
AS HISTORY

The Wars of the Roses, 1450–1471

Paper 2B

Specimen 2014

Morning

Time allowed: 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 AAnswer Question 01.

Source A

From 'Gregory's Chronicle' of 1461. William Gregory was a London skinner who rose to be mayor. He wrote a history of the City.

The King was removed from London against his will and the Duke of York declared himself king. The Queen fled to Wales but was attacked and robbed by her own servant showing how lawless times had become. From then on she travelled about in secret, fearing for her own life and for that of her son the prince. The Lords sent forged orders, supposedly from the King demanding that she hand herself over, for they claimed that she was the reason for the opposition to their plans and that she was more intelligent than the King. The Queen, having knowledge of this, sent for help from the Earl of Somerset and the Earl of Devon to come as quickly as they could with their armies in full armour. No doubt some of the lords that came to her aid did so more out of expectation of reward than loyalty to her position.

Source B

From 'an English Chronicle of the Reigns of Richard II, Henry IV, Henry V and Henry VI.' This is a narrative history from 1377 to 1461 and was compiled between 1461 and 1471. The author is not known.

England lacked good government for many years, for King Henry VI was simple and was led by bad advisors. The royal debt increased daily but he paid off nothing, and all of the possessions and lordships in the King's gift had been given away. Despite the taxes and tallages imposed on the common people the King waged no war at all.

The Queen ruled England as she liked, gathering huge riches to herself. The Queen was derided and told that her son was a bastard child, and she, dreading that he should lose his inheritance, sought to ally with absolutely anyone she could find. She even made secret advances to the King to renounce the throne in favour of her son.

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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 instability in England in the years to 1461?

[25 marks]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03

EITHER

0 2

'Richard, Duke of York, failed in his duty as Protector in the years 1453 to 1455.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

OR

0 3

'It was the weakness of Henry VI as king that explains the successful usurpation of the throne by Edward IV in 1461.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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