

Examiners' Report
June 2015

GCE History 6HI01 B

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Introduction

Most candidates understood the importance of addressing the entire chronological period set in the question. Candidates should be aware of the possibility that the timescales set will have been covered in their studies, but perhaps not in their revision essays. Question A3 asked why the Norman campaign against England in the months September to December 1066 was so dramatically successful. Some saw this as a question on Stamford Bridge and Hastings only and failed to consider the aftermath of the Norman victory, including the long march to London, the submission of the nobility, and William's coronation on Christmas day. Some answers to D2 did not go beyond 1937, and many answers to D6 stopped in 1921. On the other hand, B7 asked about the outbreak of the European witchcraze in the late 16th century: many answers mistakenly included Hopkins and the East Anglian hunt of the 1640s. D9 covered the years 1945-56, but a significant number included Little Rock, Greensboro and the Freedom Rides.

Some candidates chose questions whose stated factor appeared to be outside their comfort zone, and delivered an answer which was only obliquely linked, if at all, to the question. A14 asked about the extent to which Henry VII's domestic policies strengthen royal power in England. Some candidates, perhaps hoping for a different question, wrote largely or even exclusively on foreign policy. Answers to D7 occasionally ignored differing views on the future of the USSR, but wrote exclusively on Stalin's role in the years 1924-28.

Questions which have a multi-factored focus are signposted by phrases such as 'most important'. Some of the most confident answers had an introduction, which either agreed with the role of the stated factor or proposed one or more alternatives. Many questions, of course, do not require the consideration of several factors. D9, for example, asked for a consideration of the extent to which the NAACP changed the status of African Americans in the years 1945-56. Many strong answers noted the Association's success in achieving de jure victories via the Supreme Court, but that these were not always accompanied by de facto success thanks to the opposition of Congress or of groups such as the White Citizens Councils. A number of candidates addressed the NAACP's successes, but went on to address other ways in which the status of African Americans was changed, referring to the impact of World War II and to the work of President Truman: these points were not relevant to the question set.

An integral part of the mark scheme is the quality of written communication displayed in an answer. This year there has been an improvement in candidates' communication skills, with much less use of abbreviations and colloquialisms. However, the quality of handwriting on the small number of scripts weakened communication overall.

Able candidates wrote articulately and coherently, demonstrating a logical mind as well as strong linguistic skills. Weaker answers were characterised by poor sentence construction and writing skills, which was a limiting factor in some answers where candidates clearly knew their history, but struggled to produce a coherent and readable response.

Question 1

Most candidates were well versed in the early years of the German Reformation to 1525. There were many good answers, especially those making a distinction between the personal survival of Luther and the continuation of his ideas. Weaker answers focused their analysis on the development of Luther's theology, rather than on its (and his) survival. A common misapprehension was that the Princes of the Empire supported Luther at the Diet of Worms, rather than just Frederick of Saxony alone, although a number of good answers considered what made his support so significant in ensuring Luther's survival.

This is a Level 4 answer. It is analytical and addresses a number of key issues. Factual material is accurate, but there is some lack of balance in the selection of material, such as the role of Frederick of Saxony in giving Luther political and physical protection.

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(This page is for your first answer.) Why were both Luther and his ideas able to survive in the years 1517-25?

plan: 1517 - 95 theses, 1519 - Charles V went
1521 - Diet of Worms 1522 - knights war
1524 - peasants revolt - princes

Printed works

role of princes

Failure of Charles V

Both Luther and his ideas were able to survive in the years 1517 to 1525 due to his printed works, the role of the princes and Charles V's failure to condemn Lutheranism.

