



**GCE AS/A level**

472/05

**HISTORY – HI2**

**UNIT 2**

**PERIOD STUDY 5**

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

P.M. MONDAY, 2 June 2008

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 or part-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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## ASPECTS OF THE HISTORY OF EUROPE, c. 1490-1621.

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 I’s policies cannot be described as those of an absolute monarch.’

[Henri Prentout, a French academic historian and specialist in French history, writing in a local history book, *Les Etats generaux des Normandie* [the estates-general of Normandy] (1925)]

How valid is this interpretation of the reign of Francis I, 1515-1547? [80]

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

‘The French Wars lasted so long because the Valois monarchs lacked the ability to lead and protect their people adequately.’

[Geoffrey Woodward, an academic historian and specialist in sixteenth century French history, writing in an A level textbook, *The Development of Early Modern Europe, 1480-1648* (1997)]

How valid is this interpretation of the role of the monarchy in the French Wars of Religion? [80]

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

‘Unquestionably the finest achievement of Henry IV’s reign was the restoration of royal finances.’

[Alastair Armstrong, an academic historian and specialist in sixteenth century history, writing in an A level textbook, *France, 1500-1715* (2003)]

How valid is this interpretation of the work of Henry IV and his advisor the Duc de Sully? [80]