

General Certificate of Education  
June 2008  
Advanced Level Examination



**HISTORY**  
**Unit 6W**

**HS60**

**Alternative O: Oliver Cromwell: Hero or Villain?**

Thursday 12 June 2008 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 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 HS60.
- 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 will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

**Advice**

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

---

Answer **all** questions.

---

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

**Source A** To the Irish, Cromwell sums up all that is evil in sectarianism, since in their opinion he was in league with the devil. To Cromwell, his Irish mission was a laudable cause and one that involved no ambivalence; both the King's party and the Papist party were to be suppressed. For Cromwell, the task was abundantly clear in Ireland. It was his opinion that the Irish had appealed to the judgement of Heaven, but God had declared against them. He was convinced that he was on God's side and therefore he had concluded that God was on his.

The plantation that followed his campaign would cement his memory as Ireland's greatest enemy in the ensuing centuries. Cromwell's campaign is usually misrepresented. Contrary to popular opinion he did not implement a flagrant violation of the fundamental rights of the Irish to exist. He actively encouraged the dispersion of what he considered the despotic Church regime that had deluded the Irish, in order they might seek the correct path to God. There must be reasonable doubt regarding Cromwell's involvement in the deaths of the ordinary unarmed people of Ireland.

Adapted from T REILLY, *Cromwell: An Honourable Enemy*, 1999

**Source B** Adapted from Cromwell's Declaration to the Irish Catholic clergy, January 1650

You Irish, unprovoked, put the English to the most unheard of and most barbarous massacre in 1641 (without respect of sex or age) that ever the sun beheld. This came at a time when Ireland was in perfect peace. You are a part of Antichrist, whose Kingdom the Scriptures so expressly speaks should be laid in blood. Before long, you must all of you have blood to drink; even the dregs of the cup of the fury and wrath of God, which will be poured out unto you.

**Source C** Cromwell's failures to achieve his most deeply held religious aims are not explicable solely in terms of the paranoid fears of gentry, lawyers and orthodox ministers. Cromwell himself contributed directly to his own failure. He rarely pursued his aims with consistency. Cromwell was, at times, much more ruthless and more willing to disregard civil rights and postpone meetings of 'free' parliaments than has often been realised, and he never abandoned his commitment to his vision of godly reformation. Yet he punctuated periods of authoritarian rule with attempts at 'healing and settling', when he paid more attention to cultivating conservative support for the regime than to promoting reformation.

Adapted from B COWARD, *Oliver Cromwell*, 1991

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

Assess the validity of the view in **Source A** about Cromwell's campaign in Ireland.

*(10 marks)*

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

How useful is **Source B** as evidence of Cromwell's attitude towards Catholicism?

*(10 marks)*

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

'Cromwell's religious policies as Lord Protector were primarily shaped by political considerations.'

Assess the validity of this view.

*(20 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**There are no questions printed on this page**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT-HOLDERS AND PUBLISHERS

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements in future papers if notified.

Question 1 Source C: B COWARD, *Oliver Cromwell*, Longman, 1991

Copyright © 2008 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

SA8106/Jun08/HS6O