

GCSE History Topic 3: Britain: Power and the People c1170 – present day



Part 1: Challenging authority and feudalism

Key people

King John	King John was king of England. He was unpopular with his barons, and was criticised for losing Normandy to France. He is most famous for signing the Magna Carta. He died during the First Barons' War.
Simon de Montfort	Simon de Montfort was married to King Henry's sister. He led the barons in the Second Barons' War. He also ruled England while King Henry was in custody and set up a new type of Great Council, known as the Commons.
Henry III	Henry III was king of England between 1216 and 1272. He was the son of King John and held the throne during the Second Barons' War.
Edward III	Edward III was a warrior king. His father's (Henry III) weak rule had weakened the power of the king, and Edward III wanted to prove his worth on the battlefield.

Key dates

1214	The English barons revolt against King John
1215	(15 th June) Magna Carta is signed
1215 - 1217	First Baron's War
1264 – 1267	Second Baron's War
1295	Edward I calls the Model Parliament
1348	The Black Death begins
1381	The Peasants' Revolt

Key Tier 3 vocabulary

Feudal system	Medieval system of society where land is paid for by performing services and working for the owner.
Scutage	Tax collected during wartime; normally paid by a knight instead of completing military service.
Magna Carta	A list of 63 clauses signed by King John in 1215. It put everyone, including the king, under the constraints of the law. This is the foundation of the British constitution.
Barons	A man who had been given a high ranking title by the King. This title came with land.
Peasants	A person at the bottom of the social structure in feudalism; normally an agricultural worker.
Villeins	Similar to a peasant. Normally a farm worker
Siege	Military blockade common in Medieval battles. Usually done to starve an opponent out.
Parliament	A group of people responsible for making laws
Democracy	A system of government which gives everyone a say by allowing people to vote for people to represent them in parliament.
Provisions of Oxford	Reforms designed to ensure the king adhered to the rule of law and governed according to the advice of his barons.
Provisions of Westminster	Attempts by the nobles to define common law in the spirit of Magna Carta, control appointments and set up an aristocratic council.
Autocrat	A ruler who holds all the power
Model Parliament	The first parliament which resembles ours today. It had representatives from the church, the aristocracy and for the commoners

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Prior knowledge required:	Provides building blocks for:
- Democracy - Medieval society - Using primary sources	<i>A level: Britain 1930-1997 including; Churchill</i>

Key knowledge

OVERVIEW:-

This thematic study covers 800 years in the history of the relationship between citizens and the state in Britain. You will explore how the power and authority of different kings and parliament have been challenged.

In this first section you will look at the balance of **medieval power**.

Constraints of kingship

In this section you will look at the barons' dissatisfaction with King John's rule and its resolution, the background to the creation of the Magna Carta, its terms and its short and long-term impact.

The origins of parliament

This section will focus on the issues between King Henry III and his barons; the role of Simon de Montfort; the Provisions of Oxford and the Parliament of 1265 and their short and long-term impact.

Medieval Revolt and royal authority

Medieval revolt and royal authority: the social, economic and political causes of the Peasants Revolt; actions by rebels and government; impact of the Peasants' Revolt.

Source Analysis
Content – what can you take from the source? What is it saying? What can you see?
Provenance – what is the NOP of a source? N – nature (type of source) O – origin (when the source was made, where the source was made, who made the source) P – purpose (why the source was made, who the intended audience was, what the intended message was) How can this affect the reliability of the source?
Accuracy - How accurate is the source? What own knowledge do you have that can support or challenge the source.

Key factors



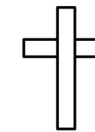
War



Government



Chance



Religion



Ideas



Communication



Individual



Economy

Key historical skills		
Cause/consequence	Similarity/difference	Change/continuity
Significance	Sources	Interpretations