## Scheme of work

**Restoration England, 1660-1685**

We have worked with subject experts to review our existing resources and made some changes. These changes will support you in delivering our current specifications in a way that maximises opportunities for breadth, diversity and inclusivity in the curriculum as well as improve the accessibility of our resources.

In this scheme of work (SOW) we have:

* removed tables so that it is easier to use with assistive technology
* tried to keep to a specification point per page to make it easier to navigate and more convenient to use
* made the contents page into clickable links.

Introduction

This SOW offers a route through the Restoration England 1660-1685 depth study topic from the AQA GCSE in History.

It covers the specification in a logical order and suggests possible teaching and learning activities for each section of the specification.

The specification references are shown at the start of each section, whilst the learning outcomes indicate what most students should be able to achieve after the work is completed.

Timings have been suggested but are approximate. Teachers should select activities appropriate to their students and the curriculum time available.

The order is by no means prescriptive and there are many alternative ways in which the content could be organised.

The resources indicate those resources commonly available to schools, and other references that may be helpful. Resources are only given in brief and risk assessments should be carried out.

This SOW enables students to understand how England changed during the reign of King Charles II from an economic, religious, political, social and cultural standpoint. It also includes details of how the specified site for the historic environment in 2025 can be incorporated into your teaching of this unit. The specified site for 2025 is The Royal Observatory, Greenwich.

Assumed coverage

This teaching and learning plan is intended for 30 classroom lessons, each of one hour. It does not include homework learning time, but it covers three revision and assessment lessons.

**Assessment**

Assessment points in the learning activity column indicate possible assessment opportunities. These could be short tests of about ten minutes (exam-style questions, short factual tests, source evaluation) or longer assessments (exam-style questions).

Resources

Research exercises assume students have access to a textbook(s) and/or internet. You can supplement textbook(s) by other sources.

Please note that when accessing clips from the Education Recording Agency (ERA)a licence from them is required in order to view this clip for educational purposes. To check your school’s status, contact ERA era@era.org.uk.

When considering primary and secondary evidence, it’s worth remembering that the assessment covers students’ ability to analyse and evaluate an interpretation (AO4); however, as part of your teaching may wish to look at contemporary sources (AO3) as well.

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Part one: Crown, Parliament, plots and court life

Lesson 1: Crown and Parliament

Specification content

* The legacy of the English Civil War and Commonwealth.
* The restoration of the Monarchy.

Learning outcomes

* Students will learn the background of the Restoration of the monarchy including an overview of England under Cromwell and Charles’ life as an exile.
* Students should be able to explain what England was like in 1660 and suggest how Charles’ experiences may have affected his rule.

Possible teaching and learning activities

* In pairs, students can create a large poster on sugar paper on either Charles in exile or England under Cromwell (half the class will do one, the other half will do the other task):
	+ The group looking at Cromwell’s England need to focus on who was in charge and what life was like for ordinary people.
	+ Those looking at Charles’s exile should cover the story of his escape and his experiences abroad.
* Pairs share their findings with a group that looked at the other topic **or** complete a worksheet on the background to Restoration.
* Group/class discussion on the following questions:
	+ What challenges will need to be dealt with by the returning king?
	+ What effect do you think Charles’ experiences might have on the sort of king he was?
* Analysis of image of Charles arriving back in England. Discussion: How are people reacting? Why?
* Students should create a spider diagram of the problems Charles faced when he became king. Focus should be on the idea of a divided country – religiously and politically. Students should rank problems in order of importance.
* How successfully did Charles deal with these problems? Students should discuss how well Charles dealt with each challenge, particularly through the regicides and the Declaration of Breda.

**Resources**

* Textbook.
* Collection of films explaining the background to the Restoration. [Part 1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srzpGVzlvaU): Charles II, Dunbar, Scottish Covenanters – 7.58 minute video. [Part 2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ys05C4unR74): Charles leads Scottish Covenanter army vs Cromwell at Worcester and then exile – 7.58 minute video.
* Worksheet on legacy of Civil War/background to Restoration.
* [Part 3](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CndjKuRKEc) could be shown to finish or revise in Lesson 8 – 7.12 minute video.
* [Cromwell and the Commonwealth.](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zk4cwmn/articles/zg6ccmn)
* Life under [Puritan rule](https://www.lookandlearn.com/blog/5254/oliver-cromwell-life-under-puritan-rule/).
* [Cromwell and the Restoration](https://www.britainexpress.com/History/Cromwell_and_Restoration.htm).
* [Accounts of Charles’ escape](http://www.glaucus.org.uk/Royal_Escape.htm) from England.
* Document reference: the [Declaration of Breda](http://stuarts-online.com/resources/texts/charles-ii-the-declaration-of-breda-1660/).
* The return of Charles to England.
* [Overview of Charles II’s reign.](https://spartacus-educational.com/STUcharles2.htm)
* Images of Charles’ return: [The restoration of King Charles II](https://www.lookandlearn.com/history-images/B332863/The-restoration-of-King-Charles-II?img=6&search=restoration) and [‘Happy Days in Merrie England’.](https://www.lookandlearn.com/history-images/B001254/High-Days-and-Holidays-Happy-Days-in-Merrie-England?t=0&q=restoration&n=21)
* Historian’s written assessment of how well Charles did immediately after his restoration.
* Historical information in ‘Rulers & Ruled’ on [Civil War and Cromwell](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqi0Wd68Mio) – 8.31 video.
* [Historical judgement on Cromwell](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MlV7XVNH2Vw) – 4.21 video.
* [Horrible Histories’ account of Cromwell](https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0654z06/horrible-histories-series-6-12-orrible-oliver-cromwell-special) – 24 minute video.

