

Summary:	The French had significantly more men, and resources than the English however the first phase of the Hundred Years' War was a success for the English. They won major victories at Sluys, Crecy, Calais and Poitiers as a result of the leadership of Edward III, and his son Edward the Black Prince, and their use of tactics including longbows and chevauchees.
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Alliances and tactics

Summary

At the outbreak of the hundred years war England had a financial disadvantage and had far fewer men. Therefore Edward III knew they would need to rely on alliances (which actually did little to help), and effective tactics. The English had an early success at the Battle of Sluys.

Key knowledge

1.	Alliance with the Holy Roman Emperor	The Holy Roman Emperor, Louis IV, indicated he would support the English.
2.	Alliance with Flanders	Recognised Edward as King of France. Did little to defence (ships and weapons) for Flanders in case of a French attack.
3.	The English Channel	Was being ravaged by French pirates which disrupted the bringing of supplies. The English needed to gain control of the Channel to be successful.
4.	The Battle of Sluys	24 th June 1340. This was a battle fought at the harbour of Sluys. The French fleet were stationed at Sluys, and outnumbered the English. However overwhelmed the French killing their generals and almost destroying their fleet.
5.	Consequences of the Battle of Sluys	Few thousand English casualties. 20,000 French casualties. The English captured the remaining French and took control of the English channel.
6.	Longbows	Used by the English (for the first time at the Battle of Sluys), and were far more effective than the crossbow the French favoured as they had a faster reload so twice as many could be used. Used successfully on land too.
7.	Chevauchees	Tactic used by the English on land where forces of mounted soldiers swept across the land, destroying property and pillaging. They enabled the English to gain resources and to destroy the morale of the French enemy. They were an extremely effective tactic for Edward III and his son Edward, the Black Prince.

The Battles of Crecy, Calais and Poitiers

Summary

Following the success at the Battle of Sluys and the subsequent chevauchees the English were also victorious at the Battles of Crecy, Calais and Poitiers. There were often significant gaps between battles as Edward had to return to England for financial reasons.

The Battle of Crecy – 1346 – English Victory

	England	France
8. Led by:	Edward III, supported by his son Edward the Black Prince	Philip VI
9. Number	12000 - 16000 men	

The Battle of Crecy – 1346 – English Victory

	England	France
10. Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebuilt a bridge at Rouen to reach Crecy quicker than Philip expected. Defensive position on the slope which meant it was impossible for the French to outflank them. Used longbows to attack cavalry as they rode uphill. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crossbowmen attacked Calvary tried to attack

The Battle of Calais – 1346 – 1347 – English Victory

	England	France
11. Led by:	Edward III, and Edward the Black Prince	Philip VI
12. Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edward needed a secure port in France to receive supplies to reinforce the victory at Crecy, Calais was ideal. Used a siege to take control of Calais. Calais surrendered in August 1347 and Edward replaced inhabitants with English. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the siege attempted to supply Calais by sea but was blocked. Sent a relief force, but withdrew when they saw the strength of the English.

The Battle of Poitiers – 1356 – Massive English Victory

	England	France
13. Led by	Edward, the Black Prince	John II, and his son Charles
14. Number	6000 men	20,000 men
15. Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful chevauchees in southern and central France before. English were followed by the French. Met at Poitiers. Adopt a defensive position. Archers at front; cavalry at the back. Protected by hedgerow. English longbow fire destroyed cavalry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sent cavalry out first. Cavalry were destroyed by English longbow fire. captured.

The end of the first phase of the 100 years' war

Summary

After the Battle of Poitiers the fortune of the French deteriorated further and the sought to bring this phase of the war to an end.

Key knowledge

16.	Edward, the Black Prince	Had proven himself to be a significant English military leader.
17.	Charles, the Dauphin (heir)	
18.	The Treaty of Bretigny	After the peasants rebellion the French opened peace negotiations which ended with the Treaty of Bretigny.