

### The Favourite



Queen Anne was the first ruler of the newly united Great Britain in the early 1700s; the last Stuart monarch before the Hanoverian dynasty that's still with us (God save the Queen!). So, there's your history.

Here, the widowed, childless, semi-invalid Anne is a lonely, eccentric figure, stuck in the gilded cage of her palace, who leaves the managing of national affairs to her childhood friend, the formidable Sarah Churchill.

Sarah is the wife of John Churchill, head of the armed forces (and of another dynasty that's still with us). The Duke of Marlborough, as John is also known, is off fighting the French, *comme de tradition*, and one of Sarah's jobs is to bully parliament into keeping his war funded.

Sarah, then, is pretty much in charge until the arrival of an impoverished cousin, Abigail, who seeks work as a servant. Abigail then sets about working her way up the hierarchy, all the way to the Queen's bedchamber...

This witty, bawdy and occasionally absurdist story of court politics is great fun (despite some gratingly annoying music) and probably accurate (at least) in showing how fragile both power and social status were in that era.

*mercifullyshortreview.wordpress.com, 2019*

## Tekst 1 The Favourite

---

- 1p 1 How is Queen Anne portrayed in this movie?
- A as a belligerent ruler who unnecessarily prolonged hostilities between France and Britain
  - B as a manipulative and capricious monarch who abused her authority for personal gain
  - C as a sovereign who was about to abdicate after a series of unfortunate events
  - D as a tragic and isolated person who abstained from performing her royal duties
  - E as a woman who became mentally stretched as a result of a sexual scandal
- 1p 2 Why should we go and see this film, according to this review?
- A because it debunks misconceptions about how the present royal family came into power
  - B because it gives an edgy and amusing insight into the palace machinations of the time
  - C because it is an interesting variation on the classic theme of loyalty, betrayal and subjugation
  - D because it sheds new light on the constitutional relevance of the Churchill family for Great Britain

---

### Bronvermelding

*Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift.*