

The power of Wolsey – A-level Teacher notes

Session overview

During this 90 minute session students will use the Palace as a source. Reading the buildings and cross-referencing with contemporary accounts, students will investigate how Hampton Court Palace supported Thomas Wolsey's rise to power. Students will consider the relationship between Henry and Wolsey at the very beginning of Henry's reign and the different reasons why he fell from grace. The Palace particularly highlights the wealth of the Cardinal, his arrogance and the role of both the Privy Chamber and of Anne Boleyn in bringing about his fall.

Key events and individuals

- Cardinal Wolsey
- Anne Boleyn
- Pope Leo X
- Henry VIII
- Catherine of Aragon
- Pope Clement VII

Schedule

Your 90 minute session will consist of the following:

- 15 minute introduction to the concept of 'crisis' and the development of the Palace over time;
- 60 minute subject specific tour, engaging students through investigation of the built environment and analysis of documentary sources;
- 15 minute plenary during which students draw upon what they have learnt to reach their own conclusions about the topic.

Exam board links

This session is designed to complement the study of Henry VIII and the structure of government, and particularly the following exam boards:

- **AQA Unit 1C** The Tudors: England, 1485-1603 part one
- **Edexcel Unit 1B** England, 1509-1603: authority, nation and religion
- **OCR Unit 1 Y106** England, 1485-1558: the Early Tudors (Enquiry topic: Mid Tudor Crises 1547-1558)
- **WJEC AS - Unit 1 - option 1** Government, Rebellion and Society in Wales and England c.1485-1603

Session objectives

- To explore, analyse, interpret and cross-reference different types of primary evidence (portraits/ buildings/ written evidence); evaluating the difficulties/limitations of available evidence.
- To demonstrate a deeper understanding of the political, social and economic factors of the Tudor era as evident at Hampton Court Palace.
- To use contemporary accounts to weigh up why Wolsey fell from power and decide whether his downfall was inevitable or could have been prevented.

Meeting point

Your presenter will meet you in the **Clore Learning Centre**.



Please **arrive at least 5 minutes before** your session is due to start.

Please note

It is often very cold in the Palace and part of the teaching session is spent outdoors. Please do encourage your students to dress appropriately! The tour concentrates on the Tudor parts of the Palace but does not usually go to the Chapel, the Young Henry Exhibition, or Henry VIII's kitchens. We would encourage students to visit these areas when they are not in their teaching session.

Directions to the Clore Learning Centre

