

History

Answers and commentaries

GCSE (8145)

2BD Restoration England, 1660 - 1685

Marked answers from students for questions from the June 2022 exams. Supporting commentary is provided to help you understand how marks are awarded and how students can improve performance.

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Answers and commentaries

Please note that these responses have been reproduced exactly as they were written by the student.

This resources is to be used alongside the GCSE History 2BD Restoration England, 1660 - 1685 June 2022 Question paper and inserts.

Question 1

How convincing is **Interpretation A** about conflict with the Dutch?

Explain your answer based on your contextual knowledge and what it says in **Interpretation A**.

[8 marks]

Mark scheme

Target **Analyse individual interpretations (AO4a)**
Evaluate interpretations and make substantiated judgements in the context of historical events studied (AO4d)

Level 4: **Complex evaluation of interpretation with sustained judgement based on contextual knowledge/understanding** **7-8**

Extends Level 3.

Students may progress from a developed evaluation of interpretation by complex analysis of the interpretation supported by factual knowledge and understanding.

For example, the Dutch war contributed to Parliament's dissatisfaction with Charles II. Parliament was suspicious that Charles was too close to the French Catholic King Louis who was allowing the English to do most of the fighting against the Dutch, who were Protestant. The problem was that the Dutch were commercial rivals but also co-religionists.

Student responses

Response A

Interpretation A is quite convincing about the conflict with the Dutch as it states that it 'resulted in important developments in naval warfare.' This is true as during Charles' reign, the British navy was stronger than ever before due to new technology. For example a new type of ships were designed called 'ships of the line' which were large and strong with powerful cannons loaded. These were used in the 'Battle of Line' tactics, where ships would get in a line and create a wall of fire with their cannons. This made the navy increasingly powerful and Charles II is seen as the founder of the Royal Navy.

As well as that the interpretation is convincing because it states that 'people doubted Charles' honesty and feared that the wars were aimed at their freedoms and religion'. This is true because Charles allied with France in the 3rd Anglo-Dutch war even though France was Catholic. This made him seem suspicious to Parliament and when the Treaty of Dover was revealed in 1672, Parliament refused to fund the war as they feared that Charles wanted to return Catholicism to England with the help of France. This made the Anglican public and Parliament weary of Charles, and without money to fight the war, England lost.

This is a Level 3 response

The response addresses more than one aspect of the interpretation. There is developed evaluation in relation to naval warfare and Charles' commitment to Protestantism. Both points are supported with contextual knowledge and understanding. It is credited at Level 3, at the higher mark in the level.

Response B

Interpretation A is convincing as it speaks of 'naval developments'. We know new tactics were used in second and third Anglo Dutch war such as ships of the line which were ships with advanced technology, able to withstand heavy enemy fire. Furthermore, line of battle methods were used creating maximum damage to the opposition on ships lined up horizontally head to toe, with as many cannons pointing out as possible, is so therefore convincing as it agreed with my knowledge of developments. Furthermore, A speaks of 'major battles' I know battles such as the battle of Lowestoft and battle of Schooel Channel took place involving sunken ships and fighting so the interpretation is further convincing due to the mention of battles which I am already aware of.

Furthermore, interpretation is very convincing as it says 'Parliament refused to grant him money to fight them'. I know in 1672, parliament issued 'Stop of the Exchequer' which publicly announced refusal to fund Charles and his decisions and I know this to be a major cause as to why the Treaty of Breda had to be signed as the navy and not be payed for, making A very useful about conflict with the Dutch due to my knowledge regarding Parliament. Furthermore, it says 'doubted Charles' honesty' which I know to be true as Charles spent time in France in exile and had strong relations with Louis XIV, King of France, creating fear of Catholicism in England and doubt as in 1679, the Secret Treaty of Dover meant people and parliament felt Charles could not be trusted, therefore making A very useful due to this perspective from people and government that my prior knowledge agrees with.

This is a Level 4 response

The response shows a complex evaluation of the interpretation. It explores two issues raised by the interpretation (naval developments, and Charles' relations with parliament) in impressively broad context. As such, it is credited at Level 4, at the top of the level.