Lesson 2: Relations and issues with Parliament (part one)

Specification content

Relations and issues with Parliament.

Learning outcomes

* Students will learn about the role and power of the Cavalier Parliament and the rise and fall of Clarendon. The key focus should be the relationship between Charles and Parliament particular in relation to the three key issues of money, foreign policy and religion (including the Clarendon Code and the Second Anglo-Dutch War).
* Students should be able to assess the state of the relationship at the end of the Clarendon Ministry and explain what his fall from power can tell us about this relationship.

Possible teaching and learning activities

* Starter activity on the King and Parliament. Review with students the role of Parliament and the tense relationship after the Civil War. Students draw a brief diagram to remind them of who Parliament/the King were. Students come up with ways to judge, or a criteria for, how good the relationship was between the King (and his ministers) and Parliament.
* Create a short timeline to show the key events of the Clarendon Ministry – its rise, the Clarendon Code, the Second Anglo-Dutch War and the Raid on the Medway.
* Students should record the key points of the Clarendon Code.

**Enquiry question:** Was the Clarendon Ministry a success?

* Students can write a ‘school’ style report on the state of the relationship between Parliament and the King during the Clarendon Ministry.
* Money, religion and foreign policy represent the three school subjects. More able students can write an overview linking the three areas (in the style of a tutor report). This can be adapted to suit how reports are issued in each school.

Resources

* General information about the [history and workings of Parliament.](https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/evolutionofparliament/parliamentaryauthority/)
* Textbook.
* Key dates in Parliament.
* [Biography of Clarendon.](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Edward-Hyde-1st-Earl-of-Clarendon)

Lesson 3: Charles and his Parliament

Specification content

* Charles and his relations and issues with Parliament.
* The Cabal and ‘Party Politics’.

Learning outcomes

* Students will learn how the Cabal Ministry functioned and how it differed from what had gone before. Students should be able to assess what the period of the Cabal can tell us about the Charles’s relationship with Parliament. Once again, the focus should be on money, religion and foreign policy, and how the actions of Parliament contributed to the downfall of the Cabal.
* Note the Duke of Lauderdale (who resided at Whitehall and Ham House) as clearly one of the Cabal. (See AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2019 for Ham House).

Possible teaching and learning activities

Enquiry question: Why was 1672 a turning point in the relations between Parliament and King?

* Students can create a brief timeline that shows the key events of rise and fall of the Cabal.
* Students can create a visual reminder of what Cabal stands for.
* Party making exercise: each student is given two beliefs of one of the political parties (Country and Court), eg ‘freedom of religion for Protestants’ and ‘disliked the Cabal’. Their job is to find others who agree with them or hold similar views (they might have one or two of the same beliefs on their cards). Students will eventually find themselves in two distinct groups and can then be told that they have formed two political parties.
* Students can assess the King’s relationship with Parliament during this time by creating a Venn diagram with money, religion and foreign policy for the period of the Cabal Ministry. They can then write a brief assessment of the state of the relationship by the time of the Cabal’s fall.

Resources

* Textbook.
* [Painting of the Cabal](http://www.polyolbion.org.uk/Hanwell/Thomas/Cabal.jpg) by Sir John Baptist de Medina (1659-1710).
* [Whigs and Tories.](https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/evolutionofparliament/parliamentaryauthority/revolution/overview/whigstories/)
* Briefing cards for political party-making exercise.
* For Lauderdale, see AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2019 for Ham House: Background Information, Resources C–L.

Lesson 4: Relations and issues with Parliament (part two)

Specification content

Relations and issues with Parliament.

Learning outcomes

Students will learn the rise and fall of the Danby Ministry, the end of the Cavalier Parliament and the rise of party politics (including the key figure of Lord Shaftesbury). Students get an overview of the three short-lived parliaments which followed the end of the Cavalier Parliament (Habeas Corpus, Exclusion and Oxford Parliaments). The focus should be on the Charles’ relationship with Parliament in relation to money, foreign policy and religion and how the three played a role in the deterioration of the relationship.

Possible teaching and learning activities

* Students can create a profile of Lord Shaftesbury.
* Students can create a brief timeline of the Danby Ministry.
* They’ll need to assess the state of the relationship between King and Parliament during this time in relation to money, religion and foreign policy.

**Enquiry question:** Why did Charles fall out with Parliament?

* Students can create a comic strip to show the short-lived Parliaments that followed the end of the Cavalier Parliament. They must show why Charles kept dismissing Parliament and include the names given to these sessions.

Resources

* Textbook.
* [Biography](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Anthony-Ashley-Cooper-1st-earl-of-Shaftesbury) of Lord Shaftesbury.
* [Biography of Lord Danby](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Thomas-Osborne-1st-duke-of-Leeds).

Lesson 5: Relations and issues with Parliament (part three)

Specification content

* Relations and issues with Parliament.
* Rule without parliament from 1681.

Learning outcomes

Students should take a wider view of Charles’s relationship with Parliament through his reign and consider how money, religion and power dominated how they worked together. Students should have an appreciation of how the relationship changed, and the consequences of that change, and come to a judgment about Parliament and the King’s relative power.

