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Examiners' Report June 2010

GCE History 6HI01A

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Introduction

Once again the current cohort of candidates were generally well prepared, answered two questions without apparently experiencing difficulties with timing, and made a genuine attempt to engage with the question. However, it was noticeable that even well prepared candidates underachieved due to an increase in formulaic answers which did not directly address the specific question asked or show explicit understanding of the key issues. The comments below are intended to encourage both centres and future candidates to improve on past performance.

An important issue which was raised by many examiners this year concerns candidate interpretation of the questions set. Many candidates appear to believe that all the questions on the paper require them to consider the importance of a given factor in relation to a number of other factors. It is important that centres impress on future candidates that this is not the case; if it were, it would reduce the examination to a simple formula. The mark scheme requires an essay to 'present historical explanations and reach a judgement' and this is achieved through a variety of different question stems such as 'to what extent', 'how accurate', 'how far', 'how significant' and 'why'. Although the majority of questions require an analysis of relative importance not all of the questions do. Questions requiring the candidate to analyse relative importance are indicated through the use of trigger words such as 'main reason', 'key factor', 'primary reason', 'due to', 'responsible for' and 'explain'. Questions which do not refer to relative importance require a balanced answer with a counter-argument giving reasons for and against the given statement/factor. Questions which refer to 'significance' or 'importance' can often be addressed using either approach whilst 'why' questions do not require a counter-argument (although this is often present in higher Level answers) but an overall judgement of the different reasons put forward.

The following examples indicate how some students underperformed by misinterpreting the question set:

Question A13: 'How accurate is it to say that Lambert Simnel and Perkin Warbeck were both serious threats to Henry VII's security?' Some saw this as an invitation to deal briefly with the two pretenders before considering other threats to the king's security, including the nobility, the Yorkist rump and the taxation rebellions.

Question A14 : 'How far did Henry VII's financial policies strengthen the power of the monarchy?'. Many candidates wrote about other ways in which the monarchy was strengthened.

Question D7: 'How successful were the Five-Year Plans in transforming Russian industry in the years 1928-41?' Many dismissed the plans briefly before investigating the role of terror and the purges in transforming industry.

Most candidates produced a readable answer with, at the least, some historical knowledge and, at best, a sophisticated analysis. The analytical and evaluative answers at high Level 4 and Level 5 were impressive for their breadth and depth of knowledge, and by their sharp focus on the question. However, a significant number of answers were less directly targeted on the question; these seemed to be answering practice questions, or were a prepared response. As always, there is evidence that candidates were not answering questions on the current paper, but those on the previous one. This often leads to responses which 'relate well to the focus' (Level 4) but not 'direct focus' (Level 5) e.g. in Option E/F Question 5 candidates often referred to Mussolini's rise to power rather than growing support for the Italian Fascist Party. Now that there are ten sample questions for each option (the four examination papers plus the sample questions) centres might consider it appropriate not to use the most recently asked questions in trial examinations.

A lack of both general and detailed chronological awareness is a growing concern. The importance of covering the timescale in the question is still a discriminating factor between candidates, and is dealt with in the reports on various questions. Candidates do need to be aware of the importance of key dates in the topics studied and, quite simply, the order in which events took place. A failure to understand why the dates in the question have been used led to a significant number of candidates failing to cover the whole period set, and thus to miss out some key events or developments, or referring to the wrong time period altogether.

Perhaps the most significant discriminator between different answers was the range and quality of supporting information. It is impossible for a candidate to frame an analytical response if the evidence offered in that answer is lacking in depth of development or is not directly relevant to the question. The generic mark scheme makes clear that progression through levels depends on the answer displaying two linked qualities; the strength of the explanation or analysis offered, and the range and depth of accurate and relevant material.

Examiners are required to reach a judgement on the quality of communication before awarding their final mark; it is an integral part of the mark scheme. Future candidates should be reminded that slang and argot have no place in an AS History answer; that spelling, punctuation and grammar may influence the quality of their argument; that it is worth learning how to spell the historical terms used in the topics studied; and that abbreviations, and the absence of capital letters, should remain in the realm of text messaging. It is also important to use correct terms when referring to people of different races and cultures.

Question 1

Candidates were familiar with the chronology of Viking raids over the period given, from Lindisfarne in 793 to Ivarr the Boneless' descent on Wessex in 870. Most were aware of the basic Viking tactics, especially the importance of speed and surprise. However, some dealt with the timescale as a single unit, and failed to differentiate between the raids carried out before 865, which were usually summer raids, and after that date, when the nature of the attacks changed significantly, as did the issue of mobility. Although the Great Heathen Army was mentioned, it was usually to comment on the similarities with earlier raids. There was a good range of other factors offered which explained Viking successes. The qualities of leadership displayed by Ivarr in particular were contrasted with the weaknesses of Edmund of East Anglia and Burgred of Mercia. The best answers were aware that the sheer size of the invasion of 865 pointed to a new type of invasion, with the Vikings displaying their intention to settle.

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The Vikings' mobility was evidently a key factor when considering what was responsible for their successes in this period as many times their ability to outmanoeuvre their opponents has given them the advantage and allowed them to win a battle. However, there are other factors responsible for their success between 793 and 870 such as the size of the armies, their style of fighting and their targets.

If we consider a Viking army we can see that they are suited to raiding and fighting involving guerilla-like tactics. They are lightly armoured and carried little in terms of campaign kit and so were able to make and break camp easily. For the most part in fact we can see that the Vikings simply used a conquered town as their base, such as York in 866, Nottingham in 867 and Thetford

(This page is for your first answer.) in 868. Their modes of transport such as the typical Viking longboat had a streamlined shape with a shallow hull allowing the Vikings to travel far upriver at a pace far exceeding that of any land army. For example, in 860 a Viking army travelled far inland in order to raid Winchester. The historian Compton suggests that the Vikings had a 'blitzkrieg' style of raiding insofar as they attacked suddenly and withdrew before a local militia could mobilize to resist them. For example, the attack on Lindisfarne in 793 and Iona, Bede's monastery although Egghill's at the time, in 794 were both completely unexpected and the Vikings were able to pillage and leave before any counter-attack against them could be made. A similar point to this though perhaps separate was the unexpectedness with which the Vikings attacked. For example, when the Vikings ^{great heathen army} arrived at East Angles in 865 and moved north to take York they were unopposed. At the time Aella, King of Northumbria was fighting Osbert and the Vikings' movements were so fast that even Aella did not see the threat of the Vikings before it was too late. The next year Aella's and Osbert's forces joined to attempt to reclaim York but again the mobility of the Vikings within city succeeded in drawing the Northumbrian army into

(This page is for your first answer.) city and then systematically ~~massacring~~ destroying them, resulting in what the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle called the 'greatest slaughter of Northumbrians'.