Question 2

Explain what was important about Charles II's court.

[8 marks]

Mark scheme

Target Explain and analyse historical events and periods studied using second-order concepts (AO2:4)
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key features and characteristics of the period studied (AO1:4)

Level 4: **Complex explanation of consequences** **7-8**
Answer demonstrates a range of accurate and detailed knowledge and understanding that is relevant to the question

Extends Level 3.

Students may progress from a developed explanation by extended analysis of the consequences of the stated development (the Royal Court during the reign of Charles II) in the broader historical context (Restoration England). This is supported by factual knowledge and understanding.

For example, the Royal Court was the centre of government. Here the King's ministers, such as the Lord Chancellor, and Lord Treasurer met in the Privy Council to advise the King. But unlike the French court of Louis which Charles admired, he was not an absolute monarch. Parliament controlled the purse strings. However, the King's great power was of patronage. Samuel Pepys rose to be in charge of the Admiralty in 1684 through patronage.

Student responses

Response A

Charles II's court was very important because not only were they all friends that would party and drink, which resulted in them being known as the merry gang they were also Charles advisers and therefore had a lot of influence on Charles. It was also important because the way to get to Charles was through his court. They brought back partying and celebration after long gloomy reign of Oliver Cromwell, and this was important because it made them likeable to people but hated by Parliament as they showed traits of Catholicism.

Charles II's court was also important because they would advise him on new laws that were proposed from parliament and would help Charles to try find a balance. They also brought back many sports and invented new ones, such as real tennis that they would all play as well as showing them to the people and overall they brought back fun to people's lives after the dull reign.

This is a Level 2 response

The response addresses a number of aspects of importance, showing simple explanation supported with some knowledge. There are attempts to develop explanations about the importance of the court, though these require further substantiation. As it includes a number of simple, implicit explanations, it is credited at Level 2 at the higher mark in the level.

Response B

One way in which Charles II's court was important was the influence and access that would be gained. A crucial way in which this was done was through mistresses. These women were given rooms in the palace at Whitehall, sometimes even more than those given to the queen, and thus had a lot of access to Charles. This gave the mistresses and those around them a huge amount of political influence. For example, it is thought that Charles was introduced to Louise de Keroualle, his main mistress for the second half of his reign, by Lord Arlington in order to draw favour away from his previous favourite Barbara Castlemaine, who had begun to exclude French from her social circle.

Another way in which the court was important was its influence on fashion. In Restoration England huge periwigs became popular among nobles under the influence of France, all beginning at court. Later, when Charles decided to bring about new, more English style of a surcoat, waistcoat and breeches (thought now to be an ancestor of the modern three-piece suit) he did so by wearing it in court, causing a chain reaction that led to its popularity among courtiers and then the rest of England.

This is a Level 3 response

The response addresses two aspects of importance (the court as a centre of access and influence, and the role of the court in spreading new trends/ fashions). Both aspects are addressed in a developed manner, with explanations supported with contextual knowledge and understanding. The response is therefore credited at Level 3.

Response C

Charles II's court was extremely important because the access it provided to the king and the resulting influence on political decisions. We know that Charles' court was considerable large and was mad up of groups with certain roles. For example, the Privy council. During his reign there averaged about 60 men in the council at once. Lords believed it was very important to be part of the Privy council because it provided access to the king and he tuned to them when in need in political assistance. Furthermore within the court there were senior positions such as Lord Chancellor (adopted by Lord Clarendon until 1667) and Lord Treasurer (adopted by Lord Ashley). These roles had upmost importance in also providing guidance to the king and were therefor important as they were a key part of Charles' political campaign.

Charles II's court was also important because of how it reflected Charles' influence from France. During his time in exile, Charles half resided at the Court of Louis XIV and wanted to adopt a similar style. However, Charle's recognised that (unlike Louis) he could not reign as absolute monarch because he relied on Parliament for money. The french influence can be seen through the decorations in court and his mistresses. For example, Louise de Kerouaille had 40 rooms which was more than Charles' wife, Catherine of Braganza. Louise decorated her rooms in a Baroque style which Charles' court adopted soon after. These influences meant Charles II's Court was extremely important as it also provided further political influence. Therefore, linking to wider historical context, Charles II's court was important because of how it influenced his turbulent political relationship with parliament. In particular, his court being heavily influenced by the french led to accusations of Catholic sympathies which meant parliament refused to fund Charles as the third anglo-dutch war progressed.

