



**General Certificate of Education  
June 2011**

**History 1041**

**Unit HIS1C**

***Report on the Examination***

Further copies of this Report on the Examination are available from: [aqa.org.uk](http://aqa.org.uk)

Copyright © 2011 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

**Copyright**

AQA retains the copyright on all its publications. However, registered centres for AQA are permitted to copy material from this booklet for their own internal use, with the following important exception: AQA cannot give permission to centres to photocopy any material that is acknowledged to a third party even for internal use within the centre.

Set and published by the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance.

The Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA) is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (company number 3644723) and a registered charity (registered charity number 1073334).  
Registered address: AQA, Devas Street, Manchester M15 6EX.

---

# Unit HIS1C

## Unit 1C: The Reformation in Europe, c1500–1564

### General Comments

Though some excellent individual scripts were seen, there was some disappointment at the overall level of performance. Two factors, in particular, seem to have brought about this situation: many answers to the 12-mark questions lacked the sharpness which had consistently featured in responses to the previous summer's paper and there was a disappointing drop in performance on the 24-mark question on the Lutheran Reformation.

It was also noted that there was greater inconsistency in the performance of many individual candidates. This does suggest that there was some degree of over-selectivity in the revision process. In some cases this issue was reinforced by problems with time management. These were often magnified in the case of candidates who chose to answer both 24-mark questions before attempting to answer the 12-mark questions. This was rarely a productive strategy.

### Question 1

- 01** This was answered disappointingly by many candidates. Candidates were invariably aware that Frederick the Wise had protected Luther. However, they were often less clear about the form which that protection had taken and there was little understanding why Frederick, essentially a conservative Catholic, should have defended Luther's position. Candidates, inferring an anti-Imperial attitude from later princely attitudes, often erroneously assumed an enmity between Frederick and the Emperor Charles V.
- 02** This was answered very disappointingly. Though the best responses were outstanding, there were many answers which simply offered generic accounts of the reasons for the success of Lutheranism. Such answers, which lacked any specific supporting evidence drawn from the period of the question, could at best be assessed at Level 3. It is important, when Centres are dealing with the rise of Lutheranism, that they can look back from the perspective of 1555 to evaluate the reasons for the success of the Lutheran Reformation. In the context of this year's question the pivotal period is 1547 to 1555. In 1547, with Luther dead and the Lutheran princes having been smashed in the War of the League of Schmalkalden, it appeared that the Lutheran Reformation might well be doomed. That it survived to such an extent that only eight years later the Peace of Augsburg conferred official recognition on the Lutheran cause can be attributed to a number of factors, such as the extent to which the Augsburg Interim was undermined by popular opposition, the mistakes of Charles V and the desertion of Maurice of Saxony which led to the latter forming the second League of Torgau which enabled him to ally with the French, thereby enfeebling Charles's political position.

### Question 2

- 03** This was answered more successfully than the other two 12-mark questions. Most candidates were able to offer something worthwhile on the weaknesses of the Catholic Church. Some candidates did stretch the definition of 'beginning of the sixteenth century' rather too widely to include the pontificate of Paul III and the establishment of the Council of Trent.

- 04** Candidates who were well prepared on the works of Erasmus and their influence experienced few difficulties in answering this question. Some answers tended to have little of substance about the works of Erasmus, and candidates very quickly passed over to other reasons for the undermining of the Catholic Church. Such answers could gain some credit if material was focused specifically on the undermining of the Church. In some cases, however, such material was fairly generalised.

### **Question 3**

- 05** Whilst there were some excellent answers to this question, some candidates had only a very hazy grasp of the activities of Calvin during his first ministry in Geneva and of his often fractious relationship with the Genevan secular authorities. Some candidates did demonstrate an awareness that Calvin himself was responsible for generating much of the opposition, for example by excessive radicalism and by his often offensive behaviour.
- 06** This question was in general answered well. Many candidates had a clear grasp of the factors which help to explain the success of the Reformation in Geneva, though there was, perhaps, a tendency to under-estimate the difficulties which Calvin faced in attempting to achieve his goals. The best answers thoroughly understood the importance of Calvin's ideas on theology and church organisation and how these might have assisted his cause. The best answers also showed an understanding of how Calvin's opposition to Servetus helped to discredit his 'libertine' opponents. Weaker answers showed some confusion about Calvin's religious opponents as well as a lack of awareness that the opinions of Servetus would have been deemed heretical under many other religious jurisdictions.

### **Mark Ranges and Award of Grades**

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

**UMS conversion calculator:** [www.aqa.org.uk/umsconversion](http://www.aqa.org.uk/umsconversion)