



**General Certificate of Education  
June 2011**

**History 2041**

**Unit HIS3D**

***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 HIS3D

### Unit 3D: British Monarchy: The Crisis of State, 1642–1689

#### General Comments

There were a lot of very good and good responses to all three questions. What was noticeable this year was that all three essays were selected, in the different combinations, by a range of candidates. It was particularly pleasing with regard to the thematic essay on finances to see such a range of good responses. Question 1 on the civil war was, however the most popular question. (Q1/727, Q2/590, Q3/319).

In general, structure and clarity remain key components of good Level 3 and above essays with the ability to deploy a range of precise evidence crucial for moving into Level 4. There were a significant number of Level 5 responses to all three questions and these were marked by the impressive illustration of conceptual understanding by the candidates.

#### Question 1

**01** This was the most popular question in terms of the number of candidates who attempted it. Most were able to provide sound thematic accounts, normally structured around royalist weakness and parliamentary strengths and then further broken down into sections within this. Others used a similar structure but placed stress on the immediate advantageous position Charles held and how this disintegrated and in a war of attrition Parliament's greater resources began to tell.

In dealing with Charles I's leadership most candidates were comfortable in outlining his weaknesses as a leader and as a commander-in-chief. Stronger answers were able to add weight to this in illustrating his weaknesses through reference to the geographical and personality divisions on the royalist side. In dealing with royalist weaknesses most candidates also addressed the growing problems with royalist administration and financing of the war and some developed this through comment on the loss of the localities as being a part of royalist defeat. Better answers provided a more balanced approach to the royalist military record and notably of the role of Prince Rupert. Nearly all responses however, stressed the importance of the failure to capture London. Few, however, pointed out the practical difficulties for Charles in trying to achieve this.

When dealing with parliamentary strengths candidates dealt well with the advantages of control of London. Few, however, commented on the use of Puritan and merchant networks within the city as part of the parliamentary alliance. Better answers added examples of the financial administration of Parliament, especially the excise and assessment. Few drew this out to consider parliamentary county committees, some of which were run by religious radicals driven to win the war.

The role of religion was the area that few touched upon. While there was comment in relation to the negative impact of Charles's Cessation Treaty or contact with the French very few wrote of the godly within the parliamentary alliance as a factor in their success. Useful comment could be had on the godly core of officers within the Eastern Association, notably Cromwell, Ireton and Harrison, who went on to be leading officers in the New Model with its regimental banners and chaplains displaying how for many in its ranks the war was a crusade. Indeed, while most candidates commented on the New Model, few

---

were able to appreciate the role of parliament's armies before 1645, with many believing that it was the New Model that won at Marston Moor.

### **Question 2**

- 02** Candidates addressed the actions of Charles and the weaknesses of the Whigs competently. Only the stronger responses developed a link between these and the development of the Tory Reaction that Charles took advantage of.

In dealing with Charles's actions, stronger responses balanced his exploitation of his prerogative, notably in relation to the powers of dissolution and prorogation, with his willingness to compromise. There was good illustration of the latter in relation to his proposal that William and Mary take some role as regents, restrictions on a Catholic successor, remodelling of his Privy Council or the use of temporary exile for both James and Monmouth.

In dealing with how Charles took the initiative through his actions, some candidates would have benefitted why holding parliament in Oxford helped Charles and how his use of charters undermined the Whigs.

While the treatment of the weaknesses of the Whigs was sound, again more precise use of support would have strengthened answers in Level 4. In particular, many candidates needed to address, or develop, the problem as to whether Exclusion was regarded as necessary. That James was only three years younger than Charles with two protestant daughters and no male Catholic heir was another reason for moderates as to why the Whig campaign was too radical. Some did develop this impressively by linking the reaction to the Whigs in the context of general concern about hereditary rights among the gentry.

Explaining the Tory reaction in the context of the methods and arguments of the Whigs was clearly the theme that many candidates needed to address and support more. While many understood a general fear of '41 again', few went on to develop comment on Tory methods of exploiting this, such as Roger L'Estrange's propaganda.

### **Question 3**

- 03** There were a pleasingly high number of strong responses to this question. Most answers rightly focused on Charles's problems, given the time frame of the essay, but stronger responses were able to illustrate this with a range and depth of examples. Within such stronger responses, there were normally some references to the role of Parliament and its use of finances as a form of control. Others sensibly wrote of the significant impact of foreign policy, either through the Dutch Wars or relations with Louis XIV, had on Charles's finances.

Most candidates attempted to address the period of James's rule in some form. Again better responses were able to do this with some precision. Reference was made to the vote of Parliament, in response to Monmouth's rebellion, the £1.6 million a year that Charles II had been able to expect but also other extraordinary supply. As a result James's annual income to 1688 was £2 million. He had, in effect, no financial concerns.

Answers of the highest order were able to make comment on William and the 1689 situation, particularly how finance was a central part of the changed relationship between Crown and Parliament. Similarly, this more conceptual approach normally included some reference to the limits of the real reform needed and the crown's focus on short-term solutions.

**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)