



General Certificate of Education

History 2041

Specification

Unit HIS3F

Report on the Examination

2010 examination – June series

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Unit HIS3F

Unit 3F: Stability and War: British Monarchy and State, 1714–1770

General Comments

This unit attracted a relatively small number of candidates, including some who had taken HIS2F (Loss of the American Colonies) at AS level. The first examination paper performed quite well, with good responses seen to the depth questions. The breadth question, on the impact of commercial considerations on foreign policy, performed less well, but attracted significantly fewer candidates.

Question 1

01 This was the most popular question on the paper, and candidates usually demonstrated good knowledge of the Jacobite disturbances (including the Swedish and Spanish conspiracies) set in the context of early Hanoverian domestic policy. Some candidates, however, were less happy about the merging of topics, and either wrote predominantly about the 1715 Jacobite rebellion, with only passing reference to the broader Whig context, or about the establishment of Whig power with negligible reference to the Jacobites. Treatment of Whig domestic policy was sometimes narrative, with lengthy descriptions of measures such as the repeal of the Occasional Conformity and Schism Acts. Reference to the Whig Schism with Walpole and Townsend was often brief, or omitted completely. The connection between the Tory party remnant and the Jacobite rebellion was not always clearly demonstrated. There was, however, good understanding of the impact of the Hanoverian Succession on domestic politics and stability, and the initial attitude of George I to both Whig and Tory parties. Some candidates also perceived various foreign issues (not always Jacobite-linked) as significant threats to the establishment of Whig domination; whilst credit was awarded, as appropriate, absence of such reference did not prevent the achievement of a good mark.

Question 2

02 Relatively few candidates attempted this, the breadth question, and marks were generally not encouraging. Few made any real attempt to identify the broad influences on foreign policy during this time, such as the interests of Hanover and the need to establish a balance of power, then contrasting these with considerations of commerce and trade. Most concentrated on the Walpole period, describing incidents/treaties in somewhat narrative fashion; conversely, a small number dwelt almost exclusively on Stanhope's foreign policy.

Question 3

03 Another popular question, though slightly less so than Question 01. Many candidates wrote with some insight about the background and aims of George III, usually set in the context of the contrast between George and his two predecessors, mainly over Hanover. There was usually awareness of the historiographical debate on George III, with candidates contrasting the views of Burke and Namier. Candidates would then either examine the different ministries between 1760 and 1770, or concentrate on other issues contributing to instability. Both routes had their limitations: the chronological examination

of ministries often lost relevant focus and became narrative, whilst candidates raising the agitation caused by John Wilkes also frequently drifted into narration, sometimes with no obvious chronological framework. Perceptive candidates were able to identify occasions when George intervened in ministries, and were also able to integrate the impact of Wilkes and colonial unrest as appropriate.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.