1517 was the year of Johann Tetzel's indulgence campaign which angered Luther and caused him to produce his Ninety-five Theses. By pinning it on the castle door of Wittenberg Church he enabled the public to view his ideas clearly. The growing literacy rates of the Holy Roman Empire

(This page is for your first answer.) meant that an increased number of people were able to understand his ideas and without this social factor Lutheranism may not have survived during these years. Luther's 1520s pamphlets appealed to a wide range of people from different areas of society which meant that if one group did not follow him completely, others may have. For example his pamphlet on Christian liberty ~~and~~ along with his woodcuts caused him to gain the peasants agreement ~~without~~ without them he ~~would~~ would not have been able to spread his ideas ~~as~~ as long as he did. ^{as this are the main points of the protestant} The printing press which had been developed in 1450 was a key factor in the survival of his ideas as it enabled frequent production of his pamphlets which then led to the survival of Lutheranism as they could be recreated over and over. Luther himself may not have survived ~~if~~ if it weren't for princes such as Frederick the wise who protected and supported him during these years. After Luther's condemnation of the peasants revolt from 1524-25 he had gained princely support which meant his ideas were taken on board by those in power, therefore allowing the survival of Lutheranism and also the enforcement of his ideas.

(This page is for your first answer.) By gaining the support of Melancthon due to his ideas being so similar at first to famous humanist Erasmus, Luther had secured his physical protection from those, such as the pope and Charles V who wished to eradicate him.

1521 was the Diet of Worms in which the edict of Worms was created to excommunicate Luther. However, failure to enforce this by Charles V meant that Lutheranism was still able to thrive throughout the Holy Roman Empire. The Emperor's lack of authority and control is seen to be a contributing factor to the survival of Luther's ideas because he failed to stop Luther himself. Perhaps if the Pope and Charles worked together and successfully enforced the two swords of authority they would have been able to achieve the excommunication and outlawing of Luther which in turn would have prevented his ideas from surviving any longer after the Ninety-five Theses in 1517. Anticlericalism and growing German Nationalism also aided the survival of Luther's ideas as they had already laid the groundwork for Luther who just took control and moved religious ideas along faster. If it were not for the Spanish/Italian Popes

(This page is for your first answer.) The people of Germany would not have felt ~~to~~ that they were so invaded by foreign control and would have therefore perhaps not needed Luther's ideas or even the reformation at all. ^{because they would be secure in their religious authority.} This is similar for anticlericalism as if it were not for papal and clergy abuses, Luther's ideas would not so appealed to the public and therefore would not have survived as they wouldn't have been necessary. Luther's impact and ideas during these 8 years leading up to his kidnapping for protection by Frederick the Wise, were important in bringing about the reformation. In discussion of the survival of his ideas, this was due to a mixture of elements. His printed works and the new technology of the printing press enabled reproduction of his pamphlets and therefore longer survival. The princely support was key in protecting him physically and also allowed survival due to the fact that they wished to have autonomy of their states and Lutheranism appealed to them in this way. The failure of the two swords of authority prevented Luther's condemnation and anticlericalism enabled his ideas to appeal to the public ~~more~~, which meant they were more likely to ~~do~~ remember ~~his~~ than as thus allowing them to survive.

(This page is for your first answer.)



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A number of relevant points are made in the introduction, and the body of the answer notes the value of the printing press in the spread and survival of Luther's ideas. There is some reference to the linkage between anti-clericalism and nascent nationalism, and the consequent attraction of Luther's theology. The candidate notes Charles V's relative lack of power over the German states, and notes the failure of Emperor and Papacy to coordinate a vigorous response to Lutheranism.

Question 2

The required content for this question was generally well-known. Some candidates, however, were uncertain of its demands, and provided an explanation for the rapid spread of Lutheranism rather than analysing its role in Charles's inability to restore the authority of the Catholic Church. Only a small number of candidates addressed the authority of the church as such, rather than Charles's authority as Emperor, or the moral and intellectual power of Catholicism. Some perceptive accounts of Charles's difficulties in addressing the challenges which he faced pointed to the diverging interests of Charles V and the Papacy.

Question 3

A number of candidates restricted their access to the higher levels by offering a descriptive response which outlined various examples of spiritual renewal, some of these answers were quite limited in range and generalised in focus. The initiatives of the Jesuits, other early reforming orders, and the decrees of the Council of Trent which encouraged the setting up of seminaries, were all reasonably well known. Less attention was given to the theological decrees, or to elements of Protestant criticism which remained unaddressed. In considering the success of the response of the church, the best answers referred to differing local examples, pointing out that specific local circumstance and initiatives were key, particularly for this early phase in the Catholic Reformation.

