

■ Enquiry Focus: Why was London full of rebels in 1450?

How to plan your way through this enquiry

1 Begin by looking carefully at the question. The key word is 'Why?' which means your answer must identify the causes of this rebellion. It will also do one or more of the following:

- explain links between the causes
- identify any causes that are more important than others
- distinguish between the event that triggered the rebellion and the longer term causes behind it.

Identifying these aspects of causation helps you answer the precise question and stops you writing a description of what happened during Cade's rebellion.

2 Now that you have focused on the question you can read pages 21–26, but there's a wrong way and a right way to do this reading!

The wrong way is to start reading and taking notes, pushing the question to the back of your mind. The danger here is that you'll make lots of notes but they probably won't be directed at the question.

The right way is, before reading, to think about the kind of answer that fits the question. You've already read pages 18–19 so what did those pages tell you about why London was full of rebels? For example:

It says on page 18 that the French were close to retaking English lands in France.

The chronicle says the Duke of Suffolk and others had sold the English lands to France.

The rebels blamed the King's closest advisers, the 'untrue counsel'. They executed Lord Saye. Suffolk had already been murdered.

So, stopping and thinking reveals that you already have information that helps create a tentative answer to the question.

Putting together an initial, tentative answer is called 'creating a hypothesis'. For example, a simple hypothesis is:

London was full of rebels because of anger at the loss of lands in France. They blamed the Duke of Suffolk and the rest of the King's advisers for the problems.



△ This shows the hypothesis in the form of a diagram

The hypothesis gives you a target to have in mind as you read and take notes. As you read, keep thinking. Is new information providing evidence to:

- show that the causes in this hypothesis do explain the rebels' anger
- show that other causes need to be added to the hypothesis
- suggest that some of the hypothesis is wrong and needs changing or taking out
- explain how causes were linked or which causes were most important?

3 Decide now what your hypothesis is. It must explain why London was full of rebels. You may find other information on pages 18–19 to build your hypothesis. Write as detailed an explanation as you can, thinking about the aspects of causation listed higher up the page. Later in the enquiry more blue boxes will prompt you to revise your hypothesis.