

THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR INTERACTIVE

Sample Answer

Why did parliament execute King Charles I in 1649? [15 marks]

The Civil ended in 1648 when Charles was arrested. There were many reasons why parliament executed King Charles. Some of the reasons are linked to events before the Civil War started and some at the end of the war.

Charles had been ruling without Parliament for many years which proved unpopular. He realised money without asking parliament. Some of the taxes he raised was called Ship Money. People who disagreed with Charles were put in prison e.g. John Hampden. Charles I ignored the rights that were given to people from the Magna Carta. Charles I was a Protestant, but he had a Catholic wife. He tried to make a more Catholic form of religion in Scotland, who were at that time very Protestant. This caused a major rebellion in that country and Charles had to go to war with them.

To pay for an army, Charles I had to raise taxes. But he needed money from Parliament. Charles I call parliament in 1640 but found that he was opposed by the Puritans - a group of Protestant members of parliament. Charles attempted to override them by arresting their members, and it was this action which lead to the Civil War.

When Cromwell's forces defeated the King's army and captured him it is clear they did not wish to execute him, but to persuade Charles to share power. However, Charles resisted all such attempts at negotiation. Firstly, he did not recognise the authority

of the new parliament. When Colonel Pride removed all royal supporters from the parliament Charles was in a dangerous position. . Charles continued to hold onto his devout belief that he had been anointed King by God himself and that to put himself under the power of anyone other than God would be wrong. This was called the Divine Right of Kings.

Charles attempted to escape with the aid of some royal supporters who felt Cromwell had gone too far. The attempt failed and parliament was worried that royalist supporters could put Charles back on the throne, possibly with help from Catholic nations including Ireland and France. Cromwell felt that Britain was not safe from Civil War until Charles was executed. At this point people believed that Charles would have to be forced into an agreement on how to rule.

At this point the Army was becoming more powerful than Parliament and so when the Army decided that Charles must die, Charles had to die. Parliament had started doing what the Army wanted so a trial was held.

Charles was accused of treason against Parliament and the people. He was also called a tyrant and be responsible for the deaths and destruction in the Civil War.

To conclude, Charles did have a chance to survive but he refused to listen and take advice. He probably deserved to die.

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Peer Assessment

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Peer Assessment Sample Answer Mark Grid

<u>What to look for</u>	✓ ☒	<u>What to look for</u>	✓ ☒	<u>Your overall Assessment</u>
Is there an introduction and conclusion?		Does it reach the word limit of at least 300 words?		<p><u>Study the mark scheme carefully</u></p> <p>1. What was good about the answer?</p> <p>2. What level would you award this answer at?</p> <p>3. What mark within the level would you give it?</p> <p>4. Say why you gave it this level and mark?</p> <p>5. How would you improve this answer?</p>
Does it give reasons why Charles I was executed linked to events before the Civil War?		Are paragraphs (rather than lists, headings or bullet points) used?		
Does it give reasons why Charles I was executed linked to events after the Civil War?		Does it use correct spelling, punctuation and grammar?		
Is there at least one example of explanation?		Does it provide detailed factual evidence (e.g. dates, name of individuals, references to specific events)?		