This is a Level 4 response

The response addresses more than one aspect of importance (access and influence, and international influence). Both aspects are very well explained and supported with an impressive range of contextual knowledge and understanding. Complex thinking is demonstrated in the appreciation of the way in Charles was influenced by the French court, which shows broader contextual understanding. The response is therefore credited at Level 4, at the higher mark in the level.

Question 3

Write an account of how the Great Fire of London affected Restoration England.

[8 marks]

Mark scheme

Target Explain and analyse historical events and periods studied using second-order concepts (AO2:4)
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key features and characteristics of the period studied (AO1:4)

Level 4: Complex analysis of change(s) 7–8
Answer is presented in a coherent narrative/account that demonstrates a range of accurate and detailed knowledge and understanding that is relevant to the question

Extends Level 3.

Students may progress from a developed narrative of change(s) with complex reasoning supported by a range of accurate and detailed factual knowledge and understanding. For example, an explanation of different impacts/ consequences of change in the broader historical context.

For example, after the fire people wanted someone to blame and they blamed England's enemies, the Dutch and the French. There was also more anti-Catholic feeling which contributed to the Exclusion Crisis. In the 1680s there was much talk about a Popish conspiracy that had started the fire. However, the cost of the Fire made Charles and Parliament less able to fight the Second Anglo Dutch War and forced them into peace negotiations and eventually the fall of Clarendon.

Level 3: Developed analysis of change(s) 5–6
Answer is presented in a structured and well-ordered narrative/account that demonstrates a range of accurate knowledge and understanding that is relevant to the question

Extends Level 2.

Students may progress from a simple narrative of change(s) with extended reasoning supported by a range of factual knowledge and understanding.

For example, the Great Fire of London damaged London which was the heart of the economy. There was only a slow recovery. Although many houses were rebuilt by 1673 only about half of them were occupied. But the insurance business grew from the Great Fire. As the fire had destroyed more than 13,000 homes, a fire court was set up to settle property disputes.

Level 2: Simple explanation of one change(s) 3–4
Answer is presented in a structured account that demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding that is relevant to the question

Students may progress from a basic narrative of change(s) by showing a simple understanding of consequence(s) with supported with factual knowledge and understanding.

For example, the destruction of the fire showed how unsafe and inflammable the old city of London was. The fire meant that the trend to building in brick accelerated throughout England. Old wooden buildings were replaced with brick and many new designs appeared. London became safer as they rebuilt in brick not wood which would not catch light so easily.

Level 1: Basic explanation of change(s) 1–2
Answer is presented in a straightforward account that demonstrates basic knowledge and understanding that is relevant to the question

Students identify a basic narrative of change(s), which is relevant to the question.

For example, the fire burnt down large parts of London.

Students either submit no evidence or fail to address the question 0

Student responses

Response A

The great fire started in pudding Lane after a man called Thomas Baker forgot to put the oven in his bakery out. The fire spread quickly due to houses that were close together. One way this affected England was that houses began to be built further away from each other. Roads were made 50m wide and alleyways were also wider. In this way, England was affected socially also as not everyone could afford to rebuild their houses so quickly, like the rich were so thousands became homeless, with no place to go or stay.

Similarly, England was affected economically during the fire £25,000 of clothes were burned. Additionally 236 acres of land was burned in London. This was incredibly significant as England has an incredibly hard time rebuilding the economy with a lack of items to trade as it had all been burned. This meant they could not trade and they were losing money.

This is a Level 2 response

The response shows a simple analysis of impact of the Great Fire of London. After a short description of the events of the Great Fire of London is provided a number of points are made about impact on England (social and economic), which are supported with some knowledge, though the explanations require further substantiation to progress. It is credited at Level 2, at the higher mark in the level.