Question 4

Geographical range and specificity were key discriminators. The actions of Philip II were well known, including his decision to impose the Tridentine decrees in Spain and the Dutch provinces, the latter helping to spark revolts in the Netherlands. Other examples offered for comparative analysis included Sigismund of Poland and the Wittelsbachs of Bavaria, enthusiastic supporters of the Counter-Reformation. Overall, political interests were generally more fully addressed than religious ones.

Question 5

A number of candidates struggled to find a compelling approach to organising comparative analysis. Some took a 'catch-all' approach, suggesting reasons why Margaret of Parma was at fault, then reasons why Alba was to blame, and then gave a narrative overview of events, usually to 1572. Some adopted a variant of this formula, briefly referring to either regent or both, then moving on to explain why responsibility for the outbreaks of the revolts could be found in Madrid and the policies of Philip II. The best answers rose to a higher level by considering the impact of both Margaret and Alba on underlying tensions in the Netherlands. They acknowledged the different forms of opposition they faced, but within the context of other significant factors, whether economic, religious or political. Such a framework made it possible to pursue a more satisfying analytical response, and made it easier to draw meaningful conclusions.

This is a Level 5 answer. The material offered here is detailed, accurate and relevant, and the shape of the answer is analytical and evaluative in places. Communication skills are high, and the candidate uses historical terms with confidence.

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(This page is for your first answer.)

To what extent were Margaret of Parma and Duke of Alba responsible for the outbreaks of the Dutch Revolts?

Margaret of Parma - inner counsellor
Mouthpiece of Philip's - alienate Grandees
- Moderation (Accord 23rd August)
- Communication/Exaggeration in letters
- 1566-67 → result in Alba

Alba
- Tenth Penny
- Council of Troubles / Egmont / Horne
- Force 70,000 men
- Aggressive, no compromise
- Anti-peace faction - war faction

Philip
- Absentee monarch - no regard for Dutch
- Forced Grandees into opposition

The outbreaks of the Dutch revolts were multifaceted events and it is difficult to establish a singular cause of the events; in fact what led to the revolts is a complex interplay of factors and contributions. One of the most significant factors for the initial outbreaks of the 1556-67 revolts and the 1572 revolts was the Spanish misgovernment and in particular the regencies of Margaret of Parma and Duke of Alba as they led directly to the revolts. These regencies can be seen as the most significant contributions to the sedition that ensued. Other significant factors but to a lesser extent include economic upheaval and difficulties and the increase in Calvinist militancy.

The regencies of Margaret and Alba and the policies and decisions they made encompass a large aspect of the cause of the revolts and are the most important factor.

Firstly, Parma's reign managed to alienate the Grandees and the lesser nobility who became the precedents of sedition for many. Margaret's inner consulta full of Spanish ministers completely alienated the Grandees

(This page is for your first answer.)

who struggled to rally behind her and the King as they strove for the Council of States to become an organ of absolute power and resented the influence of ministers like Granvelle for instance. However, policies such as the Bishopric's Scheme can not be held in Margaret taking the blame as she only continued Philip's alienation of the Grandees and it was he who gave her the ministers and set up the Bishopric's. During this period Margaret herself had little influence on policies and the events that occurred. What Margaret did contribute to the 1566-7 revolt however was an atmosphere of confusion and essentially a period of religious tolerance that allowed Calvinism to prosper, her most significant contribution to the revolt and iconoclasm was her lack of communication with Philip and her decision-making which contradicted Philip's policies of no-moderation or compromise. She allowed Calvinist exiles to flood back into the country, thereby setting the foundation for the revolt as she had signed the Accord. Her second contribution was her hysterical letters which claimed the whole country was up in

(This page is for your first answer.) Arms challenging royal authority and that the Grandees were planning to overthrow her. This directly led to sending of Alva which historians have cited as the largest contribution to the continuation of a revolt that had essentially ended in 1567.