However, the Vikings also were successful because of the sheer size of their armies. These were seen to increase over time from thirteen ships in 820 ~~attacking~~ attacking Southampton to ~~88~~³⁵ attacking ~~Southampton~~^{Canhampton} in 836 to 350 attack storming London and Canterbury in 851. Each ship would contain 30 to 40 men by archaeological estimation or through the study of the longboats so it is clear how the sheer size of Viking armies increased. It not only the size either but also the amount of raids. For example, the army that stormed Canterbury and London in 851 was itself a splintered part of a larger force that had formed in Frisia. Two other sections of which attacking Dorestad and Flanders.

The length of the Vikings is another important factor if we are to understand why their forces were so successful in the years 793 to 870. For example, starting at the beginning of this period is the attack on Lindisfarne. Lindisfarne was an isolated ~~monaster~~ monastery on an island off the coast of Northumbria and so it is unsurprising that, as this was the first

(This page is for your first answer.) real Viking raid, the targeted settlement was so vulnerable. The same can be said of the monastery at Jarrow in 794. If we then examine the other end of the spectrum in the 860s we can see also how the Vikings choosing of targets allowed them such success. As I have already discussed, the ~~attack~~ ^{capture} of York in 865 clearly shows the Vikings taking advantage of the vulnerable nature of Northumbria, a kingdom in the grip of civil war. This also suggests another reason similar to this that the Vikings were so successful due to their intelligence information on the area such as the knowledge of the Northumbrian civil war. The Vikings defeat of King Edmund of East Anglia in 870 also shows the ~~the~~ choice of targets. ~~For Edmund, or~~ For the Chronicle states that Edmund was a 'most holy king' and that he refused to fight the Vikings. Other sources state that the Vikings ravaged the area around their base at Thetford so badly that Edmund's nobles gave him up. Whatever the case it is clear that Edmund was a ~~was~~ weak king and this was clearly partly responsible for the Vikings success.

I conclude that the Vikings mobility was the most important reason why the Vikings enjoyed such success in this period. Clearly the other reasons

(This page is for your first answer.) did play an integral part but
I do not feel that they made the same impact.

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Examiner Comments

The question suggests a multi-causal approach, which is clearly flagged up in the introduction, where the candidate suggests that four factors will be discussed. The answer goes on to consider each factor in turn, supporting the points made with some very well-chosen, detailed and accurate material. This is a sustained analysis, balanced in its treatment of the key issues. The conclusion is not very effective, but nonetheless this is clearly a secure Level 5 response.

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Tip

The question covers a large chronology, so bear in mind that the nature of Viking invasions was bound to change over time.

Question 2

The timescale, which encompassed the years before and after Edington, posed problems for some candidates, especially perhaps those who failed to plan out their answer effectively. Alfred's role before 878 was not always well known beyond the Saxon success at Ashdown in 871. Most therefore concentrated on the post-Edington years, and often produced a secure examination of Alfred's leadership qualities. Answers mentioned the military and naval reforms which were viewed as central to Wessex's successful resistance, with better responses indicating that success was not consistent even after the reforms. The development of the system of burhs was well known, but the development of the navy and of coastal defences was sometimes glossed over. A few candidates seemed perplexed by the concept of Alfred's leadership. This led them into considering matters such as legal and educational reforms which were not then tied to the question.

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• Leadership - Ashdown 871
 - Siege tactics Edington Edington 878
 • Reforms - • Fyrd, burhs, learning, navy.
 religion law
 resistance
 built up & lead
 880's know
 Vikings turned
 attention
 elsewhere.

didn't make
 much use
 time 875
 - Chippingham 878 failure
 - evident "Alfred the Great"
 Guthrum became
 Christian - turned
 Vikings away.

How far do you agree that Alfred's leadership was the key factor in Wessex's successful resistance to the Vikings in the years 871 - 99?

Alfred's leadership could be said to be a key factor in Wessex's success in the late ~~800~~ 800's. Wessex was in a more stable position than most of the other kingdoms such as Northumbria with Aella & Osbert who were in ~~the~~ civil war since 848 and were killed by the Vikings in 869. Wessex was in such a stable position due to Egbert having reigned for so long

(This page is for your first answer.) (died at 69) and so coups were minimized and the country was able to prosper. ~~Alfred~~ Despite his leadership, his tactics and reforms also enabled him to subdue the Vikings and become known as 'the Great'.

Alfred's first significant battle was ~~in~~ at Ashdown in 871. The Vikings were attacking and ~~he~~ and Alfred and Aethelwulf had divided into two divisions. However Aethelwulf ~~arrived~~ hadn't arrived and Alfred had no choice but to send his men to attack. At the pinnacle moment of the battle Aethelwulf did arrive and the Saxons triumphed. Despite Aethelwulf's last minute help, this shows ~~that~~ Alfred's courage and skill at leadership and was able to make the right decision and overwhelm the Vikings. Had Alfred not done so, the battle may have played out differently. Also this was a set piece battle which Vikings tried to avoid and through Alfred using this weakness against them he was able to claim victory. Through this one can see that Alfred's leadership is a ~~prom~~ prominent pinnacle factor in Saxon success.