Response B

Great fire of London affected Restoration England economically. The fire had damaged to much that tax had to be increased. Cloth was the biggest industry in England and £25,000 of cloth was burnt int the fire. Furthermore, prices of coats increased too as £200,000 of coats was also burnt in the fire. Because England was greatly damage by the fire economically, Charles had lost the Second-Anglo Dutch was as he did not have enough money to provide the war.

Moreover, the Great Fire of London also affected Restoration England socially. Around 100,000 people were homeless as 1/5 of buildings and around 13,200 homes were destroyed in the fire. Around 1/3 of London was destroyed in the fire and so many people did not have anywhere to live. Because there were not any professional workers to stop the fire, after the fire had died down, firefighters were introduced to stop any fires from happening.

This is a Level 3 response

The response demonstrates developed analysis of the impact of the Great Fire of London on Restoration England. In the first paragraph, the response develops a point about the economic impact, which directly addresses the question focus and is supported with contextual knowledge and understanding. There are further points about the increased homelessness and firefighting, which require some further explanation of the impact on Restoration England. The response is credited at Level 3, at the top mark in the level.

Response C

The Great Fire of London began on the 2nd of September 1666 and lasted for approximately 4 days. The fire had begun in a bakery and due to the previous hot summer, strong winds and the subsequently 4 dry thatched roofing on each house, the fire spread quickly. Blockades were set up to slow the fires spread as well as firefighters attempting to douse the flames with water, however the fire ravaged London.

Some of the short term impacts were relatively minor, under 10 people died and many were able to evacuate to the nearby countryside. However over 13000 buildings were destroyed, including St Paul's Cathedral. In the long-term London had to be rebuilt, which was an expensive endeavour, and while it gave Christopher Wren an opportunity to redesign St Paul's Cathedral, with Britain in the middle of the Second Anglo-Dutch war, the economic blow left them vulnerable. As a result, Britain lost the Anglo-Dutch war, and to redirect blame from himself, Charles dismissed the Lord Clarendon from his parliament, paving the way for the Cabal's rise to power and a whole other collection of problems for Charles to face like the 3rd Anglo-Dutch War.

This is a Level 4 response

The response demonstrates complex analysis of the impact of the Great Fire of London on Restoration England. After a brief overview of the events of the fire, the response explains more than one way in which it affected Restoration England, focusing on the economic and political impacts. In each case, the issue in the question is directly addressed with support. The response is credited at Level 4, at the lower mark in the level.

Question 4

The plays were the main reason for the popularity of the theatre in Restoration England.'

How far does a study of **the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London** support this statement?

Explain your answer.

You should refer to **the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London** and your contextual knowledge.

[16 marks]

Mark scheme

Target **Explain and analyse historical events and periods studied using second-order concepts (AO2:8)**
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key features and characteristics of the period studied (AO1:8)

To support their answer students could include aspects of the site such as: location, function, structure, design, people connected with the site, how the site reflects culture, values and fashions of the time and how the site links to important events and/or developments of the specified period.

Level 4: **Complex explanation of consequences leading to a sustained judgement** **13–16**
Answer demonstrates a range of accurate and detailed knowledge and understanding that is relevant to the question

Answer demonstrates a complex, sustained line of reasoning which has a sharply-focused coherence and logical structure that is fully substantiated, with well-judged relevance.

Extends Level 3.

Students may progress from a developed explanation of consequences by analysis of the relationship between them supported by factual knowledge and understanding of the site.

For example, the Theatre Royal Drury Lane was a brand-new theatre where Killigrew's King's company performed, and the King attended. The aristocracy were keen to mix with actors and actresses who were the celebrities of the time. The Restoration Theatre was at the centre of fashionable life because of Charles II's keen patronage of the art and his interest in those who performed. The 'Comedy of Manners' often made fun of the behaviour of the upper class through the characters of the 'fop' and the 'rake'. The plays were entertaining but different groups of people took different things from the plays. Although audiences were from all classes, the Restoration theatre was very much aimed

Level 2: Simple explanation of consequences **5-8**
Answer demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding that is relevant to the question

Answer demonstrates a simple, sustained line of reasoning which is coherent, structured, substantiated and explicitly relevant.

