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History

Paper 1C (AS) Specimen Question Paper

Question 02 Student 3

Specimen Answer and Commentary

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## 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): Specimen question paper

**02** 'The consolidation of royal authority, in the years 1487 to 1509, was due to Henry VII's control over the nobility.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

### Student response

To a degree, I agree with the statement in the question, as the main method Henry used to consolidate his power was to cap the power of the nobility to prevent a large uprising against him, similar to Henry's method of claiming the throne after the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. However it could be argued that Henry's foreign policies and the control over the crown's finances are very strong factors that secured Henry's position on the throne.

Firstly, Henry secured his power on the throne by ensuring the loyalty of the nobility by rewarding acts of loyalty. One method that Henry used to reward loyalty was through patronage, granting lands and titles to the nobles that assisted him in defeating the rebels. An example of this is granting Rhys Ap Thomas the lieutenancy of Wales for supporting him against Richard III to seize the throne. This allowed Henry to consolidate power because he could ensure that the most powerful nobles were loyal to him and were willing to assist him in times of need.

In addition, Henry further secured his power and position by punishing the nobles. One example of a punishment is the use of Act of Attainders. This was an act that Henry passed to claim a noble a traitor and stripped them of their lands and titles, removing any power they had in England and freeing up the land for Henry to reward for loyal service. In Henry's reign he passed 138 acts of attainder and eventually reversed 46 of these. This allowed Henry to reinforce his position as King as he could remove any powerful internal threat.

However, there are other strong arguments that could be made to state the reason of Henry's consolidation of power, one of which was through accumulating wealth and increasing his revenue. Henry managed to increase his revenue from crown lands to £42,000 per annum, a huge feat. In addition Henry's total revenue per annum was £118,000 the most of any English monarch. Henry was able to secure his position on the throne by accumulating wealth, as money was power in feudal society. Henry needed large revenue to fund a large army, since there was no standing army. Building up wealth also ensured that he was not dependant on asking parliament for money, and reduced the number of times Henry had to use taxation. In his reign Henry gathered taxes through parliament five times.

Furthermore it could be argued that Henry's approach to foreign diplomatic affairs consolidated his power. One way Henry managed to consolidate power was through the Treaty of Perpetual Peace with Scotland. This treaty agreed that Princess Margaret of England would marry King James IV of

Scotland and ensure peace between the two rival nations. This secured that Henry's position of power because this meant that England no longer had a threat from its northern neighbour so Henry didn't have to worry about external problems and therefore allowed him to deal with internal affairs.

To conclude, Henry's control over the nobility reinforced his power the most as Henry's strong policies prevented any none loyal nobles from gaining power through marriage and inheritance. Henry's strong control prevented any large threat from the nobility to emerge, securing his position on the throne.

### **Commentary – Level 3**

This is, essentially, a relevant but undeveloped response which also lacks some range. Only two examples are cited in the assessment of the control of the nobility, and other important methods, contained in the mark scheme, are not referred to. The references to the importance of other factors are relevant but undeveloped: the review of financial policy is more a description of result than method and that of foreign policy is limited to one example.

This is a modest Level 3 response.