Alva was altogether more influential and a far larger contributor to the revolts than Margaret. In fact many historians believe that his despotic rule of terror was the single most important reason for the Dutch Revolt.

Alva's decisions forced William of Orange the leader of the rebels into opposition as he confiscated his estates while he was in exile and charged him with treason. The only way for William to regain his prestige was by leading the rebels and this led to the invasions of 1568 and 1572. Another extremely important part of Alva's rule was the Council of Troubles which became symbolic of Spanish tyranny and questioned over 12,000 people becoming and became known as the Council of Blood. Alva, made resentment among the population even greater and rebellion more likely by executing Hornes and Egmont and going completely against arbitrary law and Dutch tradition.

(This page is for your first answer.) He acted even more like a tyrant with his forceful implementation of the Tenth Penny without States-General's consent. This was the greatest contributor to the 1572 revolt as it exacerbated the tough economic conditions already prevalent. The Dutch were determined to resist him a local magistrates and law officers became sympathetic to the sea Beggars because of their fear of losing power and authority to a revolution caused by the people. The determination of these local authorities not to pay the tax shows how important it was in leading to the outbreaks. Finally, Alba was the head of the ~~the~~ pro-war faction in Spain and therefore full responsibility must lie with him for the continuation of the revolt as it was he who convinced the King to follow a policy that led to the resurgence of rebellion and contributed extensively in fuelling resistance among the people.

Another important factor is the increased Calvinist militancy during the period as Calvinists organised themselves with much help from exiles and money from consistories to revolt against

(This page is for your first answer.)

the King and despotic Spanish rule. However, Margaret can be to blame for this phenomena as she moderated the heresy laws allowing so many militants and Calvinists to flood into the country and start the iconoclastic fury. The presence of Calvinists who had become militarised is also evident in the 3rd Revolt as they held meetings outside of towns where many supported them and in July 1572 many even came armed to the meetings. Calvinism definitely contributed to the revolts and was partially responsible as it allowed for a group willing to resist royal authority and garner local sympathies. However local sympathies would not have been for the Calvinists if it was not for the regencies of Margaret and Alva.

Another significant factor was the economy. Both revolts happened during a time of economical depression and crop failure where many were unemployed and had nothing better to do but revolt against the government. This includes the harvest failures in 1555 and the trade problems with England and the Baltics as well as mass unemployment in

(This page is for your first answer.) ^{leading many to riot.} 1572, however, revolts would not have occurred ^{in 1572} if it not for Alba's Tenth Penny which significantly added to the burden.

Overall, ~~the~~ Margaret and Alba were the most significant factor and the most responsible for the revolts; Alba more than Margaret. If not for Margaret's incompetency then Alba would never have had to come and if not for Alba's arrival and regency then the Dutch would not have resented Spanish rule so much as to revolt. It was Alba's Tenth Penny which was more responsible than anything as before in 1568 before its implementation William had so support while after in 1572 many towns rose in support. Therefore Alba is the most culpable for the revolts and responsible to a large extent.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

The answer notes the interplay of a number of complex factors, placing the misgovernment of the regents within a broader perspective. The examination of the policies of both Margaret of Parma and Alba is detailed and analytical, showing the role played by both in the outbreak of the revolts. Financial demands are linked to wider economic issues, and the candidate notes the significance of the growth of Calvinism in the north and the threat it posed to Catholicism in the southern provinces. The conclusion is both detailed and persuasive.

Question 6

Answers noted the importance of William of Orange, Maurice of Nassau and Oldenbarnevelt in establishing politically stable and economically strong government in the Northern provinces. Many noted that the growing influence of Calvinism in the North was a pivotal factor in the creation of the union of Arras in 1579 and the subsequent de facto division of the Netherlands. Some considered English intervention from 1585, but few noted the Spanish bankruptcy of 1596, and its effects on Spain's campaigns in the Netherlands to 1609.

Question 7

The best answers took a sophisticated and analytical approach, comparing differing interpretations and adjudicating between them. Sharp focus was also shown by those who offered introductory reference to the nature and extent of the religious and economic upheavals. Some had a broad interpretation of the religious theme, embracing matters such as religious literature and religious wars. Particular aspects of economic upheavals were addressed, often in with the geographical focus. A number of responses made satisfyingly precise reference to particular cases within the context of wider trends, as mentioned in the mark scheme.

