

1st
B subject (4th) Ezra
Special Prize

B++

Good in
circumstances

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The main features of the Coronation Ceremony and their meaning

The Coronation which is a ceremony performed by the British during the proclamation of Kings and Queens was started in 1066, and being an ancient ceremony it reminds us of past English Kings and Queens.

The main features of the Coronation are: "The Recognition, Oath, Anointing, Presentation of the Regalia, Crowning, Enthroning and Homage."

The "Recognition" which is the first part of the Coronation Ceremony starts after the sovereign has entered the Abbey and has said private prayers. The "Recognition" which is the presentation of the sovereign to the subjects as their undoubted King or Queen takes place at the four corners of the Abbey—one corner after another; the subjects also in response to the presentation shout with joy to express their consent and appreciation.

After the "Recognition" comes the "Oath" which is administered by the Archbishop of Canterbury while the sovereign kneels at the Altar. During the taking of the "Oath", the sovereign promises to preserve the Protestant Religion and to govern according to the laws of the land and it is reckoned as the most solemn oath in the life of the sovereign.

The next feature after the "Oath" is the "Anointing" which is also administered by the Archbishop of Canterbury while the sovereign sits in St. Edward's Chair, protected by a canopy borne by four Knights of the Garter. With the

Holy Oil from the Eagle Ampulla, the Archbishop of Canterbury anoints the sovereign on the breast, hand and the crown of the head in the form of a cross. From the religious point of view this is a more important part of the ceremony than the crowning, and indeed it is the most important of all because in the olden days all sovereigns crowned in the name of God, were anointed. The anointing of sovereigns, it appears, was suggested by God to his people and as a Christian nation, it was essential to do exactly what God had suggested to his people, in the olden days, in the proclamation of a sovereign.

Then follows the "Presentation of the Regalia" to the sovereign. The "Regalia" consists of the "Golden Spurs, the Jewelled Sword, the Orb, The Ring, the Glove, the Sceptre mounted with the cross and the Rod." These are presented to the sovereign in turn, one after another. The first presentation is the Golden Spurs which symbolize "Chivalry." Then comes the next presentation which is the Jewelled Sword, one of the five swords of state, which is said to be the most beautiful and valuable sword in the world, and it symbolizes "Knighthly Valour." It is presented to the sovereign to be used for the punishment of evil doers and for protecting and encouraging those who act justly. The Orb which is the next to be presented to the sovereign, symbolizes Dominion over the four corners of the Earth and Worldly Power under the Cross. The Ring which is placed on the fourth finger of the right hand of the

sovereign comes after the presentation of the Orb. It is known as "The Wedding Ring of England;" and signifies that the wearer is wedded to the State. After the presentation of the Ring, the beautifully embroidered white, gauntlet-Glove for the right hand only, is traditionally presented to the sovereign; this is to make the sovereign "gentle in the taking of taxes." The last two pieces in the Regalia to be presented to the sovereign are the Sceptre mounted with the cross, and the Rod with the dove. The Sceptre with the cross, perhaps the most magnificent piece in the Regalia, contains the largest piece of the famous Star of Africa, cut from the magnificent cullinian diamond, which is presented to the sovereign, signifies Royal Sovereignty under the cross. The Rod, topped with a white enamel dove with outstretched wings, signifying Equity and Mercy, is the last to be presented to the Sovereign.

Shortly after the presentation of the Regalia comes the "crowning"; and as the sovereign sits on King Edward's Chair which contains the "Stone of Destiny", St. Edward's Crown, which is heavily encrusted with jewels and weighs nearly five pounds, is lifted up by the Archbishop of Canterbury and placed reverently upon the Sovereign's head.

"There upon, the people with loud and repeated shouts will cry 'God save the Queen (or King)'; the Princes and Peers then put on their coronets, and the Knights their crowns. The trumpets sound

with loud noises and the drums also beat, and at a signal given, the great guns of the Tower and those in the Park are boom out so that all the world echoes with joyful sounds. Shortly after the crowning, the Holy Bible is presented to the sovereign as the most valuable thing on earth; the sovereign immediately hands back the Bible and prepares for the "Enthroning".

The "Enthroning" comes on when the sovereign is raised up and led to the Throne Chair, up the five steps in the centre of the Theatre and here the sovereign is enthroned.

Lastly comes the Homage, when the Archbishop of Canterbury on behalf of the Church of England, the Princes of the 'Blood Royal' and the Senior Peers, swear loyalty to the sovereign as their undoubted sovereign. After the Homage, the Holy Communion is also taken. This ritual thus ends the Coronation Ceremony, so full of pomp and dignity, and so rich in meaning