The Henrician Reformation(s)

1. Interpreting the via media
   a. Church of England (C of E), a middle way?
      i. between Roman Catholics and radical Protestants?
   b. Henrician via media?
      i. execution of both Lutherans and Catholics

2. Religious Change in 1530s, why so little resistance?:
   a. there was some resistance:
   b. but overall, there was little. Why?
      i. state of church in early Tudor England
      ii. perhaps, in part, because of complacency among the clergy
      iii. minimal nature of Henrician Reform

3. Divorce and Supremacy, 1529-1534
   a. importance of divorce from Catherine of Aragon and marriage to Anne Boleyn
      i. Why? problem of male heir
         (1) (and the recent past of the Wars of Roses)
      ii. Archbishop Wolsey prepared to grant divorce (though hampered by his own ambition to
         become pope himself, eventually forced out and executed over this issue)
         (1) but problem of appeal to Rome
   b. Henry VIII's response, through law courts and through Parliament
      i. 1529-31, through Praemunire (attack on "King's regality"), clergy charged with taking
         cases out of king's courts to other courts, little used before, attempt to frighten Rome
      ii. turns to Parliament
         (1) (meets for 7 years from 1529)
      iii. 1533, climax, Anne now pregnant; Henry VIII and Anne married end of Jan. (birth of
         Elizabeth in Sept.)
         (1) new archbishop (Th. Cranmer) declares marriage to Catherine null and void ,
         May 1533
      iv. 1534, Act of Supremacy, Henry head of C. of E.
         (1) but Church still Catholic in doctrine
      v. The wives and the search for an heir
         (1) Divorced, beheaded, died; Divorced, beheaded, survived

4. Dissolution of the Monasteries
   a. Henry VIII's supremacy (esp. the management of it by his new chief councillor, Thomas
      Cromwell) gives new look and outlook to the Church
      i. Act of Dissolving the monasteries (1536 [lesser monasteries], 1538-39 [greater
         monasteries])
   b. Cromwell conducts ecclesiastical census, 1535 (first since 1086)
      i. Was divine service observed?; What lands did houses possess?; What rents?; Who were
         the benefactors?
      ii. Why dissolution?
   c. Consequences
      i. Destruction of art and learning: altar cloths removed, crucifixes melted, libraries
         dispersed
      ii. Some resistance to Henrician Reformation.
         (1) Pilgrimage of Grace, 1536, protest after first phase of Dissolution
      iii. Massive wealth (£132,000 p.a.) pours into King's coffers. But most sold.
      iv. Some benefits: Henry VIII est. several new dioceses with the lands (rentals) and endowed
         new chairs and a college at Cambridge
      v. Overall, a decline in clergy morale. Fear that Henry has no spiritual interest in reforming
         the Church, but only sees it as a source of money.

5. Cromwell, Parliament, and Henry VIII
a. Historian Geoffrey Elton, author of phrase "Tudor Revolution in Government," saw the political/administrative changes associated with the Reformation as a good thing and saw them as brought on by Thomas Cromwell: "When Thomas Cromwell died, the state and Kingship in England were very different from what they had been at the fall of Wolsey."
   i. change between 1529 and 1540
b. Thomas Cromwell (1485-1540)
   i. clothworker son, possibly a soldier and trader in Netherlands and Italy (his own description "a ruffian")
   ii. c. 1516, in Wolsey's household, c. 1519 a common law lawyer
   iii. self-taught, interested in analysis of political structures
   iv. connections with intellectuals employed in drafting bills for Parliament by 1531
   v. Cromwell's role? Developed a principle from and gave substance to Henry VIII's desire for a divorce and for jurisdictional supremacy in his church and State. Elton calls the Act of Appeals (1533) "The Great Statute"
c. Statutory change, 1532-1540 (the revolution through statute)
   i. Centralized power made a reality
   ii. Revolution through **statute**: "Parliamentary statute cannot create the supremacy [which is derived from God]..., but it alone can make the supremacy enforceable at law, in the law courts" (Elton)
d. C. of E. at death of Henry in 1547
   i. Henry VIII's will: commends his soul to the Virgin and the Saints; leaves money for Masses for his soul; and notes that man is justified by works "if he have leisure."
   ii. little absolute break with Catholic practice
   iii. more erastian than Lutheran