
A-LEVEL HISTORY

7042/1D- Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy, 1603-1702
Report on the Examination

7042
June 2022

Version: 1.0

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General

There were some excellent responses to all of the questions. In terms of general issues that limited some student responses the main one was a failure to cover the date range set in the essay question. In the case of question 2 on James and religion many students did not address material after 1611. In contrast, for question 3 on Charles I many students included a lot of information from the period 1625 to 1629 rather than focus on the dates in the question, 1629 to 1649. In this question the other feature was limited coverage of 1642 to 1649. For question 4 on Cromwell and Charles II coverage of the dates was not the issue, and an even balance was not expected, but it was clear that students, in general, found it easier to write about Charles II than Cromwell. For question 1, the extracts, students would benefit from being more direct in identifying the main argument and focusing on how far the arguments were convincing or less convincing when shaping their assessment comment.

Question 1

There were a range of excellent responses to this question and it is clear that many students are prepared to answer this in a very structured way. After identifying the main argument many of students directly assessed content of how it was convincing linked to context and then balance this with a part of content they can link to context to suggest why they think it was less convincing. With regard to extract A some struggled with the idea of the fluidity of the groups. With extract B there was an impressive deployment of context from the financial revolution to support and question the argument of the extract. For extract C students were well versed in provided examples of the limits of the Restoration Settlement as being problematic in the 1670s and 1680s as well as the continuing issue of religion.

Question 2

This was the most popular essay that a majority of students decided to answer. There were many exceptional Level 5 responses. The areas that some students needed to develop were centred on covering the range of the period, specifically moving beyond 1611 and particularly looking at the period after the outbreak of the Thirty Years War and the development of Arminianism. When students did consider this there were some excellent references to James' attraction to Arminianism from his genuine interest in theological matters, the Synod of Dort or how he isolated William Laud at St David's. Others used James' engagement with Montagu's 1624 Tract as another example of his changing approach to religion as the religious spectrum changed after 1618. Developed explanation of James' approach to religion was a notable feature of the strongest answers. These included James' ability to recognise the difference between the radicals and the majority, of what were minorities whom he felt he could appease, the Puritans with moderate reforms and a Jacobethan balance for the Protestant church and a moderate enforcement of recusancy fines or other laws against crypto-Catholics. Some considered James' approach to Catholicism was based on his acceptance of it as the 'mother church'. As part of James' successful management of religion better responses also referenced James' use of appointments to enact policy that he needed at specific times, but also the breadth of the Jacobethan balance. This was illustrated with the examples of the appointments of Bancroft, Abbot and Lancelot Andrewes.

Question 3

Students on this question were strong on addressing Charles' belief in Divine Right, as well as the linked issue of his character, as a key source of political division across the period. This could, for

some, have been developed by putting both alongside the implementation of policy and Charles' style of rule as rooted in his character and views of monarchy. Stronger responses balanced Charles as a source of political division with other factors leading to political division, particularly parliamentary radicalism and the relationship between the New Model Army and Parliament in the years 1646 to 1649. Within this many were able to illustrate Charles as the root of parliamentary radicalism and the radicalism of the New Model. In turn the actions of Pym in the years 1640 to 1642 led to the conservative reaction of Constitutional Royalism and the division of the Political Nation to the point that civil war in England was possible in 1642. Some students did not cover the full date range of the question with many having less developed considerations of 1640 to 1642 and even more so 1646 to 1649. Another issue for some was not addressing the political division between the New Model Army and Parliament that was central in the years 1647 to 1649 or the impact of the Levellers as another source of division. Key illustrative content for 1646 to 1649 used well in some of the strongest Level 5 responses included how Charles' intransigence radicalised the Puritans in the New Model Army like Ireton, Harrison and Cromwell, and centred explanation of this around the Heads of the Proposals, the Engagement, the Windsor Prayer Meeting, the Second Civil War, Ireton's Remonstrance and the regicide.

Question 4

Students produced some excellent balanced responses to this question which facilitated sound assessment. Many took a thematic approach considering areas like politics, finance and religion, others approached each ruler in turn. In general students were more confident in addressing the rule of Charles II whereas with Cromwell some struggled to illustrate with examples the points they were trying to make. In stronger essays when addressing Cromwell many commented on Cromwell's approach to government and aims, specifically the tension between his political conservatism and his relative religious radicalism. This was developed through focus on specific areas such as the Instrument of Government, Cromwell's Parliaments, the Humble Petition and Advice, kingship, the Major-Generals and foreign policy. In some of the stronger responses there was also comment putting the issue of stability in context for both rulers, Cromwell in the context of the regicide and alienation of the majority of the conservative Political Nation and for Charles II the context of the immediate problems he faced in 1660 or the broader issues that were problematic for all early modern monarchs, finance, religion, the unwritten constitution and the limited nature of the state.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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