Possible teaching and learning activities

* Recap the story of Charles and his Parliament through a card sorting activity that includes the ministries, Parliament and key events (including laws) in three columns.
* Working in small groups, students can create a large Venn diagram and organise the key moments in the relationship between Parliament and King into the three areas of money, religion and foreign policy.
* Which caused the most problems?
* Students could create a living graph of the relationship between Charles and his Parliament and look for when it changed. The teacher will need to draw out explanations through questioning, for example; ‘Why didn’t relations between Charles and Parliament get better under Danby?’

Resources

* Textbook.
* Card sort exercise resources.
* [Key dates in Parliament](https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/evolutionofparliament/parliamentaryauthority/revolution/keydates/keydates1660-88/).

Lesson 6: The Catholic question

Specification content

* Plots.
* Titus Oates and the Popish Plot.

Learning outcomes

Students will gain an understanding of the context of religious division in England and its causes, and then explore the events of the Popish Plot. They should have a knowledge and understanding of the key figures (eg Titus Oates), developments and, crucially, its consequences.

Possible teaching and learning activities

Enquiry question: What was the Popish Plot?

* Students should complete a worksheet about the background of religious division in England.
* Students are provided with the initial accusations of the Popish Plot and then can come up with questions about the witness. What do they need to know? Do they trust him? Etc.
* Working in groups of four, students create the script for a news programme that tells the story of the Popish Plot. They could include some ‘breaking news’: for example, the murder of Godfrey. How did this event change things?
* Students could also have an expert interview where they suggest what the consequences of the Popish Plot could be.
* Class discussion: Why were people so ready to believe the Popish Plot?

Resources

* Textbook.
* Religious division work sheet.
* The story of the Popish Plot.
* [Playing cards](https://www.lookandlearn.com/history-images/search.php?search=popish+plot&x=36&y=5) that tell the story of the Popish Plot.

Lesson 7: James, Duke of York

Specification content

* James, Duke of York.
* The Exclusion Bill, 1679.
* The succession issue.

Learning outcomes

Students will learn about the background to the Exclusion Crisis, focusing on the Duke of York and anti-Catholic feeling in England, before learning about the attempts of Shaftesbury and others in Parliament to prevent James from becoming King through the Exclusion Bills and other actions.

Possible teaching and learning activities

Enquiry question: Why was the ‘Exclusion Crisis’ a crisis?

* Students should create a profile of James, Duke of York. They should include his experiences in exile and compare them to his brother’s. Why were some people opposed to him becoming King?
* Students can create a storyboard of the key developments of the Exclusion Crisis.
* Class discussion: Could the Exclusion Crisis have led to another Civil War?

Resources

* Textbook.
* [Biography of James II.](https://www.britannica.com/biography/James-II-king-of-England-Scotland-and-Ireland)
* [James II's wedding suit](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p05r3vqq) – 2 minute video.
* [The Exclusion Crisis](http://stuarts.exeter.ac.uk/education/moments/exclusion-crisis/) – this website includes primary sources as well as information.

Lesson 8: The Rye House Plot

Specification content

The Rye House Plot.

Learning outcomes

Students will learn the context and events of the Rye House Plot. The focus should be on the consequences of the Plot, particularly in relation to the Charles’s rule and James’s accession.

Possible teaching and learning activities

**Enquiry question:** What was the Rye House Plot?

* Starter question: Why didn’t some people trust King Charles II? Students come up with as many reasons as they can. Questioning can draw out political issues and concerns over his religious beliefs.
* Working in groups of four, students are given a scene to recreate as a freeze frame from the Rye House Plot. Each group should be given a different scene to allow them to be performed, in order giving the class the whole story.
* Students could write a newspaper articleon the Rye House Plot. They need to explain what the consequences of the Plot were.

Resources

* [The story of the Plot.](https://www.thereformation.info/rye_house_plot/)
* [An official account](https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/exhibitions/authorship/cabinet9-3.html)  produced at the beginning of James II’s reign.
* [Newspaper templates.](https://makemynewspaper.com/templates/free)
* [Biography one of James Scott, Duke of Monmouth.](https://www.britannica.com/biography/James-Scott-duke-of-Monmouth)
* [Biography two of James Scott, Duke of Monmouth.](http://stuarts.exeter.ac.uk/education/biographies/james-scott-duke-of-monmouth/)
* Though some knowledge of the Anglo-Dutch wars is useful, [Charles II’s religious belief and character](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CndjKuRKEc) is the thread of this final Part 3 clip – 7.12 minute video
* Textbook.

Lesson 9: Charles II’s court

Specification content

Charles II’s character.

Learning outcomes

Students should explore the character of Charles II and the way he operated within his court. The key question is whether his reputation as the ‘merry monarch’ is accurate or whether it was a carefully crafted public image.

Possible teaching and learning activities

**Enquiry question:** Was Charles the ‘merry monarch’?

* Show image or video clip suggesting that Charles was a ‘merry monarch’, ie he liked to have parties and enjoy himself. Discuss whether what they’ve already learned about Charles supports or challenges this view.
* Create a market place activity on Charles. Groups look at the following areas:
	+ marriage
	+ mistresses and illegitimate children
	+ sports, arts and science (see AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2025 for the Royal Observatory).
	+ parties
	+ access to the King.
* One member of the group remains behind as the teacher, while others go and gather information.
* All students end up with a rounded knowledge of Charles in a spider diagram or other form.
* Teachers may direct students to consider how far was the ‘merry monarch’ a carefully created public image?

