

SOCIAL STUDIES — SCOTTISH HISTORY · P5–P7

Na Seumasach — The Jacobites

Knowledge Organiser — P5–P7 (CfE Second Level)

Key vocabulary

1

Jacobite

A supporter of the claim of the exiled Stuart dynasty to the British throne. From Latin 'Jacobus' (James). Most Jacobites were Scottish Highlanders and Catholics.

2

Charles Edward Stuart (1720–1788)

'Bonnie Prince Charlie' — grandson of James VII/II. Led the 1745 Rising. Arrived in Scotland in July 1745, raised the clans at Glenfinnan.

3

The '45 Rising

The Jacobite Rising of 1745. Charlie's forces reached as far south as Derby in England before the retreat to Scotland. Final defeat at Culloden, April 1746.

4

Battle of Culloden (16 April 1746)

The last pitched battle on British soil. The Jacobite army was destroyed in under an hour by government forces under the Duke of Cumberland. Around 1,500–2,000 Jacobites were killed or died of wounds.

5

The Clearances

Following Culloden, the British government suppressed Highland culture (banning tartan, Gaelic, bagpipes). Later, Highlanders were cleared from their land for sheep farming, leading to mass emigration.



6

'Butcher' Cumberland

Prince William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland — commander of the government forces. His harsh treatment of Jacobite survivors and Highlanders after Culloden earned him the nickname 'The Butcher'.

— the transformation of the Highlands

What changed and why it ma

- CULTURAL SUPPRESSION: The Dress Act (1746) banned Highland dress, tartan, bagpipes, and the carrying of weapons. Gaelic was discouraged in schools.
- DESTRUCTION OF THE CLAN SYSTEM: chiefs' legal powers over their tenants were abolished. The Highland social structure which had sustained the '45 was dismantled.
- THE HIGHLAND CLEARANCES (1760s–1850s): landlords cleared tenant farmers to make way for more profitable sheep farming. Thousands emigrated to North America, Australia, and New Zealand.
- GLENFINNAN: the monument at Glenfinnan marks where Charlie raised the standard in 1745. Now a major tourist site — and the Viaduct behind it appears in Harry Potter.
- ROMANTIC LEGACY: Walter Scott and Queen Victoria romanticised Highland culture in the 19th century — the tartan, bagpipes, and clans became symbols of Scotland after being nearly destroyed.
- TODAY: Culloden Battlefield is managed by the National Trust for Scotland. Around 40 million Americans claim Scottish ancestry — many descend from those cleared after 1746.

