

Exercise walk-through

1.5

New Monarchies

AP European History

New Monarchies

The **new monarchies** laid the foundation for the centralised modern state by:

- establishing **monopolies on tax collection** ;
- **employing military force** under royal control;
- and taking increasing control of **law and administration**.

New Monarchies, continued

Two counterweights are also examinable.

Commercial and professional groups gained power across Europe and played a greater role in political affairs. And continued political fragmentation in Renaissance Italy provided the background for new concepts of the **secular state** – the theory came from the place where centralisation had failed, not succeeded.

Some monarchs, including Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, also initiated religious reform from the top down to strengthen royal control – a point that belongs to both this unit and the next.

The new monarchies' four instruments

- establishing **monopolies on tax collection** ;
- **employing military force** under royal control;
- and taking increasing control of **law and administration**.

What made the period possible

Humanism

Italian Renaissance humanists studied classical texts for models of eloquence and civic virtue, using **philological** methods – which is how Valla exposed the Donation of Constantine as a forgery.

Money

Innovations in banking and finance – double-entry bookkeeping, bills of exchange, branch banking – funded both the art and the voyages.

The voyages

Advances in navigation, cartography, and military technology made the Atlantic crossable and the gun-armed ship decisive.

The new monarchies

Rulers taxed, recruited and administered directly, reducing the nobility's independent power.

Money, method and technology arrive together – which is why the argument about what caused the Renaissance rarely settles on one of them.

The new monarchies' four instruments, in detail

THE INSTRUMENT	TAKEN FROM WHOM	WHY IT MATTERS
a monopoly on TAX COLLECTION	local lords and towns that collected their own money	is what the other three run on
MILITARY FORCE under the crown	nobles with private armed followings	a rival can no longer resist by force
royal LAW AND ADMINISTRATION	seigneurial and church courts	the king's judgment reaches the subject directly
alliance with COMMERCIAL GROUPS	they are gained, not taken	a counterweight to the landed nobility, and a source of loans

What makes a monarchy 'new': four instruments, each taken from someone specific

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 Name three things new monarchies sought to centralise.

[3]

2.2 Name two instruments rulers used.

[2]

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 Name three things new monarchies sought to centralise. [3]

2.1

- taxation; justice; armed force
-

2.2 Name two instruments rulers used. [2]

2.2

- any two of: professional officials paid by the crown; standing or semi-permanent armies; marriage alliances

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 A student writes that new monarchs “had absolute control by 1500”.

(a) State why this is inaccurate.

[1]

Exercise 2.3 (a)

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(a) State why this is inaccurate.

[1]

(a)

- nobles kept land, privileges and courts, and representative bodies retained rights over taxation

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 A student writes that new monarchs “had absolute control by 1500”.

(b) State a more accurate formulation.

[2]

Exercise 2.3 (b)

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(b) State a more accurate formulation.

[2]

(b)

- a formulation describing centralisation as a direction of travel rather than an achieved condition

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 A professional official paid by the crown rather than a local lord increases royal power because [1]

- ☐ **A** he is cheaper
B his loyalty runs to the crown
C he is a noble
D he cannot be dismissed

3.2 A marriage alliance adds territory [1]

- ☐ **A** only after a war
B without the cost of conquest
C by papal decree only
D temporarily in all cases

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☐

- A he is cheaper
- B his loyalty runs to the crown
- C he is a noble
- D he cannot be dismissed

3.1 B

- paid by the crown, he owes his position to it

3.2 A marriage alliance adds territory [1]

☐

- A only after a war
- B without the cost of conquest
- C by papal decree only
- D temporarily in all cases

3.2 B

- inheritance transfers territory without conquest

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A ruler must summon a representative body to raise a tax.

(a) State what this shows about centralisation.

[1]

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[1]

(a)

- that royal power over taxation was still limited

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A ruler must summon a representative body to raise a tax.

(b) Explain how a ruler might reduce the constraint.

[2]

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A ruler must summon a representative body to raise a tax.

(b) Explain how a ruler might reduce the constraint.

[2]

(b)

- build revenue sources that do not require consent, such as customs or crown lands, which reduces the need to summon the body at all

Exercise 3.4

3.4 A hypothetical teaching report states that a ruler pays officials centrally but must negotiate a new tax with an assembly. Explain one centralising feature, one limit and why both can coexist. [4]

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3.4

Centrally paid officials strengthen royal administration through dependence on the crown rather than local patrons; negotiating taxation shows an assembly constraint; centralisation can advance unevenly, so administrative change does not establish unlimited taxing authority.