Resources

* Background films clips from Lesson 1 provide reference to his character and behaviour.
* Interpretations of Charles II and his court.
* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2025 for the Royal Observatory.
* [Horrible Histories rap interpretation of the ‘Merrie monarch’](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FA5abHKvUBQ) provides a fun opening to a lesson on Charles II’s character – 1.59 minute video.
* Account of [Charles II’s mistresses](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2125878/Racy-exhibition-reveals-court-Charles-II-Tudors-look-like-amateurs.html).
* [Portrait of Charles II](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p05r3x0c) – 1 minute video.

Lesson 10: Court life, fashions and the role of court

Specification content

Court life, fashions and the role of court.

Learning outcomes

Students gain an overview of how Charles’s court worked including who had power and how they gained it. Comparisons should be made with the court of King Louis and the importance of access to the King through his advisors and associates.

Possible teaching and learning activities

Enquiry question: Why was Charles II’s court important?

* Starter question: How powerful was Charles II? Draw out through questioning previous learning on Parliament and ministries.
* Students could write an essay. After discussion about the structure of the extended writing, students make notes from the textbook about the structure of the court to go with the learning from the previous lesson. The essay should explain how Charles’s court worked. They need to include the key terms and jobs like Privy Council, Lord Treasurer, Lord Chancellor and the Exchequer.
* Students may also consider the question: How similar was Charles’s court to the court of King Louis XIV?

Resources

* Textbook.
* The reign and court of [Louis XIV](http://www.louis-xiv.de/index.php?id=31) – for comparison.
* Writing frame for Charles’s court essay.
* Some background information in AQA Historic Environment Pack 2019 for Ham House: Resources K and L.
* [Reference to Charles and fashion at court as well as detail on innovation and projecting a royal image.](https://journals.openedition.org/apparences/1320)

Lesson 11: Review and assess Part one

Specification content

Part One: Crown, Parliament, plots and court life.

Learning outcomes

Assess students’ understanding of Part one and to develop their exam techniques.

Possible teaching and learning activities

Students complete exam-style questions on Part one.

Part two: Life in Restoration England

Lesson 12: Crisis

Specification content

* The Plague of 1665.
* Causes and contemporary views.
* Measures to combat.
* Records.
* Results.

Learning outcomes

Students should learn what the plague was and its history in England. They need to understand the symptoms and the consequences of an outbreak. Students need to understand the cause of the plague but also contemporary explanations.

Possible teaching and learning activities

**Enquiry question:** What was the Great Plague?

* Start by showing a section of a Bill of Mortality. Discuss the causes of death listed and what this source could tell us about the year 1665.
* Show cartoon images or video clip to introduce plague and its symptoms.
* Students could create a brief guide to the plague for a patient. They should include what to expect as the disease spreads (the symptoms) and an overview of the possible causes.

Resources

* Textbook.
* A public record of the [Bill of Mortality](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bills_of_mortality#/media/File:Bill_of_Mortality.jpg).
* Research on [epidemics](https://www.history.ac.uk/ihr/Focus/Medical/epichamp.html).
* [A comparison of plague in Florence and London.](https://www.history.ac.uk/cmh/arpt88.html)
* The [Plague](https://virtualexhibitions.museumoflondon.org.uk/disease-x/) – information and [sources](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/great-plague/).
* Some useful images exist showing [contemporary views](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/1/1e/Great_plague_of_london-1665.jpg/220px-Great_plague_of_london-1665.jpg), and [re-creative images](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/9/9a/20_The_Great_Plague.JPG/640px-20_The_Great_Plague.JPG).
* Full text of [Defoe’s ‘Journal of the Plague Year’](http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/376?msg=welcome_stranger).

Lesson 13: The Plague

Specification content

* The Plague.
* Causes and contemporary views.
* Measures to combat.
* Records.
* Results.

Learning outcomes

Students will learn why the plague spread so quickly in London. They need to be able to explain how the layout and conditions in the city contributed to the spread. Students learn how the authorities attempted to halt the spread, and make judgments about how effective these actions were. Students should also consider how Charles and his court reacted.

Possible teaching and learning activities

* Students can answer a ‘how useful...’ type question about a source or interpretation (Defoe’s Journal of the Plague year or similar) to recap the plague and how it was explained.
* Students could create a table. One column features the ways in which the plague was fought and the second column assesses the success of this action.
* Students could write a summary of the aftermath/consequences of the plague.
* Class discussion: How successfully was the plague dealt with?

Resources

* Textbook.
* The [Plague](https://virtualexhibitions.museumoflondon.org.uk/disease-x/) – information and [sources](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/great-plague/).

Lesson 14: The Great Fire of London of 1666 (part one)

Specification content

* The Great Fire of London of 1666.
* Causes and contemporary views.
* Results.

Learning outcomes

* Students should learn the story of the Great Fire including its outbreak, spread and how it was finally halted. The focus should be on the event; how the fire was able to spread so quickly and what methods were used to try and stop the spread. Students also learn about the devastation the fire left in parts of London.
* Students should learn about the London that did emerge and other long term consequences including economic results (taxation), foreign policy, insurance and the fire brigade.

Possible teaching and learning activities

Enquiry question: What can the Great Fire of London tell us about Restoration England?

