

Scots language and culture teacher CPD
Unit 4.4 Activity 3A Source 3

Scottish Parliament in the reign of James VI. (Rosemary Goring, 2007)

Act against luxury, 1581. Scottish Parliament Act. The King and his nobles disapproved of common people wearing fine clothing.

The kingis maiestie and estates of this present parliament considering the greit abuse standing among his subiectis of the mene estate presuming to conterfait his hines and his nobilities in the use and wearing of coistlie cleithing of silkis of all sortis, layne, cameraige, freinyeis and pasmentis of gold, silver and silk and wollin claith maid and brocht from uthir foreyne cuntreis quhairthrow the process of the same is groun to sic exorbitant derth as it is nocht abill to be langer sustenit without greit skayth and inconvenient of the common weill.

The king's majesty and estates of this parliament considering the great abuse among his subjects of the lower order presuming to imitate his highness and the nobility in the use and wearing of costly clothing of silks of all sorts, wool, cambric, fringes and edging of gold, silver and silk and woollen cloth made and brought from other foreign countries as a result of which the prices of these are grown so exorbitant that it cannot be any longer sustained without great injury and inconvenience of the commonweal.