Students may progress from a basic explanation to a simple explanation of consequences by simple reasoning supported with factual knowledge and understanding of the site.

For example, women like Elizabeth Barry, and Nell Gwynn could perform in Restoration comedies. They gained some fame and then more through becoming the mistresses of the nobles or the King at court. The plays were entertaining because female parts were no longer played by men or boys but by women, though they often dressed as men so that they could behave differently.

Level 1: Basic explanation of consequences **1-4**
Answer demonstrates basic knowledge and understanding that is relevant to the question

Answer demonstrates a basic line of reasoning, which is coherent, structured with some substantiation; the relevance might be implicit.

Students recognise and provide a basic explanation of consequences
For example, before Charles II theatres in England were banned because the Puritans thought they were immoral. The Restoration Theatre provided entertainment because when Charles came back he gave permission for the theatre to start. The plays were funny and witty and had women actresses.

Students either submit no evidence or fail to address the question **0**

Student responses

Response A

The plays were the main reason for the popularity of the theatre in Restoration England. Due to the plays, members of all different classes in society were actively buying tickets.

The Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London strongly supports this statement. The theatre was a strong tourist attraction. The design of the building was very new and modern. It was also a very expensive theatre. It cost £4000 to make, which showed the importance of it.

People were very keen on being in the Theatre Royal that it became a place to show off your wealth. People began wearing their latest fashion. People would buy tickets for the pit in order to show off their wealth. However, the theatre wasn't just a place for people with high social status to be. The lower classes were also there from shopkeepers to factory workers, although they would sit in the seats in the upper to middle area.

The Theatre Royal was a very popular establishment amongst women because it meant that women could finally have a job in acting and some in play writing. However women on stage was also very appealing to the men who watched them making it much more popular amongst men too.

A clear point to showcase how popular the theatre really was during Restoration England is Samuel Pepys. Pepys visited the theatre 73 times in the early months of 1668.

The plays were the main reason for the popularity of the theatre in Restoration England, and the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London, strongly supports this statement.

This is a Level 2 response

This response addresses a range of different reasons for the popularity of the Restoration theatre. Simple reasoning is shown in explaining the attracting of the theatre to women and as a place to display wealth/ new fashions, with some further exemplification included. The given issue in the question (the plays) is mentioned in the opening lines and concluding paragraph, but no other reference or evidence is included. As much of the response is implicitly relevant to the question, the response is credited at Level 2, towards the higher marks in the level.

Response B

The plays in Restoration England were new and exciting. They resulted in the King coming to watch them twice a month. They were an important reason for the popularity of theatres. In Dury Lane, Heroic Tragedies and comedies were the more profitable and entertaining. For example in the comedies the Rake and the Fop were favourites of the audiences and their friendly tearing of each other showed popular amongst the Restoration audience.

Furthermore, the plays were used as a source of political rivalry. For example Aphra Behns plays contained both sympathy for the slaves and jokes about the upper class. This meant the plays were the main reason for the popularity of the theatre, as they appealed to everyone. Furthermore, the 'country Gentlemen' which never got published was planning to be a political attack on Lord Coventry, this shows how the plays were popular as they were not just for entertainment but as source of gossip and political rivalry.

The role of women was another very important reason for the popularity of Restoration Theatre. For example women being allowed on stage for the first time was exciting and made the theatres more popular. Women meant the plays became more romantic and heroines were given long speeches to say. Moreover it meant women were finally being able to earn their own living. This meant the theatres were popular as women and the audience was eager to watch plays with female leads. For example Nell Gwynn was an actress and mistress of Charles, she was inspiring to future women who wanted to earn their money. Despite this, women were often sexualised and paid less than men. However Aphra Behn was allowed to keep her money for the third and sixth nights of new plays performed at Dury Lane. This shows how the role of women increased the popularity of theatres because they became more exciting to watch, they inspired other women to break gender stereotypes and it meant women could now earn their own money.

