

Teacher's Guide for CALLIOPE: *Joan of Arc, Defender of France*

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Extended Response: Comprehension & Critical Thinking

The questions below can be used as written, simply answered in complete sentences, or easily transformed into longer essay (ELA) style questions, or even research topics. In any case, have the students support their answers with details from the text or use critical thinking skills to create a thorough and interesting answer. Consider the level of your students when deciding how to use the questions. The questions for each lesson can be found under the article's title below, and the answers for the short response questions are on the last page of the guide.

"Meeting with the Dauphin" p. 4 – 5

1. What is a Dauphin?
2. What is a regent?
3. Although it was rumored that Joan may be mad, why did the Dauphin receive her?
4. Explain Joan's message to Charles.

"Divided France" p. 6 – 9

1. Explain the feudal system of government.
2. How did England become politically linked to France?
3. How did marriages among the aristocracy further complicate relations between France and England?
4. Why couldn't King Edward III of England claim the French throne?
5. Define the cause of the "Hundred Years' War".
6. How did Henry V get the right to succeed Charles VI on the French throne?
7. What was responsible for the jigsaw division of France?

"The Voices" p. 10 – 13

Essay: After reading this article, what do you think was the cause of Joan's voices? Do you believe it was divine? Why or why not?

"The Church's Say" p. 14 – 15

1. Describe the degree of power that the Church had in fifteenth century Europe.
2. Write a paragraph describing Charles' character flaws and how they affected his ability to claim the throne.
3. Why was Charles hesitant to grant Joan's request for an army of Frenchmen?
4. Why did Charles send Joan to Poitiers and what was the outcome?
5. Why do you think that Joan was put on trial for heresy?
6. What was the outcome of Joan's trial? Write a paragraph with supporting details telling why you agree or disagree with the verdict.

"On to Orleans" p. 16 – 19

Only a few decades after her execution, a bronze monument of Joan kneeling before Charles VII was displayed on the Orleans Bridge where she had shouted her challenge to the English troops. What do you think is the reasoning behind this?

“Ready for Battle” p. 20 – 22

1. What were the two general rules for military commanders when making war in the Middle Ages?
2. What were the advantages and disadvantages of a battle fought in an open field?
3. What change came for soldiers in the 1400’s?
4. Why did English armies have the edge in open battles?
5. Explain the tactic used during sieges?

“My Lord, the King” p. 24 – 27

After reading the article, mark each statement true or false. If the answer is false, provide the correct answer.

_____ 1. Joan’s small flag was the most important item of the coronation regalia, and one of the few that had not fallen into the hands of the English.

_____ 2. Joan’s primary goal was the Dauphin’s coronation in Reims Cathedral.

_____ 3. ‘Franks’ refers to the emblem resembling a lily or iris that was part of the coat of arms of the French royal family.

_____ 4. The holy oil that was used to mark the Dauphin’s head, chest, shoulders, elbows, and wrists symbolized the belief that it was God who had chosen the king as his lieutenant in the earthly manners.

_____ 5. Prior to coronation day, the people of Reims surrendered the keys of the city to Charles.

_____ 6. The coronation ceremony gave the French the consecrated king they wanted and stopped the war.

“To the Battlefield or the Table?” p. 28 – 29

1. Explain the enormous significance of Joan of Arc in Charles’ life.
2. Why did the orthodox religious authorities dislike Joan?
3. Why did Charles give Joan only mild support?
4. Was Charles successful in his negotiations?

“A Friend to Compiegne” p. 32 – 34

Essay: Based on this article, and what you have read in this issue of Calliope, do you think that Joan was betrayed by de Flavy or simply captured due to unavoidable circumstances? Use details to support your answer.

“The Trial” p. 35 – 37

1. Why were several groups eager to have Joan as their prisoner?
2. Why was Joan treated as a prisoner of war rather than a prisoner of the church?
3. Why did Joan resist swearing an oath to tell the truth at her trial?

4. Why did the trial focus on Joan's insistence on wearing men's clothing? What was her response to this charge?
5. How did Joan's trial end?

"The Verdict" p. 38 – 40

1. After Guillaume Erard condemned Joan for her crimes, what was her response?
2. Why was it unfair to ask Joan to sign the papers put before her?
3. What was Joan's sentence?
4. What happened when Cauchon and other witnesses arrived at her cell the day following her imprisonment?
5. Describe the crowd's reaction at Joan's execution? How can you explain it?

"Rethinking the Past" p. 42 -43

1. Why do you think Charles VII did not intervene to save Joan from persecution?
2. What purpose did the new Church trial in 1452 serve?
3. What is the consensus today regarding Joan of Arc?
Essay: After reading this issue of Calliope, write a historical account of Joan of Arc. Include your own insights and reaction to the facts.

ANSWER KEY:

1. *False, the sacred flask*
2. *True*
3. *False, Fleurs-de-lis*
4. *True*
5. *True*
6. *False, did not stop the war*