* Starter activity: show students an image of London before the fire (crowded, wooden buildings etc). Give them five minutes to suggest possible problems and solutions if redesigning London.
* Card sort activity to place the story of the Great Fire in the correct order.
* Students could create a newspaper article from during, or just after, the fire. They’ll need to include:
	+ what happened?
	+ what damage has been done?
	+ how people have tried to fight it?
	+ some different opinions about who was to blame
	+ the reaction of the authorities
	+ an image to show the destruction.
* Samuel Pepys’ diary can be used as an eyewitness account.

Resources

* Textbook.
* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2021 for the St Paul’s Cathedral.
* BBC resources on [The Great Fire of London.](https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/history-ks2-the-great-fire-of-london/z4bft39)
* Sorting cards telling the story of the Great Fire.
* [The Great Fire game](https://www.fireoflondon.org.uk/game/) on the Museum of London site deals simply with the event and a [straightforward account](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/museum/history-and-stories/the-great-fire-of-london/) is provided by the London Fire Brigade.
* [Pepys’ diary](https://www.pepysdiary.com/diary/) from the day of the fire is valuable.
* Textbook.
* Worksheet on the longer-term consequences of the fire.

Lesson 15: The Great Fire of London of 1666 (part two)

Specification content

* The Great Fire of London of 1666.
* Results.
* Reconstruction.

Learning outcomes

Students should learn about the plans for a new London after the fire and understand why they did not become a reality. Students learn about the London that did emerge and other long term consequences including, economic results (taxation), foreign policy, insurance and the fire brigade.

Possible teaching and learning activities

* Starter activity: show students an image of London before the fire (crowded, wooden buildings, etc) and give them 5-10 minutes to suggest designs a new London. Compare their ideas to those suggested at the time.
* Students could create a profile of Christopher Wren.
* Students could create a spider diagram of the longer-term consequences of the fire.

Resources

* Christopher Wren’s [design for London.](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/95/1744_Wren_Map_of_London%2C_England_-_Geographicus_-_London-wren-1744.jpg)
* Useful introductory summary of the story of the building of [St Paul’s Cathedral](https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/renaissance-reformation/britain-18c/britain-ageof-revolution/v/wren-saint-pauls-cathedral) – 9.07 minute video
* [Rebuilding St Paul’s Cathedral 1: After the Fire](https://www.thehistoryoflondon.co.uk/the-rebuilding-of-st-pauls-cathedral-after-the-great-fire-of-london/).
* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2021 for the St. Paul’s Cathedral.
* Textbook.
* [Christopher Wren](https://www.rmg.co.uk/stories/topics/christopher-wren).

Lesson 16: Restoration culture

Specification content

* Restoration comedy, theatres and playwrights.
* The role and status of women.

Learning outcomes

* Students will learn how the theatre returned with Charles’s coronation. The focus should be on what was new in the Restoration theatre. They will gain knowledge of how the two patent theatre groups, the King’s Company and the Duke’s Company, functioned. Students learn the key feature of Restoration theatre and explore some of the key figures including actors and playwrights of the period.
* Students will explore the nature, style and purpose of Restoration comedies. Students will learn the key features of Restoration comedies and explore how they were used to satirise politicians and events.
* Note: Censorship and control of the press.
* Students may then consolidate their understanding by choosing to write and present a talk about the Restoration theatre.

Possible teaching and learning activities

**Enquiry question:** What was new about the Restoration theatre?

* Students can use the textbook to cover the following aspects of Restoration theatre:
	+ how and why theatre returned
	+ the key figures and companies
	+ the changing role of women in theatre
	+ the fashions and culture that grew amongst theatre audiences
	+ Restoration comedies.
* Discussion around the lesson question: what was new about the Restoration theatre?
* Students should explore the features of Restoration comedies. Ideally they’ll be able to look at some examples from the school library. These could be read individually or sections could be read as a class.

**Resources**

* Textbook.
* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2021 for the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.
* [Restoration Theatre](https://novaonline.nvcc.edu/eli/spd130et/restor.htm).
* [Restoration Drama.](http://www.theatrehistory.com/british/restoration_drama_001.html)
* Images of [audience and theatre](https://www.lookandlearn.com/history-images/B332805/Audience-watching-The-Country-Wife-by-William-Wycherley?t=0&q=restoration&n=2).
* [Women and the Restoration theatre](http://www.lit-arts.net/Behn/theater.htm).
* [Prologue form the first play since the reopening of theaters in 1660.](http://stuarts-online.com/resources/texts/john-denham-the-prologue-to-his-majesty-at-the-first-play-presented-at-the-cock-pit-in-whitehall-1660/)
* [Licensing of the Press Act 1662.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Licensing_of_the_Press_Act_1662)

Lesson 17: The role and status of women and coffee houses

Specification content

* The role and status of women.
* Coffee houses.

Learning outcomes

* Students will understand the many ways in which the coffee house in the Restoration England became an important place for social, economic and political activity.
* It’s important that students understand that there were threats or challenges to the popularity of the coffee houses.
* There are opportunities in Lessons 25–26 to remind students about the economic aspects of the coffee houses. However, ensure that the economic aspects of the coffee houses are included in the ‘usage diagram’ that they construct.
* Students should consider the political aspects of the coffee house:
	+ Why was the King anxious about the coffee houses?
	+ What actions did he take and the dilemma he faced?

