



**General Certificate of Education  
June 2012**

**History 2041**

**Unit HIS3D**

***Report on the Examination***

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# Unit HIS3D

## Unit 3D: British Monarchy: The Crisis of State, 1642–1689

### General Comments

Student responses indicated that there were no significant issues with any of the questions. For all three questions there were a number of students who were awarded Level 5 and a number for each question who achieved a maximum mark of 45.

### Question 1

**01** There were a range of different approaches to this question, all of which were valid when linked to the specific wording by directed comment. Some approached the question thematically, through sections on religion and politics. Others adopted a more chronological structure, but commented through this on religion and economic factors. Many brought in other factors, such as economic, but more particularly the role of Cromwell. Again the stronger responses when dealing with these factors or themes related them to the wording of the question. Many took Cromwell as the central element, shaping their essay around his religious radicalism and political conservatism and related this to the political instability of the period through the various changes of regime, Rump, Nominated Assembly to Protectorate as reflections of Cromwell's shifting priorities as a result of what Worden referred to as his 'ideological schizophrenia'.

While many illustrated their argument with useful examples some would have benefited from a firmer grasp of key issues of religious and political tension in the period, for example:

- The reforming record of the Rump
- Republican opposition to the Instrument of Government
- The Biddle Case
- The Major-Generals
- The Nayler Crisis
- The Humble Petition and Advice

More particularly, more students should have used some information from after Cromwell's death, given that the question specified 1649 to 1660. In relation to this, the better responses set Monck's action against Lambert as part of the growing conservative reaction across the Interregnum. It was very encouraging to see some link Monck's intervention as part of general fears of the Quakers and Lambert's links with them.

### Question 2

**02** The vast majority of students grasped the essentials of this question and explained policies that Clarendon was blamed for and which, as a result, brought about his fall from power:

- Foreign policy
- Religion
- Charles's marriage

- Sale of Dunkirk.

More developed responses set these failures in the context of Charles's need for a scapegoat. This was developed by considering Clarendon's failure as a politician and hence the weak nature of his relationship with Charles:

- Opposition in parliament
- Rivals on the Privy Council
- Failure as a courtier
- Anne Hyde's marriage to James, Duke of York.

Others added further layers to this by providing more detail and comment to balance their responses through qualification of Clarendon's role in the 'Clarendon Code', opposition to the Dutch War, his lack of knowledge of his daughter's marriage or the financial benefits of selling Dunkirk. A few developed comments on Charles's need to find a scapegoat in the context of the series of disasters that beset his regime from 1665 to 1667. Others commented on Charles's ruthlessness as a politician and his desire to be rid of Clarendon who irked him with criticism of his debauchery and lack of attention to the business of government.

### **Question 3**

- 03** Most adopted a chronological approach to this question and this proved appropriate when students focused on Crown-Parliament relations and commented on change and continuity. Rather than having a narrative driven focus, stronger responses illustrated their answer by focusing on key illustrative examples of the themes that were central to Crown-Parliament relations, religion, foreign policy and finance. Others illustrated the relationship through the key events of the period, such as the Restoration Settlement, Exclusion or James's removal. Stronger responses were able to comment on 1688–1689 as a turning point, although only a few developed comment on this from the perspective of William in his willingness to, in practice, abrogate elements of the Crown's power to Parliament.

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