

472/05

HISTORY – HI2

PERIOD STUDY 5

UNIT 2

**ASPECTS OF THE HISTORY OF
EUROPE, c. 1490-1621**

A.M. THURSDAY, 12 January 2006

(45 minutes)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 8 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **one** question.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in square brackets at the end of each question.

The quotations used in this unit may have been amended or adapted from the stated published work in order to make the wording more accessible.

You are reminded that marking will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

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Answer one question.

Candidates in their response to the interpretation question should consider the validity of the interpretation using their knowledge of the period and other possible interpretations. Candidates should also consider the factors which may have influenced the way in which the interpretation has been formed – such as the type of historian/author, the evidence available to the historian/author and the date of the publication.

1. France, 1515-1547.

“Francis was not an absolute monarch.”

[Alaistair Armstrong, an academic historian and specialist in sixteenth century French history, writing in a school textbook, *France 1500-1715* (2003)]

How valid is this interpretation of the rule of Francis I? [80]

2. The Wars of Religion in France, 1562-1598.

“With optimism as striking as it was foolish, Catherine de Medici set out to succeed where the Emperor Charles V had failed – to effect a compromise in religious doctrines between Catholic and Protestant.”

[J. E. Neale, an academic historian and specialist in sixteenth century European history, writing in a book of historical essays, *The Age of Catherine de Medici* (1943)]

How valid is this interpretation of the weakness of the monarchy during the French Wars of Religion? [80]

3. The reign of Henry IV, 1589-1610.

“The finest achievement of Henry IV’s short reign was the restoration of royal finances.”

[Alaistair Armstrong, an academic historian and specialist in sixteenth century French history, writing in a school textbook, *France 1500-1715* (2003)]

How valid is this interpretation of the reign of Henry IV? [80]