Possible teaching and learning activities

Enquiry question: What were the coffee houses of Restoration England used for?

 Give pairs of students short passages from the 2023 Resource Pack Background Information, and Resources H, I and K to determine the uses coffee houses. Students may construct a diagram to collate all of the different uses. In a different colour or font students should consider the threats and challenges posed to the popularity of the coffee houses, and the reasons for their eventual decline. Some of the problems faced by the coffee house keepers might come from the government, innkeepers or the upper classes.

Resources

* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2023 for the Coffee Houses of London: Background Information.
* Textbook.
* An excellent [introduction to the coffee house](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_83A7vaHTiE) topic or revision – 16 minute video.
* A more broadly-based useful [history of coffee and tea](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2qDLGFop4A) in a social context – 15.42 minute video.
* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2023 for the Coffee Houses of London: Background Information, Resources I-L.

Lesson 18: The arts and the sciences

Specification content

The arts and the sciences.

Learning outcomes

* Students will learn about some of the major developments of the Restoration in the arts and the sciences including the work of the Royal Society and its members.
* Students can identify some key figures of the Restoration in sciences, including men like Hooke and Boyle.

Possible teaching and learning activities

Enquiry question: In what ways was the Restoration a time of scientific and artistic progress?

* Students work in groups to create social media profiles for key figures in the arts and the sciences during the Restoration including Hooke, Boyle, Pepys, Wren, Newton, Milton, etc.
* Class discussion to conclude about the enquiry question. The teacher will collate conclusions about the proposition.

Resources

* Textbook.
* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2025 for the Royal Observatory.
* [Robert Hooke.](http://www.roberthooke.org.uk/)
* [Isaac Newton.](https://www.bbc.com/timelines/zwwgcdm)
* [Robert Boyle.](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/boyle/)
* [Pepys’ diary](https://www.pepysdiary.com/diary/) and information.
* [John Milton](https://www.britannica.com/biography/John-Milton).
* [Christopher Wren](https://www.rmg.co.uk/discover/explore/christopher-wren).
* [An assessment of Wren’s work](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hN0W_Xv15x4) – 51.34 minute video.
* [History of The Royal Society.](https://royalsociety.org/about-us/history/)
* ‘[Fakebook](https://www.classtools.net/FB/home-page)’ – social media profile template.

**Lesson 19: The Royal Observatory, Greenwich**

Specification content

Historic Environment.

Learning outcomes

This lesson will develop your students’ knowledge and understanding of the actual building, which is the Royal Observatory, and how evidence can be used to further that understanding.

This lesson will focus on the typical and distinctive features of Restoration buildings and relate these to the Royal Observatory.

Possible teaching and learning activities

**Enquiry question:** What can the sources on the Royal Observatory tell us about the site and people at the time?

* Students look at a range of resources relating to the Royal Observatory and document what they tell us about the building.
* Students will investigate: 'What was distinctive about the Royal Observatory?
* Students will compose their own large-scale collection of researched images onto a plan of the Royal Observatory.
* Students record comments on the characteristics of the Royal Observatory architecture and investigate ways in which it was distinctive, for example, the design, windows, gardens, room layout and floorplan.

Resources

AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2025 for the Royal Observatory.

Lesson 20: Why is the Royal Observatory in Greenwich?

Specification content

Historic Environment.

Learning outcomes

* Students should consider the enquiry question: Why is the Royal Observatory at Greenwich?
* They should learn about the location and background of the Royal Observatory. Why was it located at Greenwich? Why there was a need for a Royal Observatory?

Possible teaching and learning activities

* Students will examine all or parts of text from the Resource Pack on the Royal Observatory from the AQA pack.
* Students should complete a worksheet on text from the Resource Pack.
* Consider each image from the Resource Pack and record what it can tell us about the Royal Observatory.

Resources

* Textbook.
* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2025 for the Royal Observatory.
* Internet research.
* [History of the Royal Observatory resource one.](http://www.rmg.co.uk/royal-observatory/history)
* [History of the Royal Observatory resource two.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Observatory%2C_Greenwich)
* [History of the Royal Observatory resource three.](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20060214205020/nmm.ac.uk/server/show/nav.3191)
* AQA Resource Pack on Royal Observatory.
* Worksheet on text from Resource Pack for Royal Observatory.

Lesson 21: What is important about the Royal Observatory?

Specification content

Historic Environment.

Learning outcomes

Students will evaluate the importance of the Royal Observatory in the context of the advances made in the arts and sciences studied in Lesson 18.

Possible teaching and learning activities

* Students will use resources from the Resource Pack to help them annotate images relating to trade, navigation warfare, science etc.
* Students will investigate: Why was the Royal Observatory important to Restoration England?
* Students could complete a spray diagram identifying the motives for and consequences of the Royal Observatory’s work.

Resources

* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2025 for the Royal Observatory.
* A3 base diagram.
* Internet research.
* [History of the Royal Observatory resource one.](http://www.rmg.co.uk/royal-observatory/history)
* [History of the Royal Observatory resource two.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Observatory%2C_Greenwich)
* [History of the Royal Observatory resource three.](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20060214205020/nmm.ac.uk/server/show/nav.3191)

Lesson 22: Review and assess Part two: Life in Restoration England

Specification content

Part two: Life in Restoration England.

Learning outcomes

Assess students’ understanding of Part two and develop their exam techniques.

