



---

History

Paper 1C (AS) Additional Specimen Question

Paper

Question 01 Student 3

Specimen Answer and Commentary

V1.0 05/01/16

---

## Specimen Answer plus commentary

The following student response is intended to illustrate approaches to assessment. This response has not been completed under timed examination conditions. It is not intended to be viewed as a 'model' answer and the marking has not been subject to the usual standardisation process.

### Paper 1C (AS): Additional Specimen question paper

**01** With reference to these extracts and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two extracts provides the more convincing interpretation of royal finance under Henry VII?

[25 marks]

#### Student response

While both extracts appear to give good interpretations and are both quite similar to each other, Source A gives an interpretation that represents the facts better.

In Source A, Elton makes out a case that Henry sought to enlarge his revenue; he also suggests that Henry was successful in this aim by balancing the books and eventually making a surplus. Elton reinforces his assertion by saying that Henry was so successful financially that he was able to loan money out by the end of his reign. Elton says that Henry reinvested much of the money he made; however, this should not be considered an achievement, shown by how quickly the money was spent during Henry VIII's reign.

The first two points Elton makes are true and accurate, as bonds and recognisances created a large amount of income for Henry and were a key part of his financial management. It could be argued that the first point is quite obvious, as to increase income should be a major aim of all kings, although, Henry gave it a far greater priority and therefore it deserves to be highlighted. He is also right to state that the throne was in debt at the beginning of his reign, although, this would suggest it was an achievement that Henry VII left the throne the way he did, yet Elton says otherwise. Henry VII certainly did spend on both jewels and plates, however the extent of it is unlikely to be quite as great as Elton suggests, although it does deserve a mention due to its likely magnitude. Elton is right to consider the increase in income a minor one; however, given the circumstances of Henry's rule, it is an exaggeration that it was unimpressive. The incompetence of his son for blowing his rather considerable life time savings does not mean that the achievement of Henry VII should be diminished. Elton correctly notices that Henry gave loans to other countries; however, this was for his own dynastic security and not due to his increasing affluence, contrary to what Elton suggests.

Guy claims that Henry used as many means available to him, some of which were unscrupulous. However, despite these efforts Henry was still forced to borrow money. Guy also says that Henry invested money yet Henry left the treasury in debt.

Guy is certainly correct to ascertain that Henry used many unscrupulous means to gain income like old feudal customs and forced loans, it also deserves the magnitude that Guy gives it as it was the main cause of the financial turnaround. Guy is right to say that Henry borrowed money at the height of his financial reforms, however, this does not necessarily mean Henry was financially incompetent as Guy infers as he invested it in inaccessible forms. Guy is correct in stating that Henry invested in plate and jewellery, and he is also right to say that this was the most secure investments in the period. However, Guy is most unconvincing in his interpretation of how Henry left the Crown after his

death. After all, Henry left the Crown in a much better state than he found it and it was not in debt at all.

In conclusion, although Source A may not fully convey quite how cautious Henry VII was, like Source B does, Source A does not say anything that is factually incorrect and misleading. Source B however, incorrectly describes the state of the treasury at Henry VII's death. Therefore, neither source is a perfect representation of the correct events; however, Source A is far closer to portraying an accurate depiction.

### **Commentary – Level 3**

The answer demonstrates a reasonable grasp of the interpretations advanced in the two extracts, especially of A, but the deployment of knowledge of context is undeveloped and the point about investing in jewels etc is somewhat misunderstood. Similarly, it is not accurate to suggest Guy infers that Henry was financially incompetent; this cannot be extrapolated from the interpretation.

Fundamentally, whilst there is a reasonable identification of the interpretations, the answer is limited in the deployment of knowledge of context and assertive in places; it is a low Level 3 response.