

# A-level HISTORY

## The Wars of the Roses, 1450–1499

Paper 2B

---

**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 **2B**.
- 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 two questions in Section B.
-

---

**Section A****Answer Question 01**

---

**Source A**

From '**Annales Rerum Anglicarum**' a Latin compilation of annals recounting the years up until 1469.

In November 1450 Parliament met. During it, a great disagreement arose between the Dukes of York and Somerset and, not long afterwards, Somerset was robbed in the house of the London Friars Preachers. The same day Somerset was nearly killed but saved by a boat belonging to the Earl of Devon. After Christmas 1450 the Duke of Somerset became captain of Calais and most familiar with the king, so that he controlled everything within the royal household and outside it. In the Parliament of 1451 the Commons petitioned the king to remove several of his familiars but nothing came of it. Also in 1451 Thomas Young of Bristol, apprentice in law, moved that because the king had no offspring, it would promote the security of the kingdom if he openly established who was his heir apparent and Thomas nominated the Duke of York. For this reason he was afterwards committed to the Tower of London.

**Source B**

From the '**Rolls of Parliament**' concerning Richard of York, addressed to Henry VI and placed upon the official record at the Coventry Parliament of 1459.

Richard of York came out of Ireland with a great display of force and large number of people. Coming into your presence at Westminster many people equipped and arrayed for war and they broke down the screens and walls in your chamber, having no heed to your high presence. On this occasion he received such an answer from you as to his requests and demands that it seemed to your true subjects that the spirit of the wisdom of God was in you: and having been answered thus he departed from you in confusion and your true liege people greatly rejoiced. And after this, in various parliaments, he made crafty efforts to bring about the diminution of your power and royal authority. Continuing in his malicious intention, he planned by devious means to achieve his purpose by force and he wrote to many cities and to many individuals to raise a general insurrection on the pretext of the common weal, planning to give battle to you, sovereign lord, beside Dartford.

---

**Source C**

From **Richard of York's Manifesto** addressed to the leading townsmen of Shrewsbury and Ludlow, 3 February 1452.

It is known what loss of merchandise and honour is reported generally of the English nation for the loss of the French territories and that the Duke of Somerset had the command of the lands lost in France. After my coming out of Ireland, as the king's true liegeman and servant (as I ever shall be to my life's end) I brought to his royal majesty's attention certain articles concerning the well-being and safeguard both of his most royal person and the tranquillity and conservation of all the realm. These terms of advice were laid aside through the envy, malice and untruth of the Duke of Somerset who labours continually for my undoing and to corrupt my blood and to disinherit me and my heirs and such persons as are about me without any just cause. I am fully determined to proceed in all haste against the Duke of Somerset, with the help of my kinsmen and friends, in such a way as to promote the peace of this land.

0	1
---	---

With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the reasons why Richard of York took up arms between 1450 and 1452.

**[30 marks]**

**Section B**Answer **two** questions

---

0	2
---	---

‘The reasons for the outbreak of violence between the Yorkists and the court party were the same between 1459-60 as in 1455.’

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]**

0	3
---	---

To what extent was Margaret Beaufort responsible for Richard III's downfall?

**[25 marks]**

0	4
---	---

‘The Yorkists were never a serious threat to Henry VII.’

Assess the validity of this view with reference to the years 1487 to 1499. **[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT-HOLDERS AND PUBLISHERS**

Permission to reproduce all copyright has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements in future papers if notified.

Copyright © 2015 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

---