Foxford Learning

YEAR 12 History
Paper 3, Option 33: The Witch Craze in Britain, Europe and North America, c1580–c1750

Over the course of the topic, I will be able to: -

Depth Topic 2: The Lancashire witches, 1604–13

Key Vocabulary

Pendle Hill	The area of Lancashire at the centre of the 1612 witch trials.
Alizon Device	The Device family member whose quarrel with John Law initiated the case.
Old Demdike	Elizabeth Southerns; matriarch of one of the accused witch families.
Old Chattox	Anne Whittle; matriarch of the rival accused witch family.
Roger Nowell	The magistrate who conducted the initial investigations and interrogations.
Malkin Tower	The Devices' home; site of an alleged gathering of witches in 1612.
Witchcraft statute 1604	James I's Act making witchcraft a capital offence in England.
Assizes	The periodic court sessions held to try serious criminal cases.
Judges Bromley and Altham	The judges who presided over the Lancaster Assizes trial in 1612.
Thomas Potts	Author of The Wonderfull Discoverie of Witches 1613, the published trial account.
Recusancy	Catholic refusal to attend Protestant services; widespread in rural Lancashire.
Family network	The rival Device and Whittle family groupings at the heart of the case.

Key Skills

- Analyse and explain the social, economic, religious and political factors behind witch persecution.
- Evaluate the roles of key individuals and institutions in prosecuting or challenging witch belief.
- Analyse and evaluate contemporary source material related to the witch craze.
- Retrieve knowledge to construct verbal and written arguments related to the key topics.
- Compose effective responses to essay questions.

I will understand

Topic 1. Social, economic and religious context, c1604 - The social, economic, and religious context of the Pendle area; poverty, religious tensions, and recusancy; the significance of the new witchcraft statute of 1604 in raising the stakes.

Topic 2. Origins of the case - Alizon Device and John Law; the investigations of Roger Nowell; Old Demdike and Old Chattox and their witchcraft families; the meeting at Malkin Tower and the widening of accusations.

Topic 3. The trial of 1612 - The roles of Judges Bromley and Altham; the conduct and outcomes of the trial at Lancaster Assizes; the impact of Thomas Potts's published account in shaping wider understanding.