

General Certificate of Education
June 2006
Advanced Level Examination



HISTORY
Unit 6W
Alternative A: Medieval Heresy, 1160–1242

HS6A

Friday 23 June 2006 9.00 am to 10.30 am

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is HS6A.
- Answer **all** questions.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 40.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all answers.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on part (c).

Answer **all** questions.

1 Study the following source material and answer the questions which follow.

Source A It was the cities and towns which were the most receptive to heretical ideas, particularly during the period of economic expansion and population growth so manifest in the twelfth century. Better communications with distant places, a more rapid turnover of population, and the close proximity
5 of large numbers of people facilitated the spread of ideas.

Adapted from M BARBER, *The Cathars*, 2000

Source B So infected with this detestable plague, the sin of heresy, were the people of Toulouse – that generation of vipers – that even in our own times they could not be torn from their deep-rooted wickedness. Following the example of Toulouse, the neighbouring cities and towns became infected with the
5 dreadful plague, caught up in the shoots put out by that city's unbelief.

Adapted from PETER OF LES VAUX DE-CERNAY, *The History of the Albigensian Crusade*, c1212

Source C It is important to realise that new heresies were a response to the widespread admiration for apostolic poverty and preaching. The case of the Waldensians is instructive. Valdes (his followers later called him Peter) was a wealthy merchant in the southern French city of Lyons. He was
5 married with at least two daughters. Like so many others in the twelfth century, Valdes's life was thrown into a crisis of conversion by the appeal of apostolic poverty. In the 1170s he embraced the apostolic life after hearing a street performer sing the story of St. Alexius, who abandoned his bride on their wedding night to live in poverty. When Valdes began to
10 preach in the streets of Lyons, reciting and interpreting his vernacular scriptural texts, the archbishop told him he could not continue to do so. Although Valdes was an eccentric or an enthusiast, he was not a heretic, that is, his beliefs did not differ significantly from those of the church. But he would not yield on the issue of public preaching and neither would the
15 church authorities. The stalemate over preaching led to disobedience and eventually to a break with the church's authority.

Adapted from J LYNCH, *The Medieval Church*, 1992

- (a) Use **Source A** and your own knowledge.

Assess the validity of the views in **Source A** about the reasons for the spread of Catharism. *(10 marks)*

- (b) Use **Source B** and your own knowledge.

How useful is **Source B** as evidence of the extent of the threat posed by Catharism? *(10 marks)*

- (c) Use **Sources A, B and C** and your own knowledge.

‘Popular heresy was caused by the social and religious tensions of urban life.’
Assess the validity of this statement. *(20 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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Question 1 Source B: WA and MD SIBLEY, *The History of the Albigensian Crusade*, Boydell Press, 1998.

Question 1 Source C: J LYNCH, *The Medieval Church*. Longman, 1992. Reproduced by permission of Pearson Education Limited.

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