



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
January 2012

History

HIS2D

Unit 2D Britain, 1625–1642: the Failure of Absolutism?

Monday 23 January 2012 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is HIS2D.
- Answer **two** questions.
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on each question.

Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

Question 1

Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

Source A Charles I was ill-suited to cope with the difficulties of ruling his religiously diverse kingdoms and must rank amongst the most inept of all English kings. Charles shared to the full his father's views on the divinity of kingship but possessed none of James's political subtlety. Charles also had a total conviction of his own correctness.

5 While it would be foolish to conclude that the Civil War occurred simply because Charles was king, it would be equally foolish to underestimate the part played by his personality.

Adapted from D HIRST, *Authority and Conflict: England 1603–58*, 1985

Source B Even though by September 1641 Charles had agreed to all of parliament's demands, the reforming zeal of some MPs nevertheless remained. To a significant extent this was because Charles's concessions had been made with bad grace, raising a concern as to how far Charles could be trusted not to try to regain what

5 he had conceded. In order to secure the concessions already obtained, Pym and his followers therefore aimed not simply to limit the royal prerogative but to give Parliament key aspects of it. These measures led some to support the king, encouraged to do so also because of the moderate stance Charles had now taken on religious issues. This created the two sides necessary for civil war.

Adapted from G E SEEL and D L SMITH, *Crown and Parliaments*, 2001

Source C Any lingering hopes of an end to the political crisis were dispelled by the news of the Irish Rebellion. Parliament would now have to stay in session to deal with the problem of raising an army to be sent across to Ireland to restore order there. Moreover, the news from Ireland seemed to confirm everything that Pym had

5 asserted and implied about the existence of popish plots, many of them located within Charles's court itself. As rumours multiplied and the political temperature rose to fever pitch, the prospects of a peaceful solution receded. The Commons made a resolution calling on the king to govern only through councillors of whom Parliament approved. When the Lords declined to support this initiative, the Commons' leaders had to resort to the Grand Remonstrance.

Adapted from M BENNETT, *The English Civil War*, 1995

0 | 1 Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source B** differ from those in **Source A** in relation to Charles I. (12 marks)

0 | 2 Use **Sources A**, **B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How far was parliamentary radicalism in the years 1640 to 1642 the most important cause of the English Civil War? (24 marks)

EITHER**Question 2**

0 3 Explain why the Three Resolutions were produced in 1629. *(12 marks)*

0 4 'Religion was the main cause of conflict between Crown and Parliament in the years 1625 to 1629.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

OR**Question 3**

0 5 Explain why Thomas Wentworth's policies in Ireland provoked opposition in Parliament. *(12 marks)*

0 6 'In the years 1629 to 1637, there was little opposition to Charles I's Personal Rule.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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Question 1 Source B: Adapted from G E SEEL and D L SMITH, *Crown and Parliaments*, Cambridge University Press, 2001

Question 1 Source C: Adapted from M BENNETT, *The English Civil War*, Pearson Education Ltd., 1995

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