



A-level HISTORY

Spain in the Age of Discovery, 1469–1598

Paper 1B

ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER

2 hours 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 **1B**.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- 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:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the other questions answered.
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Section AAnswer Question 01

Extract A

Theoretically, Philip II was no more absolute than his father, but Spain, and in particular, Castile, was now put at the heart of his Empire and the administration became more centralised on Madrid. Philip II administered his realms through officials whose actions he controlled down to the minutest details. He kept in touch with them almost daily by letter, and his phenomenal memory and the constant reports he demanded enabled him to know from his desk, not only political conditions, but the state of every town and diocese. This total information he shared with no one. Even Philip's closest councillors were informed only of limited areas of policy. Personal monarchy was thus the mainspring of government, although conciliar government, headed by the Council of State, was still an essential feature of administration. However, the latter never had the opportunity of developing into a strong council. The Crown's anxiety to control policy meant that its competence and composition were entirely at Philip's discretion and he was under no obligation to take advice.

Adapted from J Lynch, **Spain under the Habsburgs**, 1964

Extract B

The dominant feature of Philip II's reign was bureaucratisation. Philip II spent his working day at his desk, surrounded by piles of documents, which fittingly symbolises the transformation of the Spanish Empire as it passed into the age of the Civil Servant. The system was essentially conciliar in character, along the lines already established during the reigns of Ferdinand and Isabella. The immediate purpose of the councils, of which the best known was the Council of State, was to advise the monarch. Opportunities for corruption among members of the councils reflect their importance. Organised in the form of a pyramid with the King at its apex, Spanish society naturally looked towards the King as the source of patronage. Since the King would generally act on his councils' advice, the councillors acquired enormous powers. There could be no better illustration of the problem of grafting a modern-style bureaucratic system onto a society that was still essentially medieval – for the councils carried out the functions of medieval kingship.

Adapted from J. H. Elliott, **Imperial Spain 1469–1716**, 1963

Extract C

Under Philip II, the monarchy was in transition from personal rule to bureaucracy and royal power was much weaker in practice than it may at first appear. All Philip's councils were purely advisory: he could reject their recommendations and make his own decisions; but it would be wrong to conclude from this that there was too little devolution of responsibility and that all power was centralised in the King. Outside Castile, the power of the King was restricted and often held to be regulated by a contract between Crown and subjects. Philip II himself asserted that 'the prince was created for the community' and accepted that he must observe the laws of the realm. In Spain there was a total absence of the cult of monarchy. Philip asked to be addressed as 'Senor' instead of 'Majesty' and remarkably free discussion of political affairs was tolerated on a scale paralleled in few other countries. 'Absolutism' was more a legal fiction than a political reality. Nevertheless, despite the image of Philip II as a 'paper king', his was not an actively centralised monarchy. The bureaucratic expansion of the 16th century must not be exaggerated.

Adapted from H Kamen, **Golden Age Spain**, 1988

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to Philip II and the development of government in Spain.

[30 marks]

Section BAnswer **two** questions

- 0 2** To what extent did Ferdinand and Isabella deserve their titles of 'the Catholic monarchs'?
- [25 marks]**
- 0 3** 'A period of dazzling economic prosperity.'
- Assess the validity of this view of economic development in Spain in the years 1530 to 1580.
- [25 marks]**
- 0 4** 'Philip's successes in foreign policy in Europe outweighed his failures.'
- Assess the validity of this view.
- [25 marks]**

END OF QUESTIONS

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