

THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY (1603-1688): QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS

This handout was prepared by Dr. William Tarvin, a retired professor of literature. Please visit my free website www.tarvinlit.com. Over 500 works of American and British literature are analyzed there for free.

An answer key is provided at the end of this handout.

Text used: M. H. Abrams, ed. The Norton Anthology of English Literature, 7th ed. Vol.

1. New York: Norton, 2000. pp. 1209-32; 2045-47.

1. 1603: The seventeenth-century period begins with the death of _____, the last Tudor ruler, and the accession of _____ I, the first Stuart king of English.

2. 1688: The period ends with the exile of the fourth Stuart king, _____ II, through the _____ or Bloodless Revolution, which brought James's daughter _____ and her Dutch husband _____ to the throne.

3. This period saw the establishment of the _____ monarchy in England.

4. At the heart of this period of rapid change lay two major issues, one religious and one political: How far should the Reformation of the _____ church be carried? How much authority should the _____ have and how independent should she/he be of _____?

5. One area of dissatisfaction centered mainly on religion; certain people, called Puritans, felt that the _____ in England had not gone far enough.

6. They opposed forced membership in the state church; some even sought exile for the sake of religious freedom (such as the Mayflower _____ who sailed to Plymouth, Mass., in America in 1620).

7. Concerning the political issues of the time, James I's son, _____ I, who became king in 1625, repeatedly quarreled with _____ over political supremacy. The animosity between king and Parliament ultimately led to a full-scale _____ War in 1642.

8. The Parliamentary army under Oliver _____ was victorious, and in 1649, it captured and executed _____ I.

9. Cromwell soon assumed total power himself, becoming Lord _____ (he refused Parliament's offer to make him King) in 1653; he ruled until his death in 1658.

10. Shortly after Cromwell's death, Charles I's son was called from exile to become King _____ II in 1660. This event, the _____ of the monarchy, gave its name to the period from 1660-1688.

11. When Charles II's brother succeeded him as James II, there occurred the _____ or Bloodless Revolution in which James II was driven from England and his daughter _____, along with her Dutch husband _____, became rulers in 1688.

12. Thus the 17th century saw the answer to both the religious and political questions: (1) Greater religious _____ would be guaranteed, and (2) _____ gained complete political control over the monarchy.

13. During the seventeenth century, science also came to the fore, notably Isaac _____ with his discoveries about physics and William Harvey with his findings about the circulation of the _____.

14. Despite the domestic turmoil, English trading and colonizing surged, from _____ in Virginia in 1607 to the Far East through the East _____ Company (chartered in 1600). These colonies were soon pouring wealth into England.

15. John _____ is the century's towering literary figure.

16. In 1611, there appeared the King James Authorized Version of the _____, which would have a lasting impact on the way English language would be learned and used.

Answer Key

1. Elizabeth I; James.
2. James; Glorious; Mary; William.
3. constitutional.
4. English/Anglican; Monarch; Parliament.
5. Reformation.
6. Pilgrims.
7. Charles; Parliament; Civil.
8. Cromwell; Charles.
9. Protector.
10. Charles; Restoration.
11. Glorious; Mary; William.
12. freedom; Parliament.
13. Newton; blood.
14. Jamestown; Indies.
15. Milton.
16. Bible.