

Reading Comprehension — Owain Glyndŵr, Prince of Wales

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Owain Glyndŵr, Prince of Wales

More than six hundred years ago, a Welsh nobleman named Owain Glyndŵr led the last great rebellion to free Wales from English rule. Today he is remembered as one of the greatest heroes in Welsh history.

For many years, Owain lived quietly as a landowner. But the people of Wales were unhappy. They felt they were treated unfairly under English law, taxed heavily and given little say over their own land. In the year 1400, after a dispute with a powerful English neighbour, Owain was declared Prince of Wales by his followers, and the rebellion began.

At first, Owain was remarkably successful. His forces captured castles across Wales, and he gained the support of much of the country. He had big dreams: he planned a Welsh parliament, two Welsh universities, and an independent Welsh church. For a few years, it seemed Wales might truly govern itself.

But the rebellion could not last. The English king sent larger and larger armies. Slowly, Owain's strongholds fell, his allies drifted away, and his support faded. By around 1412, Owain himself had vanished. Remarkably, he was never captured and never betrayed, even though a large reward was offered. No one knows for certain where or when he died.

Owain Glyndŵr did not win independence for Wales. But his courage, his vision, and the mystery of his disappearance turned him into a lasting symbol of Welsh identity and pride.

Questions

1. What did Owain Glyndŵr lead? (1 mark)
2. In what year was he declared Prince of Wales? (1 mark)
3. Give two reasons the people of Wales were unhappy. (2 marks)
4. Find and copy a word in paragraph 3 meaning "plans or hopes for the future." (1 mark)
5. Why does the writer say "the rebellion could not last"? (2 marks)
6. Why is it "remarkable" that Owain was never captured or betrayed? (2 marks)
7. What is the writer trying to make the reader feel about Owain? Use evidence. (2 marks)
8. Summarise Owain's story in order: before, the rebellion's success, its decline, and his legacy. (4 marks)

Answer Key / Mark Scheme

1. The last great rebellion to free Wales from English rule.
2. 1400.

3. Any two: treated unfairly under English law; taxed heavily; given little say over their land.
4. "dreams" (accept "vision").
5. The English king sent larger armies; strongholds fell, allies drifted away, support faded.
6. A large reward was offered, yet no one gave him up — showing how loyal his people were / how respected he was.
7. Admiration — the writer calls him a great hero, stresses his courage and vision and the mystery of his end.
8. Before: a quiet landowner; Wales unhappy. Success: declared prince, captured castles, planned a parliament and universities. Decline: English armies grew, support faded, he vanished. Legacy: a lasting symbol of Welsh pride.