



A-LEVEL HISTORY

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

7042/1D
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General Comments

Some of the best answers to this year's paper showed an extremely sound understanding of the period covered by the questions. There were plenty of clearly focused responses to Question 01, which demanded the evaluation of the three sources in relation to the issue of the development of religious divisions. Equally, many students wrote well-constructed essays in Section B, developing an organised and balanced argument. When students performed less well, it was usually because of their failure to respond to exactly what was asked for in the questions, or because their knowledge was insufficient to enable them to support the points they made adequately. Students who had an appreciation of chronology and who covered the full date range indicated in the questions, as well as making convincing arguments, backed by appropriate evidence, were those who achieved the higher levels in Section B. The majority of students managed their time well during the exam, although there was evidence that some students wrote too much on the extract question. More attempted question 2 and 4 as their essays rather than question 3.

Question 1

The majority of students were clear about the assessment focus of the extract question. Almost all the students examined the extracts in turn and attempted to provide a summary of the overall argument in each of the extracts at the start of their responses to each extract. The best responses, after isolating the overall argument of the extract, then assessed elements of the extract that contributed to this overall argument using contextual knowledge to assess how far the argument could be seen as convincing. Such responses also considered directly, using historical context, how an element of each extract may not be seen as convincing. In isolating the overall arguments of each extract most students were able to comment on A arguing that Charles made religious tensions worse, that B argued that Laudianism changed the church and that C argued that Charles' policies impacted on the Puritans. Stronger responses considered both how the extracts were convincing but also balanced this with possible limits.

Question 2

There were many strong responses to this that appreciated the relationship between James and Parliament changed over time and while there were themes through each Parliament there were also more specific ones in each of James's parliaments. Some students also commented on Charles I's parliament in 1625 and credit was given for this. Stronger responses had a sound conceptual grasp of the balance between the prerogative and privileges but also an appreciation of James' pragmatic approach to kingship, despite his theoretical defence of Divine Right. Stronger responses were able to write about constitutional issues in 1604, the Union and then finance and foreign policy in the later parliaments linked to the constitution, for example the Protestation, but also in relation to religion and finance and foreign policy. Some students wrote about religion, favourites or finance but did not always do this in relation to actual issues with these factors in parliament.

Question 3

There were a number of strong responses to this question which were shaped around the early Restoration religious settlement, Exclusion but also how religion was an issue in Parliament along with finance and foreign policy. Strong responses also addressed Charles II's relationship with Catholicism, in terms of personal relationships, Louis XIV, ministers and the nature of his court. Some linked this then to the Exclusion Crisis. A key discriminator was comment on authority. The best responses particularly made good use of Charles II's pragmatism in accepting the Clarendon Code or his ruling by a Tory-Anglican agenda as a result of Exclusion.

Question 4

Most students covered the range of this question and normally approached it through three periods; Charles II, 1681 to 1685; James II and then post-1688. There were a few answers that did not comment on Charles II at all and thereby limited their response. Some responses were thin in dealing with post-1688 and specifically the importance of the financial revolution or the Act of Settlement. Key to all strong answers was a balance linked to assessment of authority for each of the three periods. For example, Charles II appearing to be absolutist but linked to a Tory-Anglican agenda, James II in a strong position in 1685 but then removed in the Glorious Revolution and, despite the financial revolution and institutionalisation of parliament, William's power as head of a more powerful fiscal-military state.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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