Another very significant reason for the popularity of the theatres was the design. The beautiful classical and Baroque design of Dury Lane theatre meant it was the perfect place to show off your clothes if you were high society. The designs of the Pitts being for wealthy people and being seen by the actors and the galleries being invisible to the social inferiors, meant if there was more seating as Dury Lane had 1500 seats. Despite seeming like the classes didn't mix, they did and that is why the theatre was so popular. For example the backless seating meant people turned around to chat to those behind, as well as the large empty space where different classes could mix. However most important was the frequent intervals that meant more people would be sociable. This shows why the theatres were so popular during Restoration England. Due to the design which enabled society to mix and come up with new ideas and not be so inclusive and elitist as a society.

To conclude, the plays were a very important aspect of the popularity of the theatres as they appealed to ordinary workers, (they needed to for the company to make profit) however this wasn't the main cause for the popularity. The main cause was the role of women.

This is a Level 3 response

This response addresses the given reasons (the plays) and other reasons (the appeal of the theatre to women, and the designs of the theatres) for the popularity of the Restoration theatre. Explanations are consistently developed throughout the response, with strong contextual knowledge and understanding of the theatres and a sharp focus on the issue in the question. There is an attempted judgement, though this requires further substantiation – for example, showing how the different reasons related together in order to establish relative importance. The response is credited at Level 3, at the higher mark in the level.

Response C

The players were an important reason for the popularity of the theatre in Restoration England due to the new plays that were introduced. There were new plays such as the comedy of manners which were very different to plays in the previous period like the Shakespearian tragedy such as Macbeth. The example of a comedy manners is the Country Gentleman which mocked Sir William Coventry. This was controversial play as it caused a lot of tension between Charles and parliament because Coventry was an MP. Eventually the play was banned and Coventry even went to the rower briefly for threatening actors at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane. Furthermore, there were actors and actresses who became famous for certain plays such as Nell Gwynn in Dryden's Secret Love of the Maiden Queen at the theatre Royal Drury Lane. She grew a following which attracted people to the theatre Royal to see her in these plays. The plays were an important reason for the popularity of the Restoration Theatre however not the most important as there are always new plays on in theatres throughout time and the mixing of social classes was a new and important consequence of Restoration theatre which began to close the gap between classes which is still prevalent today.

Another important reason for popularity of the theatre in Restoration England was the new design and scenery. The theatres in Restoration England such as the Theatre Royal Drury Lane were designed by Christopher Wren who was a famous architect of the time. They were very elaborate and luxury which contrasted to the globe of the tudor times which was simple. The stage was wider which allowed for new scenery and props and the stage was only 4.5m from the audience which meant there was a close relationship between the audience and the actors at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane. This meant that the theatre was a more immersive experience and this is one of the reasons why it was popular in Restoration England. However, it was not the most important as the mixing of social classes as that was what drove people to go to the theatre in the first place where as the scenery and design ad the experience exciting and memorable.

The most important reason for popularity of Theatre in Restoration England is the mixing of social classes due to the very high class and important people that attended. People such as Charles himself attended the theatre very regularly and Charles himself went around 280 times in total. This would have caused many people to go so thy could see the king and other members of his court such as his mistresses. The seat prices were also very affordable being only 1 shilling for a gallery seat and 7/6p for a stalls seat. This meant that all classes attend. Furthermore, there were backless benches so that the classes could socials during the interval, which was also new. The mixing of social classes was the most important reason for popularity of the theatre because it allowed lower classes to mix with higher classes which meant the divide between classes was being bridged which affected the Restoration society as a whole.

In conclusion, the most important reason for the popularity of the theatre in Restoration England was the mixing of classes as it affected society as a whole and drove people to the theatre in the first place other than the plays and the scenery which were important for popularity as they made the experience enjoyable.

This is a Level 4 response

This response addresses the given reasons (the plays) and other reasons (the new designs of the theatres, and the theatres as a place where all social classes could mix) for the popularity of the Restoration theatre. Explanations are consistently developed throughout the response, with strong contextual knowledge and understanding of the theatres and a sharp focus on the issue in the question. The response briefly substantiates a judgement in the concluding paragraph, arguing that attraction of the theatre to all social classes gave it a broader impact. This means that the response is credited at Level 4, towards the middle of the level.

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