However he did have a downside. When the Vikings did a surprise attack ~~at~~ in 875, Alfred paid them off and made peace. ~~At~~ At the same time of the year (Christmas holidays) the Vikings attacked again in 878 and

(This page is for your first answer.) Alfred had to flee ^{to Somerset}. It could be argued here that Alfred's leadership was poor due to the fact that the same thing had happened 3 years before and there is no evidence to say that he made much use of the peace he had bought and through this the Vikings were able to attack Wessex again. However after this encounter; Alfred was able to organise a fyrd and change tactics and on the 4th May 878 he lay siege on Guthrum and the Great Summer Army for two weeks until they surrendered. His imprisonment and organisation shows without a ~~low~~ doubt that he was a good leader and despite his mistake at Chippingham he was still able to declare himself "Alfred the Great".

Whilst his leadership was good; his tactics and reforms hold most of the reasons behind his success against the Vikings. Through making Guthrum surrender; he was able to make him a Christian and showed him the rewards of being loyal. In 879 when Viking reinforcements came, he ~~was~~ Guthrum dismissed them. Through Alfred's clever tactic of making Guthrum his ally; he put some of the Vikings on his side which limited the opposition and also Guthrum dismissed other Vikings which left him with less opposition than beforehand. This meant there

(This page is for your first answer.) would be less men to fight and so would become easier to defend from Viking attack.

His reforms were also a success. The use of the fyrd - 2 ~~be~~ divisions (1 standing army; 1 homeking) and the ~~but~~ burhs (fortified towns) combined created a safe and secure kingdom. With the fyrd being smaller than before it enabled them to be better equipped and more efficient and through towns being fortified it was harder to infiltrate and the kingdom became more secure, trade could flourish, the economy improved and it became a wealthier and stronger ^{* provider} kingdom. Through these two reforms, Alfred was able to fight better and prevent an economic collapse with Vikings looting. He also had a navy which was an obvious way of defeating the Vikings however it wasn't that successful. Also the use of enforcing authoritative members of Wessex to become learned and literate improved organisation and communications. The country was more unified and so Vikings found it harder to ~~use~~ invade. This is evident because after 880s it is said that the Vikings more or less gave up on ~~E~~ Wessex and turned their attention elsewhere.

Through this one can see that whilst his leadership

(This page is for your first answer.) ...was important in battles such as Ashdown and Edington, ~~but~~ his defences and tactics were also key factors in successfully resisting the Vikings. With a more equipped fyrd, better communications and fortified towns, Alfred was able to resist the Vikings and be the king of the most powerful kingdom and become known as Alfred the Great.

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Examiner Comments

There is some attempt to address a number of factors, both in the introduction and the body of the answer. Alfred's leadership is considered between 871 and 878, but there is little on this quality after Edington. The reforms of 878-99 are considered, though depth of material is not very extensive. In particular, the answer states that the naval reforms were unsuccessful, but does not explain this comment; and the suggestion that the burhs were a success does not explain their failure in 892. Analytical and with some range and depth of material: secure Level 4.

Question 3

Although the given period covered less than one year, there were many candidates who were unable to provide a balanced answer to both parts of the question. Some went into great detail about the power of the Godwin family in the 1050s and 1060s and the emergence of Godwinson as the most powerful man in England. His visit to Normandy in 1064 and the events of early January 1066 were known, but by this point many had run out of time and compressed the rest of the year into a few paragraphs. Others did the reverse, focusing their attention on the events of September and October. Even when a balanced answer was offered it was rare to find one that tried to integrate the two parts of the answer with a thematic approach which showed how some factors applied both to Harold's gaining the throne and then losing it. Better answers ranged over the period given. These were aware of Harold's controversial accession and coronation and went on to provide an analysis of events which led to his defeat at Hastings. Some were confused over what happened in the north in September 1066, believing that Godwinson fought at both Gate Fulford and Stamford Bridge. The long marches north and south were described, though fewer remarked that the Saxon forces were seriously depleted by early October. In explaining Harold's defeat at Hastings most displayed secure understanding of the role of William of Normandy and the nature of his military forces. The Duke's previous experience in northern France was mentioned in his favour, though few noted Godwinson's successful activities in Wales and elsewhere.

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(This page is for your first answer.) Harold Godwinson was named as Edward the Confessor's heir on his deathbed. He had proven himself as a warrior, a diplomat and as "sub-*regulus*" (John of Worcester), his position strengthened by wealth and the weakness of Edgar Atheling. However, William's strength and the battle at Stamford bridge on September 25th proved the main reasons why Harold lost his crown.

Harold was a proven warrior. He led attacks against Welsh revolts in 1056, even killing a Welsh king, Gruffydd, which halted attacks for a few years. He secured the throne largely through this method of fighting, he also defeated many Scottish attacks on England too. Through this fighting, Harold gained a ~~pop~~ reputation as a brave warrior, and foreign powers feared him - for example, the Welsh ~~pop~~ after he defeated their rebellion. This greatly helped him secure his throne. A

(This page is for your first answer.) direct time when he secured his throne was the Battle of Stamford Bridge, where he defeated Tostig and Harald 'Hardrada', who both wanted his throne, on the 25th September, 1066. The effects of this were big - two main opponents killed, and seemingly his throne was secure. However, the battle also made Harold completely insecure, as William landed on Pevensey Bay on the 28th September, which ultimately caused Harold's downfall. His military strength was aided by his wealth - Harold's lands were worth £8,000 per annum. It is clear that Harold's strength as a warrior definitely secured his throne in the beginning - however, it ultimately caused his downfall.

→ It is clear that William's strength was one of the key reasons why Harold lost his throne. William prepared an army of c. 8,000 men (and horses) over the summer of 1066 and had very modern technology - cavalry and castles. As the Normans were ravaging Sussex, they built 'kit castles' to secure their rear. William's strength was clearly a big reason why Harold lost his crown - on the battlefield, William ultimately won through his good tactics - for example, pretending to flee, only to have

(This page is for your first answer.) cavalry storm English troops as they chased the 'fleeing' Normans. Harold died during the Battle of Hastings and had good tactics - but his opponent William was clearly stronger, which is a big reason why Harold lost the ~~thron~~ throne, although, as pointed out earlier, Harold was, only days before, fighting in the north and so his army ~~had~~ had depleted and everyone was tired, but William still had the better technology and the better tactics.

