

The city's unfriendliness

As the number and significance of the performers grew, and Londoners came in ever-increasing masses to see plays, the enmity of two forces, Puritanism and Civic Government, grew, opposing the play for different reasons, but almost equally violently. When the city's governors became Puritans over time, the resulting hatred was enough to push the players out of London and into the suburbs.

The Puritans condemned the production as a violation of Holy Scripture, a desecration of religion, and a threat to public morality. They conducted a fight of ferocious fanaticism in the pulpit and pamphlet against plays, players, and audience members. The charges they leveled of godlessness, idolatrousness, lewdness, profanity, wicked practices, enormities, and various "abuses" are much too numerous to list here; they are noteworthy only for their irrationality and the violence with which they were leveled.

After all, no matter how enraged the Puritans were, they were powerless to stop the Lord Mayor, his brethren¹⁹ the Aldermen, and the Common Council from acting. The city officials' stance toward the drama was unmistakable: they had no more affection for the actors than the Puritans did. They discovered that "plays and players" caused them more problems than anything else in municipal management.

The commitment of some "great inns" to the use of performers and the amusement of the city's enjoyment element produced new and serious issues for those entrusted with maintaining civic law and order. The existence of private rooms adjacent to the yard and balconies in these inns provided opportunities for immorality, gambling, fleecing, and other "evil practices"—an opportunity that, according to the Common Council, was not squandered.

Questions 1-7

Complete the summary below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** from the passage for each answer.

When the city's governors became 1 _____ over time, the resulting hatred was enough to push the players out of London and into the suburbs. The Puritans condemned the production as a violation of 2 _____, a desecration of religion, and a threat to public morality. They are noteworthy only for their irrationality and the 3 _____ with which they were leveled. The existence of private rooms adjacent to the 4 _____ and balconies in these inns provided opportunities for immorality, gambling,... The charges they leveled of godlessness, 5 _____, lewdness, profanity, wicked practices, enormities,... they were powerless to stop the 6 _____, his brethren¹⁹ the Aldermen, and the Common Council from acting. other 7 _____—an opportunity that, according to the Common Council, was not squandered.

Answer for exercise 2

(Note: The text in italics is from the reading passage and shows the location from where the answer is taken or inferred. The text in the regular font explains the answer in detail.)

1. *Puritans*

Explanation: Paragraph 1 - *When the city's governors became Puritans over time, the resulting hatred was enough to push the players out of London and into the suburbs.*

2. *Holy Scripture*

Explanation: Paragraph 2 - *The Puritans condemned the production as a violation of Holy Scripture, a desecration of religion, and a threat to public morality.*

3. *violence*

Explanation: Paragraph 2 - *they are noteworthy only for their irrationality and the violence with which they were leveled.*

4. *yard*

Explanation: Paragraph 4 - *The existence of private rooms adjacent to the yard and balconies in these inns provided opportunities for immorality, gambling,...*

5. *idolatrousness*

Explanation: Paragraph 2 - *The charges they leveled of godlessness, idolatrousness, lewdness, profanity, wicked practices, enormities,...*

6. *Lord Mayor*

Explanation: Paragraph 3 - *they were powerless to stop the Lord Mayor, his brethren¹⁹ the Aldermen, and the Common Council from acting.*

7. *"evil practices"*

Explanation: Paragraph 4 - *other "evil practices"—an opportunity that, according to the Common Council, was not squandered.*