

## The Tudors

### Post-session Reading and Vocab (higher)

Read the following extract from a BBC article, then discuss the questions below:

#### *Heroic Henry or Horrible Henry?*

Henry VIII became king in 1509. His father had left him lots of money. He was a **glamorous** 'Renaissance Prince' who loved music, sports and languages, and was very religious. He wanted to be the greatest king England had ever had.

In 1536 he united Wales with England, and in 1541 he declared himself King of Ireland.

Henry VIII is most famous for divorcing his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, because she could not give him a male **heir**, and then marrying five times more!

#### **Henry VIII and religion**

In 1534 Henry said that he, not the Pope, was the Head of the Church in England. Although Henry remained a Catholic to the end of his life, this was the beginning of the Church of England. Later, Henry used his new power to close down the **monasteries** and take their land and money. This made many people unhappy, and there was a **rebellion**. Henry put it down brutally.

#### **A harsh and brutal king?**

In 1539 a new law gave Henry power to make any law he pleased. Towards the end of his reign Henry became increasingly brutal, executed his enemies and **burned** Protestants **at the stake**. In the past, historians said that Henry was the start of a 'new monarchy' and that he made 'a revolution in government'. Modern historians say that this is too simple. Henry was very powerful, but in many ways he ruled like a medieval king, surrounded and influenced by his **nobles**.

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#### **Discussion**

Do you think that Henry was a good or bad king? What makes you think this?

#### **Vocabulary**

*Find these words in the text. What do you think they mean? Write your guesses in the table.*

glamorous	
heir	
monastery	
rebellion	

burned at the stake	
nobles	