~~What~~ → One way in which Harold secured his throne was through the weakness of his only blood rival, Edgar Atheling. Edgar was clearly weaker than Harold - he was only ~~thirteen~~ ~~for~~ fourteen or fifteen years old. He had no powerbase in England (Harold was greatly supported) and Edward the Confessor didn't think his personality was up to the job. ~~That~~ Indeed, Atheling did not ~~try~~ try to pursue the crown in 1066. Harold was therefore much more secure on the throne, with his only ~~to~~ blood claim rival uninterested. However, ~~g~~ Harold was clearly insecure in some respects - Tostig, Harald Godwinson and William all invaded, and William succeeded in taking the

(This page is for your first answer.) Throne, but it is obvious that Harold was more secure with his only legitimate rival so weak. Any rival being weak makes anyone more secure.

A moderately important reason why Harold lost his throne was the demobilising of the fyrd in the late 1066, before William arrived. They were stationed from Kent to the Isle of Wight and were largely farmers, but still an important force in Harold's army. They were protection against a ~~few~~ Norman invasion, and the Norman invasion is what ultimately defeated Harold. Clearly, ~~by~~ by letting the fyrd return home, this is an important reason as to why Harold lost his throne - however, as farmers, they needed to bring in the harvest and they had served already much longer than their designated two months. Without demobilisation, Harold could have faced mass starvation or mutiny. Also, William was much stronger with his cavalry than a few farmers, but it is clear that the fyrd were important defence and by demobilising them, Harold became weaker - which was a reason why he lost his throne.

(This page is for your first answer.)

In conclusion, it is clear that Harold Godwinson secured his throne through military strength (aided by wealth) and the weaknesses of a blood rival, Edgar Atheling. However, his insecurities were the main reason Harold lost his throne - the fyrd were demobilised, but chiefly, William was far superior in his strength, which outweighs ~~Harold~~ all other points. No ~~more~~ Anglo-Saxon army could stand up to cavalry and castles, which is ultimately the main reason why Harold lost his throne. In September 1066.



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Examiner Comments

Both parts of the question are referred to in the introduction. The candidate refers to Godwinson's obvious military skills as displayed in the 1050s against the Welsh and Scots, and the victory at Stamford Bridge sealed his right to the throne. No mention is made of Edward the Confessor, and it is only later in the answer that the rights of the Atheling are referred to. William's military prowess is considered, and is set against some of the mistakes which Godwinson made after Stamford Bridge, especially his decision to demobilise much of the fyrd. The conclusion suggests that William's superior skills and more advanced technology were responsible for Godwinson's failure. The answer contains a wide range of relevant, accurate and detailed material, and there is a clear analysis here which addresses the focus of the question. These qualities suggest a Level 5 award, but organisation of material is not always well done, so low Level 5 is appropriate.



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Examiner Tip

Whenever you have to deal with a two-part question such as this one, remember to plan both parts of your answer.

Question 4

This was a popular question which prompted a wide range of responses. At the lower level were those who failed to target 'transformed' but considered 'impact' instead. Other weaker answers failed to define what they understood as 'the English people'. Some only included the peasants in their answer, thus failing to appreciate the significant changes to the ruling elite in both state and Church. Even so, it was surprising how few referred to the feudal system in their answers, while many who did so seemed unsure of what feudalism actually was. Stronger answers referred to William's imposition of Norman control, especially the building of castles as local garrisons, and the fierce suppression of rebellions, especially in the north in 1069-70. The impact of forest laws on everyday life was well known, as were religious changes which affected parish life. Some of the best answers considered the evidence of demographic change and land ownership which was illustrated in the Domesday Book. There were some answers which tried to frame an argument around the idea that nothing had really changed as a result of the conquest; these were almost inevitably difficult to sustain and were not persuasive.

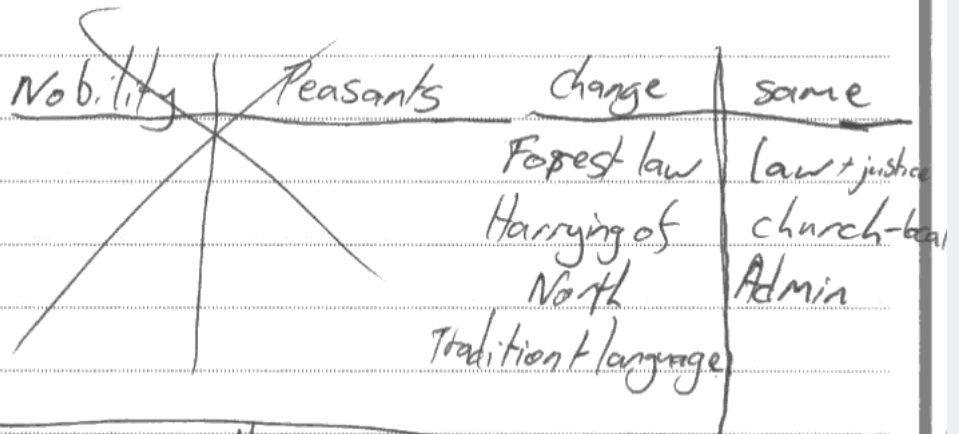
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Plan



When William the Conqueror came to the throne he needed to secure his position. He also needed to make the changes in the church that he had promised to ^{Pope} Alexander II. ~~The~~ The changes he made impacted the life of different people in different ways, ~~to~~ some more than others.

Some historians argue that William did change the ^{every} lives of people in England. One argument for this is the oppression that he brought

(This page is for your second answer.) Many people did not like having a French king and William needed to put them down. This is key as it shows that he believed that he was the rightful king and would do whatever it took to keep his throne. An example of this was in 1068 and 1070 where he massacred Yorkshire, crops were burnt, men were slaughtered and villages were torn down. This was very controversial and different as life under Edward the Confessor had been very peaceful and stable.

~~William~~ This is key as it meant that William had changed people's lives, not to become a loved king, but to be a feared one. He continued this oppression with the Forest law. It meant that anything in the forests were owned by the King. This was a big change too, as rural communities and towns, which were common, faced starvation. This is vital as it showed how ruthless a King William was. This drastic change to people's lives was key as it affected a large number of the population. ~~It shows William~~

It is also important as William had nothing to lose, he was already hated and feared, so he abused his power even more. This is key

(This page is for your second answer.) as it shows that William's attitude towards the kingship was that he was almost God-like and it did not matter if the peasants suffered. This shows large change in the life of the English people.

