

Explain the causes of a war you have studied

(10 Marks)

SYK paragraph

The Hundred Years War was a series of three separate wars fought between England and France from 1337-1453. Henry V renewed the war on France in 1415 and set off from Southampton on his first campaign. The Henrician war had started

SWYG paragraph

Henry's reasons for declaring war on France were very similar to those of Edward III in 1337. Land, wealth, power, ambition and In Henry's case religion were the motivating factors.

Paragraph 1

Henry wanted to win back the land that England had held at the beginning of the war in 1337. He also wanted to regain the lands captured by Edward III which had subsequently been retaken by the French. These lands would also bring in more money. Gascony and Guienne were important wine growing areas and so gave revenue from trade. Aquitaine and parts of Normandy won by Edward III but later lost offered money from taxes and rents.

Paragraph 2

Henry could gain power by using war as a political weapon as victory would make Henry more powerful abroad and at home. Henry wanted to be king of France (Edward III first claimed it). If he did well, England would have more influence in France and Europe, and more countries would ally with England. At home he needed to win over all barons. Some barons were against him as shown by the 1415 Southampton Plot which planned to kill him because his father Henry IV was seen as a usurper. If Henry did well in war, he could use conquered land and wealth to buy support. France has also helped the Scots and Welsh during his fathers reign. This was something that could not be allowed to happen. But war was a risky business and if you lose, you lose power abroad and support at home as King John found out to his cost. However, Henry was aware that France was divided by a civil war and more vulnerable than usual.

Paragraph 3

There was also a strong religious motivation for Henry. He had had a dream in which he had been instructed by God to invade and conquer France. Then he was to take a combined Anglo-Franco army on crusade to recapture Jerusalem.

Conclusion/summary

To Henry the war against France was very attractive and was vital as success would silence his critics and secure his unstable throne.