Question 8

The best answers referred with some confidence to the theories of various historians, notably Levack, to argue and counter-argue particular examples. The impact of a lack of central political control, exemplified with reference to the French border areas and the Empire, and the significance of differing attitudes to torture, were both well-known. Many were aware of the role of prominent individuals within particular regions: Hopkins, Christian IV, Balthazar Nuss and Queen Christina were all referred to in detail when considering regional differences.

The answer is directly focused on the question. There is balanced and thorough treatment of relevant issues, and the range and depth of supporting development is very secure. Communication skills and deployment of the argument are controlled and logical. A Level 5 answer.

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(This page is for your first answer.) Between the years 1580-1650 around 50,000 to 100,000 executions took place in a diabolical craze namely the witchcraze. Around 75% of these executions centred around central Europe with approximately 26,000 of the executions in the Holy Roman Empire alone. There are many factors which can account for these regional variations such as law, social and economic conditions and belief in diabolism.

One such large factor which increased the intensity of the witchcraze in certain areas of Europe was the change of the law. The switch from the old accusatorial system to the newer inquisitorial system meant that either an eye witness or confession was needed for a conviction. Couple this change with the 1532 Carolina which lawed witchcraft as a 'crimen exceptum' - a crime which carried the death penalty and this meant that torture was widely used. This can be seen in

(This page is for your first answer.) The example of Bamberg (1590-1637) in which Balthazar Nuss created the Drudenhaus - a specially designed ~~with~~ witch prison which used torture to extract confessions. 900 witches were executed in Bamberg as a result which demonstrates the intensity of the witch craze torture created. The use of torture as evidence for the new inquisitorial system created a seemingly 'chain reaction' as horrific methods such as the strappado and the ladder often meant victims confessed and often named accomplices as a Sabbath such as in North Bennick¹⁵⁹⁰⁻⁹¹ where Agnes Sampson was tortured with the bridle which led to her ~~confessing~~ confessing almost 300 accomplices. This simply meant that it spurred on the craze further which demonstrates how intense crazes such as Bennick become as torture created a frenzy.

Alternatively, it can be seen that in areas where torture was less used such as England where ~~50%~~ only 50% of convictions held in comparison to 95% in areas of torture. Not only that but areas in control of the Spanish e Roman Inquisitions had fewer convictions as it was known torture was an unreliable source of evidence. Thus inferring that areas of torture clearly correlated with had intense the craze was. Areas without it simply lacked witch trials. In addition to this, central authority control

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also accounts for the varying of regional intensity as can be seen from the Ban de la Roche trials (1590-1630) ~~in which~~ which lay in an area of borderland of the fragmented Holy Roman Empire in which 80 witches were executed as a result of pressure from ~~the~~ the common men. This showed that local authority lacked the power and the neutrality of a central government and played perhaps a biased role in encouraging the craze of the witches. In areas such as with a stronger central control such as France, however the intensity of the witch craze was much less which may perhaps be shown by the 32% of witch cases dismissed by the Parlement of Paris after it took hold of local trials. Spain too, only had one major trial in the Basque region where out of 2000 cases, the Spanish Inquisition only executed 12, a great drop therefore in the intensity of witch hunts in this region.

It is clear therefore that the degree of central control had a large impact on the regional variation of the intensity of witch hunts although perhaps less prominent than law.

Furthermore, key individuals of the time also accounted for variations of intensity; King James VI of Scotland for example was a key

(This page is for your first answer.) player in the North Berwick trials of 1590-91 and was personally responsible for the torture of Agnes Sampson which led to over 100 executions and a spike of intensity in Scotland. Matthew Hopkins in England man christened himself 'witchfinder General' also demonstrates how one individual can greatly increase intensity of witchhunts. Operating during the English civil war (1642-51), he took it upon himself to execute 300 women in the cause of witchcraft between 1645-1647, using the lack of government control due to warfare as a cover. Other individuals such as Henri Boguet, Christian IV Denmark and the witch Bishop are also able to show how the belief of one powerful individual can be the trigger for a witchfrenzy creating an intensity of witchhunts in one area.