Another key change was tradition. Norman traditions were brought in. A key change in society was the feudal system. After the conquest everyone in England was bound by oaths and responsibilities which were strictly held. This is significant as there was an element of this before but under the Normans it was much more strict. ~~was~~ This is key as it affected every one in the country on a daily basis and also brought in more fear as everyone was accountable for their actions. Another change that mainly affected the nobility was that Norman earls and bishops, such as Lanfranc and ~~was~~ Fitzosbern were brought in. This majority affected ~~was~~ English earls as they lost their jobs. However it is also clever of William as it did not affect the lives of the peasants (the majority of the country) so would not push them towards revolting. This shows how life under William did change.

(This page is for your second answer.) However, there were many factors that did stay the same, especially for the peasants. Laws and courts stayed the same. This was clever of William as not only did he not disrupt the peasant with lots of new laws, he saw that the shire and hundred court system was effective and kept it. Life, therefore for the common people did not change that much as they all knew what they were allowed, and not allowed to do. Punishments also stayed the same. This is also key as it showed that William was willing to keep Anglo-Saxon traditions which had been around for hundreds of years. Also law was based on the laws of God so William did not change them so not to upset the people as the church was very important to them. *

Another argument for continuity was the administration. This is key as it did not affect the masses but William still kept it. The chancery and writs were both used to document and write commands. This stopped corruption. It is also key as they had never been seen in Normandy before. This shows that William was keen to use

(This page is for your second answer.) the good parts on England and add to them. An example of this is the Domesday book. This is key as it did not change the lives of the English people but helped improve efficiency and the economy in England.

Overall, many aspects of English life stayed the same. There were a few brutal examples of change but these were ^{mainly} quite isolated one-off events. Generally, lives stayed the same, in law and order administration. The Normans even grew in learning and understanding as they used the effective English system. Overall, the Norman conquest did effect the lives of the people but more stayed the same than change.

* because of this, William kept the local ~~even~~ priests ~~in~~ in their positions. ~~then~~ This was key as it shows that he did not want to upset the people majority. This is how lives stayed the same

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

In considering 'how far' the answer considers features of both change and continuity. Change is highlighted by comparing the harrying of the North with the relative peace of the Confessor's reign. The forest laws and the introduction of the feudal system are mentioned, but their impact is not addressed in detail; but the answer is clearer on the introduction of new men in both Church and state. The candidate goes on to consider elements of continuity, notably the retention of the legal system, the shires and the central administration of the government. In the conclusion the candidate stands back and tries to weigh up the significance of both change and continuity, and decides that the latter is more important. The answer attempts to analyse developments after 1066, and maintains a focus on the question. Supporting material is accurate, but is not evenly balanced and developed throughout the answer. While supporting material is adequate rather than extensive, the overall shape of the answer and the direction of the argument results in a high Level 4 award.

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Tip

Always think about the wording of questions before you begin your answer. Here, 'the English people' refers to all different classes, not just the peasantry.

Question 5

As with Question 3, the key to success was the ability to frame a balanced answer to both parts of the question. For some the allure of Henry's troubled relationship proved too strong, and their answers dealt exclusively with this aspect of the king's reign; and few could resist providing extensive detail on Becket's death. Others dealt only with the king's reforms in government and law. While there were plenty of references to legal reforms, many were unaware of the significance of the Constitutions of Clarendon and Northampton, but focused instead on the inquest of sheriffs. Balanced answers dealt with both Church and state, sometimes with impressive detail on legal and financial reforms and the nature of Henry's quarrel with the state rather than simply with Becket. The best answers placed Henry's reign into context, noting that the anarchy of Stephen's reign and the impact of the conflict with the Empress Matilda meant that strong action was required to restore royal power. This explained the resumption of royal lands and the powerful assault on baronial privileges which had mushroomed under Stephen. Many candidates were very well informed and could frame a secure analysis which accessed the highest mark levels.

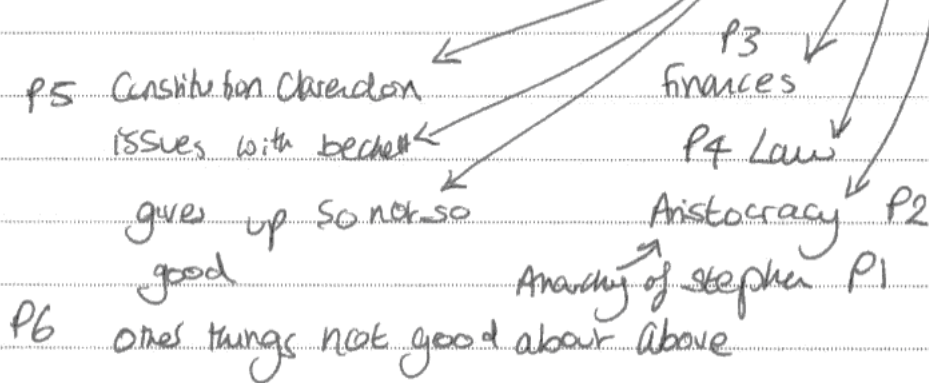
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(This page is for your first answer.) *restore crown's power over church + state*

Planning what extent



Henry II reign beginning 1154 was dogged by the period before for some time, the 'Anarchy of Stephen', however Henry succeeded very well to deal with the problems faced across the board; curbing his Aristocracy's power, reforming finances and reforming law, he also made moves to control the church to a greater extent though eventually failed.

During the 'Anarchy of Stephen' many of the barons and Aristocracy had become a law unto themselves.

