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# AS HISTORY

## The Wars of the Roses, 1450–1471

Paper 2B

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**ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER**

1 hour 30 minutes

### Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is **2B**.
- Answer **two** questions.  
In **Section A** answer Question 01  
In **Section B** answer **either** 02 **or** 03

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- 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:
    - 50 minutes on Section A
    - 40 minutes on Section B.
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**Section A**Answer Question 01

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**Source A**

From **Whethamsted's Register** a contemporary monastic chronicle by John Whethampstead of St Albans who was well placed to receive news of developments in London.

Three of the greater lords, the Duke of York, the Earl of Warwick and Earl of Salisbury came together in 1459 with many common folk. They were against the most serene king. They did this for several differing reasons. Some said they had risen against the king because the more powerful members of his council had ousted them from their places and exalted others. Others said that they wanted to chastise those familiars of the king who daily called them false betrayers of the king and desired to put in their place men of greater wisdom. A third group said they had risen mainly so that the Duke of York might sit on the king's throne and rule the kingdom.

**Source B**

From **Somnium Vigilantes** a contemporary defence of the condemnation of the Yorkists at Coventry in 1459. Probably written by Sir John Fortescue before 1471.

What reasonable answer may be given by the Yorkist lords if they are questioned about why they came against the king at Blackheath in 1452 and St Albans in 1455? That their intention was subversive to the common good may be proved by their behaviour. Everyone knows what extortions, injuries and oppression, faction making and division they caused, how their behaviour has subverted many men and resulted in the king's people being daily slain and murdered. If the public good of this realm has been deficient and in peril of decay, what authority had they to reform it without the king's commission? There is no need to give the Yorkist lords pardon, rather, exercise all rigour conducive to their destruction.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two sources is more valuable in explaining why there was opposition to the actions of the Yorkist lords in 1459–60?

**[25 marks]**

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**Section B**Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03

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**EITHER****0 2**

'Financial and economic weakness undermined the authority of the Lancastrian regime between 1450 and 1461.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]****OR****0 3**

'The unpopularity of Elizabeth Woodville and her family up to 1471 was a consequence of the opposition of the Nevilles.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]****END OF QUESTIONS**

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