

General Certificate of Education
June 2008
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



HISTORY
Unit 2

HS2N

**Alternative N: Henry VII and the Establishment of a Secure
Monarchy, 1483–1515**

Monday 2 June 2008 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black 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 HS2N.
- Answer **two** questions.
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- There are 25 marks for each question.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and coherently and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on on each question.

Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

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

Source A Richard III was an energetic and efficient ruler with many qualities of leadership. John Rous, writing in Richard's reign, called him an 'especial good lord' and many other commentators praised his abilities as sovereign. Because of his obsession with security, Richard was forced to make constant bids for popularity, hoping that in time he might overcome the prejudices of his subjects. But it was already too late for this. People saw a cynical motive behind everything he did. Late in 1484 he became even more unpopular when, short of money, he extorted benevolences from his wealthier subjects, something he himself had previously declared illegal.

Adapted from A WEIR, *The Princes in the Tower*, 1992

Source B Comments about Richard III in the *History of the Kingdom of England*, written by Polydore Vergil during the reign of Henry VIII

King Richard reigned two years. He was little of stature and deformed of body, with the one shoulder higher than the other. He had a sour face which seemed to hint at craft and deceit. While he was thinking of any matter, he did constantly bite his lower lip. Also he would ever be pulling out of its sheath and putting in again the dagger he did always wear. Truly he did have a sharp mind, able to plot and deceive. His courage was also fierce, which failed him not even in his very death. When his men deserted him, he chose death by the sword, rather than by attempting to prolong his life by cowardly flight.

Source C

A brief text extract adapted from A J POLLARD, *Richard III and the Princes in the Tower*, 1991, discussing the failing credibility of Richard III due to; rumours of the murder of his nephews, the poisoning of his wife and plans to marry his niece. It goes on to say that his political survival, therefore, depended solely on his continued success on the battlefield. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

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

Explain briefly the meaning of 'benevolences' (line 8) in the context of Richard III's reign. *(3 marks)*

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

Explain how useful **Source B** is as evidence about Richard III. *(7 marks)*

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

'Richard III's downfall was mostly due to his unpopularity.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this statement. *(15 marks)*

Turn over for the next question

EITHER

2 Read the following source and then answer the questions which follow.

A brief text extract adapted from J GUY, *The Tudor Age*, 1984, describing Henry VII's methods of maintaining his financial rule. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

- (a) Comment on 'overmighty magnates' (line 2) in the context of Henry VII's approach to government. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why Henry VIII encouraged a backlash against some of his father's key advisers after the death of Henry VII. (7 marks)
- (c) Explain the importance of concerns for law and order, in relation to other factors, in explaining Henry VII's policies towards the nobility. (15 marks)

OR

3 Read the following source and then answer the questions which follow.

A brief text extract adapted from S B CHRIMES, *Henry VII*, 1972, discussing the insecurity of Henry VII in regards to his succession. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

- (a) Comment on 'a second queen' (line 3) in the context of Henry VII's foreign policy in the last years of his reign. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why Henry VII was especially concerned about relations with France and Brittany early in his reign. (7 marks)
- (c) Explain the importance of Henry VII's desire for international prestige, in relation to other factors, in explaining England's foreign policies in the years 1489 to 1509. (15 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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Question 1 Source A: From *The Princes in the Tower* by ALISON WEIR, published by The Bodley Head. Reprinted by permission of The Random House Group Ltd.

Source C: AJ POLLARD, *Richard III and the Princes in the Tower*, Sutton Publishing, 1991

Question 2: From 'The Tudor Age' by GUY, J, pp 234–5, from *Oxford Illustrated History of England*, edited by Morgan, KO (2000)

Question 3: SB CHRIMES, *Henry VII*, Methuen, 1972, pp 69, 84

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