(This page is for your first answer.) and out of control, they disregarded the king's laws and in some cases minted their own money. Since these people should be the king's vassals and be used to rule the kingdom, Henry would have to assert his authority over them. He did this by destroying illegal castles - as agreed in the Treaty of Westminster 1153 but not yet carried out - which would stop barons being able to cover within and successfully stand up to the king. Henry also allowed titles to lapse and reduced the amount of patronage he gave, due to this the number of barons was reduced from 24 to 12, this gave the king less to worry about and earned the king £2,900 per annum from the lands that reverted to the king instead, with an increase in money the king became more powerful and the aristocracy less. ~~During his legal reforms~~ ~~increases~~ restoring the power and influence of the crown over the aristocracy.

Any restoration of crown power would have to go hand in hand with ~~financial~~ increased financial power. Canage, which had suffered debasement and variety during the ~~the~~ 'Anarchy of Stephen' was recalled and reminted 1158, then more successfully reformed in 1180 with the moneyer's robes divided, giving loyal ~~posterior~~ royal officials charge the task of changing the money ~~rather than the minter~~ and giving the king his due of it, rather than the minter.

(This page is for your first answer.) Henry also improved the financial system. He reinstated his grandfather's Exchequer Nigel de Ely and due to his death in 1169, he was replaced by his son Roger FitzNigel some time before 1160. Financial reform was critical since in 1130 pipe rolls show the king's finances to be £30,000 p.a. but by 1154 only £7,000 p.a. the amount of royal lands had also halved since the time of Henry II in England. However Henry managed to gain back land which should of returned to him so that by 1168 there were 70 new items of account. Henry II also set about the *Cartae Baronum* which updated the Domesday book and allowed Henry to fully exploit his feudal dues. In all these ways Henry succeeded in gaining far more power and restored the finances of his kingdom to previous levels.

As well as financial Henry's kingdom had also seen a major breakdown in ~~the~~ law and order. Henry II began to reform law and order by beginning a system of Itinerant judges that would travel the kingdom hearing cases, this gave normal people a greater degree of speech - reducing the power of the aristocracy, created greater fairness, making people more likely to trust the law system and not revert to anarchy, and also put cases in the hands of loyal & royal officials, hopefully making sure the king's decision was made.

(This page is for your first answer.) Common Law was begun, leading to increased fairness as well, and sheriffs were given more power. After the inquest of the sheriffs, these men could be trusted to do the king's business justly, so they now could search Aristocracy's lands and homes, and sit in Manorial Courts to make sure a Unbiased Verdict was attained. These measures continued Henry's work to undermine the power of the Aristocracy and so give ~~himself~~ the crown more power over them. The most effective way Henry did this was by only allowing the Aristocracy their own trials to be heard in the Curia Regis, the king's own court, this made it difficult for them since Henry II was constantly on the move across his vast ~~the~~ kingdom but also meant that Henry could withhold his decision if he wanted to and halt the proceedings. The law reforms meant that Henry had a lot more power.

During Henry's law reforms, Henry also tried to extend Crown authority over the church, notably in the Constitution of Clarendon 1166, due to a wide variety of court systems it was unclear where the trial people and in particular clergy, who could only be heard in Canon Churches where punishment would not be severe, Henry wanted to change this. Henry tried to have power over the church by appointing his friend Thomas Becket, who had been a good Chancellor in 1155 to be

(This page is for your first answer.) Archbishop. However both his plans went wrong when Beckett felt unable to accept the Constitution of Clarendon and ~~denied~~ ~~denied~~ claimed he had only signed it under duress so began an argument between the two, exile of Beckett, restoration of Beckett and finally Henry ~~Becket~~ Beckett's murder when it was found that Beckett ~~was~~ wore a ~~horse~~ hair-shirt and was in fact a very good priest, and claims his blood healed people, ordinary people began to flock to the sight of his death on pilgrimages, the Pope was forced to saint Thomas Beckett and Henry had rebellion on his hands Henry was forced to back down against mass opposition and in 1174, in the midst of the great war, Henry revoked the Constitution of Clarendon and took penance for Beckett's death. Henry II was unable to gain power over the Church.

In many ways Henry II succeeded in restoring Crown's power ~~of~~ over the state, in law, finances and over the Aristocracy, however Henry was never able to exert enough power over the Church as he would wish, but still, ^{just} ~~only~~ as much as his forefathers managed.

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

Much of the answer makes effective use of the anarchy of Stephen's reign, which highlights the problems which Henry faced and explains the king's successes and failures in attempting to restore royal power over Church and state. Three points are dealt with concerning power over the state; restoring royal authority over the aristocracy; improving the state of royal finances and stabilising the currency; and increasing respect for, and confidence in, the legal system. Each point is supported by a good range of detailed and well-chosen evidence which allow the points made to stand up effectively. Henry's relations with the Church focus on the Constitutions of Clarendon and the bitter relationship with Becket; again, well developed material. The conclusion is not entirely convincing; there could have been a little more development here in weighing up matters of success and failure. However, this is a clear analysis of the reign, with only a few omissions (notably the inquest of sheriffs and its significance). Low Level 5.

Question 6

Many candidates set their own question. The state of royal finances in the reigns of both Richard and John was rarely referred to in more than general terms and with little supporting evidence. Some saw the weaknesses of royal finances as a legacy of Richard, and thereby ignored John's policies. Having dismissed the question of finance in a paragraph or so, candidates turned to other factors which led to the growth of opposition to John. These were known in greater detail, especially the loss of territory in Angevin France and John's failed campaigns against Philip Augustus. Some were sidetracked too far into the scandals of John's reign, with detailed comments on the murder of Arthur and of the king's growing reputation as a sexual predator. Most were aware of the interdict of 1208, but failed to link this to the question of growing opposition. It is surprising that many of those candidates who provided a detailed overview of baronial and clerical opposition failed to mention their triumph with Magna Carta in 1215. The best answers were sharply focused on John's reign, and weighed up the relative importance of factors which led to the growth of opposition to the king without becoming overwhelmed by detail on the king's personal shortcomings.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

The introduction might have been structured more clearly, but it does hint at factors other than financial weakness which caused opposition to John to grow during his reign. The state of royal finances is dealt with very effectively. The problems inherited from Richard I are explained, along with opposition to John's attempts to raise money through taxation in 1202 and 1206. There is a good section with developed support on John's character, focusing on the king's cruelty towards noble families and individuals, notably Arthur. The loss of Angevin France is explained, partly through the parlous state of royal finances, partly through the excellent leadership displayed by Philip Augustus. The answer thus displays some of the qualities which are usually associated with a Level 5 award. However, the whole of John's reign is not covered. There is no reference to the growing hostility of the barons, especially from 1213, which led to John's humiliation at Runnymede in 1215, when his unpopularity was reflected in Magna Carta. More importantly, the king's relations with the Church, notably the interdict of 1208 and John's excommunication in 1209, are not addressed. Since the answer lacks balance overall, a mid-Level 4 award was made.

