

Skills catcher: What was life like in Tudor England?

Read the extract below showing part of an original Tudor inventory.

Item	s (shillings)	d (pence)
A featherbed, a mattress, a bolster [support], a pillow and a pair of blankets	26	8
Two bedspreads and a bed hanging	13	4
Hangings about the bed	4	0
A cupboard and a wooden chest	6	8
Two cupboards, a bench and a chair	6	8
One small bowl, three saucers, a dish for salt, a painted pot and a silver-plated dish	2	0
A skillet [frying pan] and a candlestick	0	20
Three gowns and a cloak	10	0
Three coats, three jackets, one doublet [padded jacket], three pairs of stockings and three pairs of shoes	26	8
One cap, three hats, three night caps and a satin cloak	10	0
Six shirts, two kerchiefs, three napkins and five pillowcases	13	4
A purse, a girdle [belt], a pair of knives and a sword	2	0
A silver spoon	2	4
A pair of bales	0	8
Bundles of wood	6	8
10 strikes of malt	13	4
A quarter of wheat and a quarter of barley	20	0
Sum of money	9	4

1

What deductions can you make about the person? Give supporting evidence from the inventory.

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2

What questions do you have about the person?

3

How could you find out the answers to your questions?

4

Is an inventory a primary or secondary source? Explain why.

5

How reliable is the inventory as a source to learn about the life of a Tudor person?
