

GCE
AS and A Level

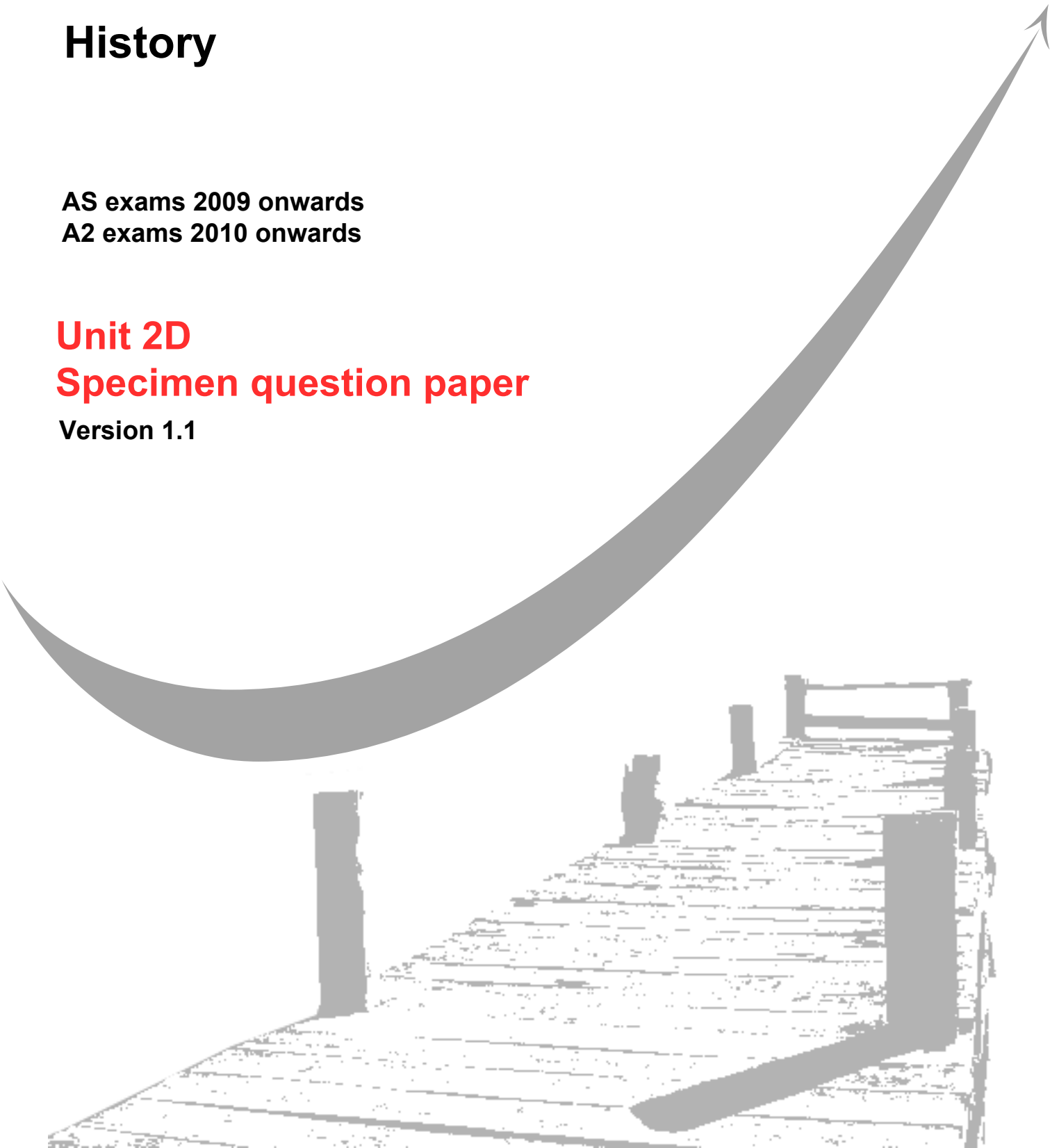
History

AS exams 2009 onwards
A2 exams 2010 onwards

Unit 2D

Specimen question paper

Version 1.1



HISTORY

HIS2D

Unit 2

Britain, 1625–1642: the Failure of Absolutism?

<DAY>

<TIME>

For this paper you must have:

- A 12-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is HIS2D.
- Answer **two** questions.
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- There are 36 marks for each question.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on each question.

HIS2D

Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

1 Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

Source A Many people had profound reservations about the religious policies of the Personal Rule, but thought best not to air them in public. Some outwardly conformed while in their diaries denounced ‘bishops’ and ‘promoters of superstition’. These sentiments led others, perhaps 15 000 during the whole decade, to emigrate to New England to begin a
5 fresh life. The surviving evidence does not allow us to access precisely how common such feelings were. What is clear is that far more people disliked the nature of the Laudian reforms than ever chose to say so openly. Outward compliance often concealed inner anger.

Adapted from D L SMITH, *A History of the Modern British Isles, 1603–1707*, 1998

Source B In the absence of Parliament, which was the main forum for voicing political opposition, there was very little opportunity to express any disagreement with royal policies. To do so openly, for example in a pamphlet, invited charges of sedition or even treason and the fearful penalties these entailed. The fate of Prynne, Bastwick and Burton, although an
5 extreme example, aroused widespread revulsion. People may have disliked government policies but there was no effective way of combining to express that dislike. Significantly, there was an upsurge in emigration.

Adapted from K BRICE, *The Early Stuarts 1603–1640*, 1994

Source C The widespread resentment created by Laud’s influence and actions therefore helped to create opposition to the Personal Rule itself. While anger at the changes in the Church might have been limited to a Puritan minority, the fear of Catholicism and the pretensions of the Laudian clergy had a much wider impact. By 1637 there are signs of
5 mounting discontent and a growing desire for Parliament to be called, since there was no other legal means of expressing grievances. What caused even more concern, however, was that by 1637 Charles appeared to have achieved a method of raising money which could make him permanently independent of Parliament.

Adapted from R WILKINSON, *Years of Turmoil, Britain 1603–1714*, 1999

(a) Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source A** differ from those in **Source B** in relation to opposition to Charles I’s Personal Rule. (12 marks)

(b) Use **Sources A, B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How far was Charles I more successful in terms of finance than in issues of religion during his Personal Rule? (24 marks)

EITHER 2

- (a) Explain why Charles I carried out changes to the Church in Scotland in the years 1633 to 1637. *(12 marks)*
- (b) ‘Wentworth successfully implemented the financial and religious aims of Charles I in Ireland.’
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view of the achievements of Thomas Wentworth in Ireland in the years 1633 to 1640. *(24 marks)*

OR 3

- (a) Explain why support for Charles I grew among moderates in the years 1641 to 1642. *(12 marks)*
- (b) ‘Division in Parliament in the years 1640 to 1642 was more important than the actions of Charles I in causing the English Civil War.’
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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Question 1 Source A: D L SMITH, *A History of the Modern British Isles, 1603–1707*, Blackwell, 1998

Question 1 Source B: K BRICE, *The Early Stuarts, 1603–1640*, Hodder & Stoughton, 1994. Reproduced by permission of Hodder & Stoughton Ltd.

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