**How successful Henry VII in fulfilling his foreign policy objectives?**

**Henry’s foreign policy aims were straightforward. His three main aims were to maintain good relations with European powers and therefore gain international recognition for the Tudor dynasty, to maintain national security and to defend English trading interests. These aims were significant as they aimed to achieve recognition, security and prosperity.**

**Henry had successfully established peace between France and England by 1492 as a result of the Treaty of Etaples which successfully managed to secure a pension of 745,000 crowns, paid in annual instalments of 50,000 crowns a year. Charles also agreed that he would no longer assist any pretenders to the English throne. This was extremely significant as Henry’s strategic approach contributed in consolidating his position as ruler and achieving his foreign policy aims. Henry, based on his intelligence that Charles was more interested on invading Italy than fighting the English, took a crucial, calculated risk and raised two parliamentary subsidies and invaded France with 26,000 men. This was extremely significant as this is what led to the Treaty of Etaples and Henry’s victory which is crucial as it illustrates that Henry was successful in fulfilling his foreign policy objectives. This was a vital turning point as it put an end to the ongoing rivalry between England and France’s monarchies who were previously constantly at war. Henry put English interest before the idea of being a war like king which is crucial as it portrays his foreign policy as successful. This was significant as again Henry’s strategical approach benefitted Tudor dynasty and his long-term security.**

**Henry however, did face setbacks as after the French had invaded Brittany in 1487, the Treaty of Redon in 1489 was formed between England and Brittany and was crucial as Henry agreed to support the claim of Duchess Anne. This was an unsuccessful risk as in 1491 Anne surrendered to the French therefore ending Breton independence. This was humiliating loss for Henry as he went against the Anglo-French truce of 1488 in order to support Brittany and he was unsuccessful.**

**Henry however, was arguably unsuccessful with his relationship with Burgundy, the Netherlands and the Holy Roman Empire as in 1508, Henry was not a signatory to the League of Cambrai which formed by the Holy Roman Empire, Spain, France and the Papacy. This was crucial as it left England diplomatically isolated leaving them in a vulnerable position.**

**Henry however, did make effort in order to improve his relations as demonstrated by the Intercursus Magnus of 1496 which was extremely significant as it ended the trade embargo which was imposed as a result of Margaret’s support of Perkin Warbeck and recognised Henry’s position as King. The Treaty was significant as it contributed towards the securing of the dynasty as well as protecting the commercial interests of England as the embargo harmed both the English and Flemish economy. This suggests that Henry was not unsuccessful in fulfilling the aims of foreign policy as he prioritised the countries interests.**

**The Treaty of Medina del Campo 1489, between England and Spain, was the most significant achievement of Henry’s foreign policy. a marriage alliance between Catherine of Aragon and Prince Arthur was agreed which took place in 1501. This was significant as the Tudor Dynasty had been recognized as an equal by one of the leading royal families of Europe. This was crucial for Henry who was keen to secure international recognition.**

**The death of Philip however, proved to be disastrous for Henry as it led to Ferdinand becoming the regent of Castile. This was extremely significant as it left Henry diplomatically isolated once again as he had been outsmarted by a major European monarch. This was significant as the marriage between Catherine and Henry which was arranged as a result of Arthur’s death in 1502, was jeopardized as Ferdinand ensured the marriage did not take place during Henry VII’s lifetime. Isabella then died in 1504 causing Henry to become less enthusiastic for the marriage as it made Ferdinand a less significant political figure.**

**In conclusion, Henry was successful in fulfilling his foreign policy aims to a large extent as he responded skillfully to the changing circumstances in which he found himself in. However, Henry was wrong-footed by the death of Isabelle of Castile in 1504 and found himself dangerously isolated for a time.**