarked on her journey to England in December 1539. Her voyage across the English Channel was challenging, but she eventually landed safely. As she traveled towards London, Henry grew impatient and decided to surprise her with an unannounced visit at Rochester in early January 1540.

Henry, following a tradition of courtly romance, disguised himself and expected Anne to recognize his kingly presence and react with joy. Unfortunately, Anne, unfamiliar with such customs, did not respond as Henry had hoped. Her lack of enthusiasm and confusion deeply offended Henry. His disappointment only grew, and he immediately began expressing regret over the match.

3	
---	--

Despite Henry's misgivings, the wedding took place on 6 January 1540 at Greenwich Palace. Henry was reluctant, but the political consequences of breaking off the engagement so late were too great. The marriage was never consummated, as Henry later claimed he found Anne physically unattractive and that he could not be *stirred* to perform his marital duties.

Henry quickly sought a way to dissolve the marriage. He even blamed his advisors, particularly Cromwell, for arranging the match. The king's dissatisfaction with Anne contributed to Cromwell's downfall, and he was executed just months later.

4	
---	--

By July 1540, just six months after their wedding, Henry had decided to end the marriage. He claimed the union was invalid due to non-consummation and a pre-existing contract Anne had with another noble. Anne, recognizing that her position was precarious, wisely agreed to the annulment without protest. Henry was pleased with her compliance and rewarded her generously. She was given property, a substantial income, and the honorary title of the *King's Beloved Sister*. Unlike Henry's other wives who met tragic fates, Anne was able to maintain a secure and peaceful life in England.

5	
---	--

Anne adjusted well to her new life after the annulment. She remained in England, enjoying financial security and a respected position at court. She developed a good relationship with Henry's children, particularly Mary and Elizabeth. Unlike Henry's other former wives, she was frequently invited to court events and maintained a friendship with Henry himself.



CONCURSUL INTERJUDEȚEAN DE CULTURĂ & CIVILIZAȚIE BRITANICĂ QUEEN VICTORIA

Ediția a IV-a

Although Anne never remarried, she lived a relatively comfortable life. However, her status declined slightly after Henry's death in 1547, as the new political landscape shifted. Despite this, she was still regarded with respect and maintained her position until her death. Of all Henry VIII's wives, Anne of Cleves was the one who outlived him by the longest. She remained in England for the rest of her life, dying in 1557 at the age of 41. She was given the honor of being buried in Westminster Abbey, making her the only one of Henry's wives to be interred there. Though her time as queen was short-lived, Anne managed to avoid the tragic fates of some of Henry's other wives. Her decision to accept the annulment without conflict ensured her safety and a comfortable life, securing her legacy as one of Henry's most fortunate consorts.

(Adapted from <https://www.historyextra.com/period/tudor/anne-of-cleves-henry-viii-successful-queen-fourth-wife-tracy-borman/>)

(20 points: 5 x 4p)

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



<https://creator.nightcafe.studio/studio?open=creation&panelContext=%28jobId%3A91qa1sUud3v31O49cMYc%29>

(40 points)

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