

1. James I and the 'Divine Right of Kings'

These are prompts for a role play between King James I and Parliament. James I believed that he had been chosen to rule England by God so nobody should question his power—something called the 'Divine Right of Kings'. He did not want to share his decisions with Parliament.

Now that you are King of England, you have to realise things here work differently to Scotland. You have to share power with us.

We want you to reassure us that you are a good Protestant by marrying your son to a Protestant princess.

You are spending too much money, and giving too many gifts to your Scottish friends. We want to control how much you spend.

You only call Parliament to sit when you want more money. We will not agree to the tax rises you propose, until you make compromises.

You want to spend more money fighting in a war for your German son-in-law, but we do not approve of this.

Parliament

I am King, and I was chosen by God to rule over both England and Scotland. I share my power with nobody.

Never! I am a King and I shall decide who my son marries. I will probably decide that he should marry a Catholic Princess from Spain.

This is my Kingdom, and I shall spend money how I like! It is not up to you how I run my government.

I was chosen by God to be King and to have complete power. I do not make compromises. You should give me the money I want.

This is an embarrassment! I should be helping my son-in-law Frederick defend his throne, but you will not allow me.

The King