



**General Certificate of Education  
June 2011**

**History 2041**

**Unit HIS3F**

***Report on the Examination***

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## *Unit HIS3F*

### **Unit 3F: Stability and War: British Monarchy and State, 1714–1770**

#### **General Comments**

This Alternative continued to attract a relatively small number of candidates, though there was a slight overall increase from last year. Good responses were seen to the depth questions, especially Question 3. The breadth question saw weaker responses, though relatively few of these were without at least some degree of perception and awareness. The depth question remains the least popular question on the paper, though it claimed a higher percentage of candidates than last year.

#### **Question 1**

**01** This question proved quite popular, with very few candidates providing merely a narrative of Stanhope's foreign policy. Almost all showed some awareness of the different motives influencing Stanhope's conduct of policy, and within this context had some appreciation of the problems and restraints caused by a King of Hanover occupying the English throne. Usually this was set in the context of the terms of the Act of Settlement, and the consistent tendency of George I to regard Britain as the automatic defender of Hanoverian interests. Some candidates did find the technicalities of relations with both Sweden and Russia difficult to disentangle, but there was widespread awareness of the skilful way in which Stanhope managed to reconcile the apparently contradictory objectives of Britain and Hanover in connection with a wide range of issues. Most candidates made some attempt to examine the whole of Stanhope's foreign policy, thus enabling them to set the Hanover material in a wider context.

#### **Question 2**

**02** Despite the modest number of candidates, there were some competent answers to this question. Candidates would usually focus on Walpole's tenure of power, mentioning how royal support was a key factor alongside Walpole's skilful use of patronage, and good economic management combined with a peaceful foreign policy. Pelham and Bute were also frequently mentioned though, unfortunately, so too was Stanhope. Few candidates covered the whole range of the period, though it was possible to obtain a good mark without this.

#### **Question 3**

**03** This was the most popular question, though only slightly ahead of Question 01. Many candidates were able to contrast the leadership capabilities of the Young Pretender and his main supporters with a variety of other valid factors, such as the lack of foreign support, the greater stability of the Hanoverian dynasty by 1745 (contrasted with 1715), the lack of any real appetite for Jacobitism within England, and the ruthlessness of the Duke of Cumberland. More perceptive candidates commented on some favourable factors for the Jacobites in 1745 (the absence of Cumberland and most of the army from Britain at the start of the crisis because of commitment to the continental conflict), and on how the campaign might have met with greater success had the Young Pretender confined his

campaign to Scotland. Weaker candidates sometimes confused events and individuals with 1715, whilst others wrote about 1745 without naming any leaders at all.

**Mark Ranges and Award of Grades**

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