Put a cross in the box indicating the SECOND question you have chosen to answer ☒.
Your second question choice must be on a different topic to your first question choice.
If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒
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(This page is for your second answer.)

John finance, Mistakes, ^{Character} ~~Bad~~ ^{Philip's} ~~treating~~ ^{Character}

The tumultuous reign of King John experienced the loss of the great Angevin Empire built by Henry II & protected by Richard I. ~~It was not his~~ ~~mistakes~~ ~~but~~ ~~his~~ ~~brother's~~ ~~mistakes~~ ~~that~~ ~~led~~ ~~to~~ ~~his~~ ~~downfall~~. Another prominent feature of King John's reign was his terrible relations with his people and of his barons. However, although there are arguments that claim that John's failure in his quest for support were due to his own mistakes or his own character flaws it can be clearly seen that John's financial situation which he inherited from his brother, Richard "The Lionheart" in 1189 was the main root cause for all his troubles as King including the growth of opposition against him.

Thus, it can be seen ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~state~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~royal~~ ~~finances~~ ~~which~~ ~~King~~ ~~John~~ ~~inherited~~ ~~from~~ ~~his~~ ~~brother~~ ~~was~~ ~~the~~ ~~main~~ ~~reason~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~growth~~ ~~of~~ ~~opposition~~ ~~against~~ ~~him~~ ~~as~~ ~~the~~ ~~majority~~ ~~of~~ ~~evidence~~ ~~supports~~ ~~his~~ ~~claim~~. It is clear that John inherited a huge financial strain from his brother Richard I and this left John unable to defend against the persistent rebels led to the

(This page is for your second answer.) Plantagenet's; Philip Augustus. Richard I spent huge amounts on his Crusade between 1190-96 which placed great strain on the financial systems in England which greatly affected John and his defence of Normandy. Richard's ransom fee of 150,000 marks was collected from the barons and the lower ranks of society which left John in the difficult position as any further taxation which was necessary would have caused huge resentment of from the King's subjects. Also, the inflation of the early 1200's caused further financial strain of the King's finances. Moreover, historian Sir James Holt claimed John only had around 41-70% of Philip's income as a consequence of Richard selling royal assets, thus diminishing Royal revenue, which made it increasingly difficult for John to defend against Philip. These financial strains ~~led to~~ meant that John was forced to resort to taxation to raise funds in order to defend his lands against Philip. However, this taxation such as in 1202 + 1206 caused great resentment and undeniably the greatest factor in the growth of opposition against him. ~~as the title~~ This opposition was demonstrated in the Magna Carta in 1214 + contemporary accounts such as Matthew Paris however, it was due to the root cause of finance that the growth of opposition stemmed from.

However, whilst the ^{clear} majority of evidence suggest that the growth of opposition against John was due to the straining royal finance, there is still a smaller amount of evidence that suggests that the growth of opposition stemmed from John's character. The best piece of evidence to ~~the~~ illustrate this claim is the contemporary accounts of Matthew Paris and John's treatment of the Broose family. History has ~~the~~ remembered King John as a cruel and merciless

(This page is for your second answer.) ruler. This view can be drawn from his actions to the Bruce family. When William of Bruce defected on an unrealistic plan he exiled him and imprisoned and starved to death his wife and eldest son + later released the rest of his family in 1216. John also expressed his cruelty in 1202 after he won his greatest military success at Mirebeau. John from this battle captured 22 French prisoners who died in prison but he also captured the commander to the throne, his nephew Arthur who he was ~~murdered~~ murdered (possibly by John's own hands) and thrown into the River Seine in 1203. This act of murder against a family member sent ~~shockwaves~~ shockwaves throughout the barons in a time where family allegiances were all important. These acts of cruelty ~~was~~ ^{did} to some extent cause a growth of opposition, & however, John although John was at times merciless and cruel had he been able to conquer land like his father and brother his reputation as a murderer would have been viliified. However, these conquests were not possible due to his financial situation which ultimately led to the substantial growth of opposition against him.

Moreover, although the vast majority of evidence supports the claim that the growth of opposition against John was due to his financial situation, there is a minor amount of evidence ~~to show~~ to show that the growth of opposition was due to John's military failures. The best piece of evidence to show this is the loss of Normandy in 1204. By 1205, John had lost not only Normandy but also the bulk of his continental possessions

(This page is for your second answer.) of Aquitaine, Anjou and Maine. These losses were consolidated at the Battle of Bouvines in 1213 where John, if he was victorious, could have regained all his continental possessions from 1200 but instead Philip became the greatest ruler of France since Charlemagne. However, it was ^{near} impossible for John to defend his lands as he had a much smaller income & revenues than Philip. ~~Historian~~ Historian William Stubbs also stated "he was a good King... but the financial situation hampered him so significantly he could not prevent the advances of Philip Augustus" This showing how John's financial problems were the root cause of the growth of opposition as the loss of land made him very unpopular.

In conclusion, it can be seen that the financial situation was the main cause for the growth of opposition against John as it left him unable to fight King Philip in the manner which he wished. Also, although his character did serve to cause some opposition it was ~~mainly~~ ^{primarily} due to the financial situation.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

No dates are given in this question. You should therefore assume that the whole of John's reign needs to be considered, including the Baronial Rebellion and Magna Carta.

