Reformation Europe Exam Topics:

- The Peasant Revolt (done)
- Anabaptists and the Apocalypse (done)
- The Schmalkaldic League (done)
- John Calvin and Geneva (done)

The Peasant Revolt

Q1: ‘It was important that Luther should repudiate the association between him and the Peasant Rebels.’ (MacCulloch) Explain why you agree or disagree with this statement about the Peasant Revolt of 1524-5

Q: 1 Why did many of those involved in the Peasant Revolt of the 1520s regard Martin Luther as an inspiration for their objectives?

Q: 1. What were the principal causes of the Peasant Revolt of the 1520s?

Q: 1 Explain why the Peasant Revolt of the 1520s failed

Q:1. What responsibility should be attributed to Protestant Reformers for the Peasant Revolt?

- Takes place in the mid-1520s
- 1524-25 a period of major bloodshed
- About 100,000 peasants died during the revolt
- Although sparked by the Protestant Reformation, it was motivated largely by social discontent as the result of increasing economic inequality at a time when the feudal system was coming unraveled
- The failure of the peasant's revolt, reaffirmed and strengthened the alliance between religion and the state
- This would be necessary for the survival of the Protestant Reformation, which required defenders among the princes of Germany to withstand the Roman Catholic assault in the Thirty Years' War.
- Drew on a tradition of revolt- rural arm unrest and uprising
- 1500-24: 15 revolts
- The method used to express legal and economical grievances
• Internal struggle in Geneva
• Those who wanted **mild reform** vs. those who wanted **radical reform**
  - **Mild reformers**: ‘Libertines’ wanted magistrates firmly in control of the clergy, no compulsory church attendance etc
  - **Radical reformers**: Calvin and Farel, Calvin wanted a city controlled by the Clergy, he wanted a ‘**Theocracy**’ (a system of government in which priests rule in the name of God or a god, in a theocracy there is a mixture of state and church)
• **1538**: The Libertines or mild reformers won and **Calvin and Farel fled** to Strasbourg
• From 1536 to 1538 Calvin had great authority in Geneva. This was his first attempt at reform, but he pushed the reform too quickly, for the city was not ready for any kind of stern discipline. The city council removed Calvin and Farel from Geneva and Calvin went to Strasbourg for three years. This was undoubtedly a **great time of discouragement** for Calvin.
• **Sept 1541**: Calvin returned to Geneva after the Libertines fell from power in 1540
• It took him 14 yrs before he could impose his version of liturgy, doctrine and organization of the church and moral behavior
• Calvin’s services were to be **plain and simple**. He placed **emphasis on sermons** which were logical and learned
• Calvin’s church was really called a **temple**
• **Musical instruments were banned** from church
• Calvin composed ‘**Ecclesiastical Ordinances**’ which were adjusted by the city council in order to demonstrate their control over reform
• Calvin rejected the organization of the medieval church as contrary to the New Testament and **wanted a church modeled in Apostolic times** instead
• **Calvin drew up a Church Order**, a set of rules for governing of the church. It was based upon the teaching of Scripture that Christ has ordained four offices in the church: pastors, teachers or professors, elders, and deacons
• Pastors were to preach and to encourage the people.
• In contrast Francis I used Protestants to help advance his power against the Parlement de Paris.

• Henry did not want any association with Prot.

• A number of noble families converted to Calvinism. Each family had its own individual reason. By associating yourself with Calvinism you would be expressing your belief that France should have no links to Italy

• Huguenots were concentrated on the coast mainly in the West in areas such as ‘La Rochelle’ and in the South East

• Due to the size of France, the royal government in Paris found it difficult enough to assert its authority generally

• The strict organization of the Huguenots made any attempt by the authorities to crush them very difficult

• By 1561 there were 2,150 Huguenot churches in France, and Calvinists made up about 10% of the population (1 million)

The Netherlands:

• Calvin made important gains in this state

• Ministers arrived in 1560s; they made slow progress at first. Why?

• Because Lutheranism and Anabaptism had already taken root so Calvinism was seen as another protest religion in an ever crowded field

• Also a lot of persecution in general against Protestants by Charles V

• 1550: Charles V removed the authority of city councils to try heretics. He believed they were too lenient and that the provincial courts which took over this duty would have far greater control

• Calvinism: Most successful of the 3 and the best equipped to survive. Why?

• Because its system of non-religious governments by elders allowed it to operate regardless of the authorities.

• Anabaptists were too reliant on the role of the individual as opposed to strength in numbers and organization, while the Lutherans were poorly organized and more open to attack from authorities

• By 1560 Calvinism had not spread far as the authorities were very active against it