Possible teaching and learning activities

Students complete exam-style questions on Part two.

Part three: Land, trade and war

Lessons 23 and 24: Land

Specification content

* The powers of the East India Company.
* Bombay.
* Hudson Bay.
* Tangier.
* Captain Henry Morgan and Jamaica.

Learning outcomes

* Students will learn about the establishment of the East India Company. They should learn about the reasons for its creation and its motivations and actions in India and the Pacific.
* Students should focus on:
	+ The colonisation of Bombay and its early growth. The emphasis is on the financial reasons for colonisation.
	+ How and why areas of North America were colonised by the British. The focus should be on economic gain but students will also explore the reason for the establishment of Pennsylvania by the Quakers.
	+ The colonisation of parts of the Caribbean by the British. They learn about Captain Henry Morgan and the changing nature of colonisation (from piracy to business).
* Remind students of the importance of coffee houses in London as a vital part of the commercial infrastructure in England.

Possible teaching and learning activities

Divide students into small groups to produce a briefing sheet to be shared amongst the other students so that they may understand the enquiry question.

**Enquiry question**: Why were the colonies important to Restoration Britain?

* Students should locate India and Bombay on a map and consider in pairs why these were considered good places for trading posts and colonies. Students could write a brief account of the founding of British trade at Bombay (in which they mention Charles’s other wedding gift: Tangier).
* Students should locate North America on the map (colour-coded map to show which countries controlled which areas) and in pairs come up with reasons for establishing colonies there. Students could write a brief account of the Quaker settlement of Pennsylvania and explain how this was different to other colonies.
* Students can label a map of the Caribbean showing which countries controlled which colonies and spend time researching and noting why the Caribbean was important to the British. Students could write a brief account of the British colonies in the Caribbean concentrating on Jamaica (and mentioning the life of Captain Henry Morgan). Students may notice the Buccaneers, the sugar industry, the Jamaican elite, taxation, plantation owners and enslaved workers, maroons, ‘Slave Codes’ and ‘The Lords of Trade and Plantation’.

**Resources**

* Textbook.
* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2025 for the Royal Observatory.
* An [introduction](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07rygxp) to the East India company – 11 minute video.
* An academic discussion about [marriage in the 17th century](https://vimeo.com/159037638) – 12.38 minute video.
* Colonisation of Lords of Trade [North America](http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/colonial/).
* [Map of North America](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/b/b0/Nouvelle-France_map-en.svg/2000px-Nouvelle-France_map-en.svg.png) showing European areas of influence.
* Information about the colony of [Pennsylvania](https://www.landofthebrave.info/pennsylvania-colony.htm).
* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2023 for the Coffee Houses of London: Background information, Resources H, J and K.
* A ‘unique’ reconstruction by Pathé news of [the origins of Lloyd’s of London](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7gt8WCS3hN8) – 3.10 minute video.
* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2024 for Jamaica.
* Textbook.
* [Proclamation](http://gallery.lib.umn.edu/exhibits/show/proclamations-on-trade-and-com/item/2019) of Charles II to Jamaica.
* [Caribbean colonisation](http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?groupid=235).
* [Captain Henry Morgan](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Henry-Morgan-Welsh-buccaneer) and [Jamaica](http://www.thewayofthepirates.com/famous-buccaneers/henry-morgan/).

Lesson 25: Mercantilism

Specification content

* Mercantilism.
* The Navigation Acts and their impact.

Learning outcomes

* Students will learn what the Navigation Acts were. They need to know their purpose (to protect British trade, and therefore wealth) and how people sought to do this.
* There should be time in this lesson to introduce Lesson 26 on the slave trade.
* Give a brief explanation of the concept of trade and provide students with a definition of mercantilism (reference may be made to the use of the Royal Navy to protect trade).
* Stress the importance of the coffee houses as a place for the exchange of information about trade and commerce.

Possible teaching and learning activities

Enquiry question: What were the Navigation Acts?

* Students should consider the key points of the Navigation Acts and write an explanation about how each aspect of them would work to Britain’s advantage and to the disadvantage of Britain’s commercial competitors.
* Students can begin to examine the slave trade by considering an image(s) of enslaved people working on plantations in British colonies in the Caribbean. Students come up with questions beginning with ‘who, what, where and why?’

Resources

* Textbook.
* Worksheet on the Navigation Acts.
* [Navigation Acts](https://www.britannica.com/event/Navigation-Acts) and [protectionism](https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/transformingsociety/tradeindustry/importexport/overview/navigationlaws/).
* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2023 for the Coffee Houses of London: Background information, Resource H, J and K.

Lesson 26: The slave trade

Specification content

The slave trade.

Learning outcomes

Students will learn about the early development of the slave trade and Britain’s involvement in it. They should explore how and why the trade grew. Students learn what motivated people to become involved in the slave trade in the colonies and in England.

Possible teaching and learning activities

**Enquiry question:** How did the slave trade develop during the Restoration?

* Build on introduction from Lessons 23 and 24, with a quick revision of the Navigation Acts.
* Students could complete a card sorting activity to show development of the slave trade. The outcome will be used to help students explain how and why the slave trade developed as a flowchart to show the series of events: colonisation, need for more workers, African labour etc.
* Students could create a spider diagram that looks at the social and economic consequences of the slave trade on particular groups who participated in the slave trade, such as:
	+ plantation owners
	+ factory owners
	+ ship builders
	+ people in the English port cities
	+ slave traders.

