Parliament

- Not a permanent feature as only met 7 times during Henry’s reign, first 4 times in the first decade (use decreased as Henry gained more control).
- Used to pass Attainders, uphold claim to the throne and defend JPs.
- Meetings were usually brief as role fulfilled by other organisations.

All these reforms meant that there was more law and order from the King.

Finances

Henry was aware of the importance of strong finances and did not feel secure unless he was rich.

He would encounter opposition from those who had to pay.

Henry had 3 methods of achieving royal finances

1. Re-organise the financial administration
   - Initially used Exchequer system but replaced with Chamber system in 1497. By 1490s, all income except custom duties (which was under exchequer) was managed by the chamber system.
   - More importance for the Treasurer of the Chamber and officials such as the Gentlemen of the Bedchamber. Also increased financial control.

2. Exploit ordinary revenue (regular income)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Successes</th>
<th>Failures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inherited all crown lands belonging to York and Lancaster. Annual income of crown lands increased from £29,000 -&gt; £42,000 during his reign. Act of Resumption in 1486, gained all estates given away since 1455. Annual income from feudal dues increased from £350 in 1487 to £6,000 at the end as Master of King’s Wards appointed to supervise them. Many criminals fined (e.g. in Cornish Rebellion).</td>
<td>Not all land taken back in Act of resumption for fear of antagonising nobility. Income from custom duties (1/3 ordinary revenue) mostly did not increase; average of £41,000 after 10 years and reliant on foreign policy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This aim was achieved to a large extent.

3. Increase income from extraordinary revenue (money which only came on particular occasions)

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Simony meant that &gt;£6,000 a year. Convocations following parliamentary grants e.g. in 1489 £25,000 received. Treaty of Etaples led to French Pension paying £5,000 per year. Bonds and recognisances gave income of £35,000 in 1505.</td>
<td>Cautious in asking for parliamentary grants (only asked 3 times) and not always needed. Asked landholders for modest amounts of c. £10,000-most were paid back.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Henry was cautious in achieving this aim, could’ve increased income further but was limited by his insecurity.
Marriage agreements with Spain.

- The Treaty of Medina del Campo was signed in 1489. This meant that Henry’s son Arthur would marry Catherine of Aragon. It was also celebrated by minting a new gold sovereign.
- However, the final agreement was not signed until 1496 and Catherine did not come to England until 1501 because of the Warbeck threat.
- Henry had hoped to gain access to the Spanish Empire and improve relations with Burgundy (Joanna of Castile had married Philip of Burgundy).
- Arthur dies 5 months after the marriage took place. There was a suggestion to marry Henry VIII and a papal dispensation was obtained—Catherine was betrothed to Henry in 1503 but the marriage did not take place until 1509. This angered Ferdinand through keeping the dowry.

Marriage agreements with Scotland.

- Following Scottish support for Perkin Warbeck, there were fears that England may attack Scotland.
- The Truce of Aynton, signed in 1497 meant that in 1503, Henry’s daughter Margaret married James VI.
- Although it didn’t prevent border raids, a full-scale war was avoided.

Failed marriage agreements

- Following the death of Elizabeth of York in 1503, Henry proposed the possibility of marrying
  - Joanna of Naples – encouraged by Spain as she was Ferdinand’s niece but the death of Isabella of Castille ended this proposal.
  - Margaret of Savoy – rejected the proposal as she wanted to remain a widow.
  - Joanna of Castille – Ferdinand refused (was now allied with France) and also failed to send the rest of Catherine’s dowry.
- In 1507, the Holy Roman Emperor Maximillian agreed to Archduke Charles (son of Philip of Burgundy) marrying Henry’s daughter Mary. However, this did not go ahead.
- Henry then tried “to win the hand” of Margaret of Savoy and then offered his surviving son as a husband to Louis XII’s niece, Marguerite d’Angouleme.

Marriage agreements were initially used to gain recognition and improve security. However, in the latter part of Henry’s reign, they reflected the changing direction of English foreign policy and Henry’s attempts to create alliances.