Other factors such as literature - the Malleus Maleficarum which acted as the witchhunters Bible; warfare - created an 'Age of Anxiety' and an anarchy to everyday life; as well as the pressure of the worsening social and economic conditions such as the mini Ice Age, bad harvests and rising inflation; created an era for the witcheraise which was perfect to trigger

(This page is for your first answer.)

intense hunts. However factors such as social and economic hardship and the misogyny of women were felt throughout Europe and so are unlikely to be the root cause or reason for the hunts although they may have started some; Pendle Witch trials 1612 where two equally poor families (Dendicke & Challox) accused each other after Alison Deuce was refused Charity. There are more prominent causes to the varying regional intensity.

Belief in diabolism may too have aided the variation as areas such as Russia and Italy where there was little if no belief in the diabolical pact or the Sabbath saw fewer witch trials as there was less emphasis on chain reaction hunts in the need to find accomplices to the Sabbath. In Eichstätt for example, ⁽¹⁶⁰⁹⁻¹⁶³³⁾ almost 900 witches were executed as a result of confessions of a diabolical pact which named accomplices. It is clear therefore that this belief in the diabolical pact spurred on the use of torture to find the accomplices of diabolism.

In conclusion, after weighing up each factor, it is clear that the use of torture is greatly

(This page is for your first answer.) responsible for the great regional variation in the intensity of witch hunts. Where it was widely used in central and western Europe, there is a great peak in the intensity of witch hunts and areas where it is not there is clearly a lack of hunts. Despite considering the other factors such as key individuals, central authority and ~~the~~ belief in diabolism, it is clear these are contributory factors and not the main cause of the regional variation.



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The answer notes the interplay of a number of complex factors, including the misgovernment of the two regents. There is very detailed examination of the policies of both Margaret of Parma and Alba, and a comparison of the roles that they played in stimulating Dutch opposition and subsequent revolt. Financial demands are addressed within the wider range of economic issues, along with the growing strength of Calvinism. The answer reaches a detailed and convincing conclusion.

Question 9

There were too few answers to make for a meaningful report.

Question 10

There were too few answers to make for a meaningful report.

Question 11

Most answers challenged the premise of the question by claiming that the defenestration of Prague and the subsequent revolt in Bohemia were the main reasons for the outbreak of war. Some candidates appeared uncertain about the stated factor, possibly because it did not refer to a single event or process. Stronger answers noted the role of the Counter-Reformation in increasing Habsburg power, and the growing assertiveness of Habsburg rulers was exemplified in the seizure of Jülich in 1611. The religious dimension of the war was understood with detailed examination of the relative strengths of the Evangelical Union and the Catholic League. Only a few addressed the differing ambitions of Sweden, Denmark and the German Princes as long-term factors in the outbreak of war.

Question 12

There were too few answers to make for a meaningful report.

Question 13

There were some strong responses, usually discriminated by the degree of focus on the concept of 'workability', which in turn required analysis in some depth within the context of the problems associated with the restoration settlement overall. Many noted that the promises made at Breda were not kept because of the failure of the Savoy conference and the subsequent Act of Uniformity and the Clarendon Code, which both re-established the prominent role of the Church of England in national life. Consideration of the restoration government was less secure. Most were aware of the financial settlement and its shortcomings, but only a few recognised that the separation of powers was never firmly established, leading to constant friction between Charles and his parliaments throughout his reign.

Question 14

There were too few answers to make for a meaningful report.

Paper Summary

Candidates for future examinations might profitably bear the following points in mind. Firstly, they would be ill-advised to restrict their revision by not giving the same weight to all four bullet points: such an approach may mean that they will only have one or two questions in each option to answer. Secondly, they must be aware of what the question is asking them to focus on, and especially of the timescale in the question. Finally, it is possible, indeed very likely, that the question they choose is not one they have seen before. They should always prepare for the unexpected.

Grade Boundaries

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