
A-level HISTORY

The Tudors: England, 1485–1603

Paper 1C

Specimen 2014

Morning Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is **1C**.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the other questions answered.
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Section AAnswer Question 01.

Extract A

The dynastic threat to the Tudor regime must not be exaggerated. There was no one to cause rival political tensions amongst Henry VII's relations and no obvious focus for political discontent. It is true, the supporters of Simnel and Warbeck dressed their ambitions in dynastic clothes, but the most important revolt in Henry VII's reign, the Cornish Rising of 1497, was not dynastic. On the contrary, it was sparked by the parliamentary grant of that year to finance an invasion of Scotland. The tax revolt erupted in the south west because Cornishmen refused to underwrite a campaign against Scotland for which, they believed, a scutage or land tax levied in the north was the correct source of finance.

Adapted from John Guy, *Tudor England*, 1990

Extract B

In May 1502 Sir James Tyrell and several other persons were arrested and executed for treason. At the same time Lord William de la Pole, brother of Suffolk, and Lord William Courtenay, son of the earl of Devon, were taken into prison from which they did not emerge until after Henry's death. It must be supposed that this is because Henry expected a far reaching conspiracy. Perhaps Henry's agents were inventing these threats in order to advance their own positions, but it is nevertheless hard to avoid the conclusion that there was a spirit of disaffection among the old families. No doubt the ambitions of the great families were also aroused by the deaths of the king's sons, Edmund on 12 June 1500 and Arthur on 2 April 1502, but even without the disturbing influence of dynastic interests there was wavering support for the King in the ranks of the old nobility.

Adapted from J D Mackie, *The Earlier Tudors*, 1987

Extract C

Whilst Henry VII used every means at his disposal to reduce the pretensions of mighty subjects, he also did his utmost to build up his own power. The restoration of royal finances was a key element in this. The King recognised that the secret of recovering royal authority lay in making himself richer than his subjects. This was one reason why, unlike Edward IV, he retained possession of the Crown lands. But there was another reason. Land was the basis of local power. By keeping royal estates in hand and administering them through his own household servants, Henry maintained a direct royal presence throughout his kingdom.

Henry VII was not as ruthless, consistent or as continuously successful as this brief account implies. He faced major rebellions, especially in 1497, and was never entirely secure on the throne. His preferred approach to the control of the provinces by divide and rule created crises and tensions in some parts of the kingdom and stored up trouble for his successor in others. But by ceaseless vigilance and unrelenting pressure on all his subjects, great and small, Henry made himself respected, feared and obeyed.

Adapted from A J Pollard, *The Wars of the Roses*, 2001

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the threats to Henry VII's position in the years 1485 to 1509.

[30 marks]

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2

‘The foreign policy of Henry VIII failed to achieve its objectives in the years 1509 to 1547.’

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3

‘Rebellions in the years 1549 to 1571 stemmed from the weakness of central government.’

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 4

‘Throughout her reign, Elizabeth I controlled her ministers with masterly political skill.’

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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