Resources

* Textbook.
* [An overview of the transatlantic slave trade](http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism/slavery/archaeology/graphics/cutting-cane-antigua.jpg).
* Card sort on slave trade.
* Blank flowchart diagram of slave trade.
* [Slave trade](http://www.bl.uk/learning/histcitizen/campaignforabolition/abolitionbackground/abolitionintro.html).
* [History of slave trade](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/abolition/africa_article_01.shtml) and [documents](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/blackhistory/africa_caribbean/britain_trade.htm).

Lesson 27: War

Specification content

* English sea power.
* Naval warfare, including tactics and technology.

Learning outcomes

Students will learn how naval warfare developed during the Restoration including technology and tactics, the birth of the Royal Navy and the changing focus of British operations as part of the Blue Water policy.

Possible teaching and learning activities

**Enquiry question:** How were naval wars fought in the 17th century?

* Working in pairs, students can design an educational website on the Navy during the Restoration. They should include:
	+ tactics
	+ ships
	+ key people
	+ role (including Blue Water policy)
	+ life in the navy (including press ganging).
* The website can be designed on paper and/or using a computer depending on the resources available.

Resources

* Textbook.
* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2020 for Dutch Raid on the Medway: Resource N.
* Royal Navy History (Blue water policy).
* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2025 for the Royal Observatory.

Lesson 28: Conflict with the Dutch, and relations with France and Spain

Specification content

* Conflict with the Dutch.
* The Second Anglo-Dutch War.
* The Third Anglo-Dutch War.

Learning outcomes

* Students will should learn a basic overview of the events involved in the Second and Third Anglo-Dutch Wars.
* Students will learn about the causes of the Anglo-Dutch Wars.
* Students need to know why England was defeated and the impact they had back in England (particularly the Raid on the Medway).
* This lesson should try to establish the reasons for the success of the Dutch Raid on the Medway. It is sometimes useful to suggest that students consider the reasons why the English failed to stop the Raid.
* Students should be encouraged to come to some final conclusion about the Raid, paying particular attention to the role of location, the military resources of each side, the size and nature of the fleets, their condition, luck, strategy, leadership, communication and tactics/decisions.

Possible teaching and learning activities

* Students should construct a simple diagram based on the background information to show six reasons that contributed to the outbreak and continuation of the Anglo-Dutch Wars.
* Students can create a graph for each war. On the x-axis they write the key events of the war set against a timeline. On the y-axis they draw an English flag at the top and a Dutch flag at bottom. They plot each key event of the wars on the graph depending on whether it was good for England or the Netherlands. Students should indicate the causes of the events and their consequences in their labels.
* Discussion points:
	+ Where were the turning points in the conflicts?
	+ Who were the winners and losers in the Anglo-Dutch Wars?

Resources

* Textbook.
* Base timeline/graph for events.
* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2020 for Dutch Raid on the Medway: Background information.
* [Second Anglo-Dutch War.](http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/wars_anglodutch2.html)
* [Anglo-Dutch Wars](https://www.britannica.com/event/Anglo-Dutch-Wars).
* [Third Anglo-Dutch War.](http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/wars_anglodutch3.html)
* [Images](https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/rijksstudio/188847--Emilie-Dosquet/collections/anglo-dutch-wars) in the Rijksmuseum of the Anglo-Dutch War.
* [Cartoon summary](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzSFi5ic5Mk) of Anglo-Dutch war – 4.22 minute video.
* [Treaty of Dover](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01rhx9b) – 3 minute video.

Lesson 29: Conflict with the Dutch, and relations with France and Spain continued

Specification content

* Conflict with the Dutch.
* The Second Anglo-Dutch War.
* The Third Anglo-Dutch War.
* Relations with Spain and France

Learning outcomes

* Students will need to explore the impact of the war in England where many saw it as part of a wider Catholic Plot.
* Students may consider the question: ‘Why did the Secret Treaty of Dover cause so much trouble for Charles?’ Students explore the relationship between England and its two main rivals, France and Spain. The focus will be on France and the complex relationship. Students need to explore this on the personal level of Charles and Louis but also on the wider political and religious level.

Possible teaching and learning activities

Students should create a mind map showing how the relationship between England and France was interlinked with other issues such as Charles relationship with Parliament, the Anglo-Dutch Wars, and the issue of religion. In terms of religion, students will note and add comments to explain the arrival of the Huguenots in England. They will explain why England’s relationship with Spain was also important.

**Enquiry question**: Was Louis and Charles’ close relationship more hindrance than help?

Students should review what they know about England’s relationship with France and Spain and Charles’ relationship with King Louis.

Resources

* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2020 for Dutch Raid on the Medway.
* Textbook.
* The reign and court of [Louis XIV](http://www.louis-xiv.de/index.php?id=31).
* Biography of the King of Spain [Carlos II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_II_of_Spain) (Charles II) (from 1665 to 1700), his [characteristics](https://allthatsinteresting.com/charles-ii-of-spain) as the [last Hapsburg](https://www.ranker.com/list/life-of-charles-ii-of-spain/genevieve-carlton) ruler of Spain.

Lesson 30: Review and assess Part three: Land, trade and war

Specification content

Part three: Land, trade and war.

Learning outcomes

Assess students’ understanding of Part three and develop their exam techniques.

Possible teaching and learning activities

Students complete exam-style questions on Part three.