

**For a revolt that you have studied
Explain why the revolt took place**

(10 marks)

SYK (show your knowledge) paragraph

The name Peasants' Revolt is misleading and the original name "The Great Rising" is more appropriate because although many peasants took part in the uprising there were also others such as churchmen and merchants who were there protesting.

SWYG (show where you're going) paragraph

Each of the group of people on the revolt had their own reasons for being in London in June 1381. Some of the grievances went back over many years and some were recent happenings that had upset them. I will be mentioning the long term and short term causes.

Paragraph 1

The Black Death was a cloud with a silver lining. For many peasants life had dramatically improved with them now earning wages and enjoying freedoms never before thought possible. However for some peasants life remained the same as before the Black Death. This inequality seemed unjust and unfair. There were even worries that the government was looking at ways of making all peasants return to their pre Black Death social status.

Paragraph 2

To may of the march, the had serious concerns about the way the Church was being run. The Black Death had killed nearly 50% of the priests in England. Many of their replacements were corrupt, greedy with no religious motivation. Even the bishops appear corrupt with evidence of pluralism and absenteeism amongst other complaints. Those peasants living on Church controlled land seemed to be worst off of all.

Paragraph 3

The final long term cause was the on going Hundred Years War with France. The war was going badly and too many it was now an unnecessary war. Edward II the originator was now dead and many alive in 1381 were not so at the time of the great victories at Crécy and Poitiers. Merchants felt that their trade was being damaged by the war and they wanted England to make peace

Paragraph 4

The final spark that ignited the revolt was a Poll tax that was raised in 1380 to raise money for the war. At 12 shillings a head, this was the final straw. When tax collectors arrived, people refused to pay and eventually after persistent efforts by the government to make people pay, violence broke out.

Conclusion/summary

And so it was that 40,000 rebels marched on London to speak to Richard II, the only man they believed would listen to their grievances. How naïve they were!