Question 7

Many answers were unable to place the Black Death within a secure social and economic context and could thus only muster a number of generalised comments. Some mentioned the 1315 famine, but could not link this material to the outbreak of 1348-49. The state of the English economy in the early 14th century was known only in outline. Candidates could refer to the growth of towns and cities, but did not go on to examine the importance of the growth of coastal towns, nor the significance of insanitary conditions and overcrowding. Some, who appeared to struggle with sufficiently precise knowledge were forced to pad out their answer with irrelevant information. They combined their answer with an evaluation of the effects of the plague, including the Statute of Labourers and the Sumptuary Laws, and were thus straying into answering Question 8. Better answers were aware of some features of social and economic conditions and noted the role played by other factors in the devastation caused by the Black Death. Few noted the return of troops involved in the conflict in France, but there were some excellent comments on the limited state of medical knowledge at the time and the exotic attempts to fend off the plague.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

The introduction is not a strongly focused one, though it does suggest that existing social and economic conditions weakened the population in some ways. The body of the answer is more effective. Five clear points are made; climate change; animal diseases, notably in sheep; growing taxation; England's participation in wars; and intermittent famines. All these factors are linked in some way to the physical condition of the people, leading the candidate to conclude that the population would find it difficult to resist the onset of the plague in 1348. The conclusion briefly refers to other factors, which might have been considered more extensively, notably the state of the towns. The answer does make an attempt to analyse the situation in the years surrounding 1348, and supports points with a good range of information. Links between some factors and the impact of the Black Death are not very secure, such as the effects of taxation, and thus the answer lacks balance in places. There is an analytical focus on the question, with secure supporting information. Level 4.

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Plan

~~Climate Change~~

~~Housing~~

~~Animal Disease~~

~~Towns/Rural?~~

~~War~~

~~Piracy?~~

~~Taxation~~

~~Soil Exhaustion~~

Many historians believe that there was crisis in England before the black death struck in 1348. This crisis would have already been a strain upon England at the time, yet the Black Death, when it arrived would have been able to take advantage over this weakness and increase the social and economic devastation it was capable of. England at 1348 was going through a wide variety of problems caused by many different things, which made them much weaker exacerbating the impact the black death had.

(This page is for your first answer.) One of the most notable problems England had in 1348 was the climate changing. There is many records of floods, torrential downpours and other abnormal weather fronts causing chaos. For example there was torrential rain throughout England in the years 1315 - 1317. There was also ~~the~~ floods in Kent in 1326. This had destroyed a great deal of crop, and over 500 000 people died of famine. This shows the already weak England was devastated by the black death to a higher degree due to the climate change that had destroyed a great deal of food and killed so many. This weather did cease to be abnormal by 1330.

There is also records of animal disease at this time, which were an integral part of medieval life they were often a peasants most valuable asset. Records show us that in 1315 - 1317 the country was hit with various different animal diseases and ~~killed off as~~ other occasions 4000 sheep are predicted to have died. However these sheep didn't have too much of an impact and the numbers of them quickly recovered. It still did however have an impact on the peasants which made them weaker, for when the black death struck.

Peasants were often weak financially at this time too taxation increased greatly at the time and for the first time in 1334 the poorest people began getting taxed. We can

(This page is for your first answer.) see from the records in ^{Essex} ~~Essex~~ that show in 1334 11 000 people were taxed while in 1337 17 000 were taxed, this shows the amount of people getting taxed was increasing. This would certainly have a massive impact on the strength of the population and make them much weaker for when the black death finally struck.

People at the time were also getting taxed much more for the wars England was participating in. In northern England between 1307 - 1327 England was getting border raided by the Scottish, it was also happening in Wales. England was also at war with France which needed to be financed. Not only did the people have to pay more tax for the war, but they also lost out on vital business with the French. They were one of the main traders with England so this had a double impact. They especially purchased a lot of wool, so this area was hit hard. This shows us that some business may not have been doing as well, but also that tax still needed to be collected for the war, so would have had a great impact on the people of England which would only have aided the devastation caused by the Black Death.

We can also see examples of soil exhaustion in England at this time. People were using land which wasn't fertile or suitable for farming much more. This resulted in bad harvests, not helped by the weather at the time. People were also over farming

(This page is for your first answer.) the land that was fertile. This resulted in the harvests being bad also. These bad harvests made famine and starvation more prevalent which is proven by the fact 500 000 people died of it. Also the fact that more people were dying of famine than the Black Death when it struck also highlights the weakness of the country at the time.

There was other conditions which aided the spread of black death when it arrived. For example the very dirty homes of the people encouraged rats to live nearby, these vermin spread the plague with the fleas on them. However for the most part, the economic and social strife at the time greatly aided the prevalence of the plague when it arrived in Malcombe Regis and the fact that it struck 4 times after the initial 1348 in 1361, 1368, 1375 and 1391, shows how England had conditions which favoured the disease and it's spread.

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Tip

Although the timescale for this option is 1348-81, you are required to have contextual knowledge of the period before the Black Death arrived.

Question 8

There were many good answers to the question, perhaps because it was open to a successful approach which dealt with the given and other factors. Candidates were aware of the changed economic circumstances after 1350 and of the growing resentment among labourers at government attempts to return to the status quo of 1347. The poll taxes came in for extensive comment, with many noting that the tax of 1380 was perhaps the trigger for the Peasants' Revolt of 1381. Candidates are becoming increasingly aware of the growth over time of ideas of social equality, which led to demands for the abolition of titles and the confiscation of church and noble land. The influence of John Bull in this respect was well known. Only a few noted the impact of the Hundred Years War on England's economy and society.

Put a cross in the box indicating the FIRST question you have chosen to answer .
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(This page is for your first answer.)

Plan: ① B D ② Fiscal Pressure ③ Anger at nobles.
④ Encouragement of leaders. Conc. Agree.

Taxes. Poll tax.
Wages.

In 1381 there was a Great Revolt of peasants. There were many reasons why the peasants revolted against the government. One of the reasons was the effect of the Black Death. The Black Death had made ~~many~~ a big impact economically, socially and politically. As the Black Death had killed so many people from all places in society, the peasants began to think everyone was equal. ~~This is wrong with~~ The peasants gained economic power as so many peasants had died; the Lords needed them, more than they needed the Lords. This resulted in the peasants earning more money.

(This page is for your first answer.) The Black Death led the Peasants to revolt as it gave them more power as well as the belief that everyone should be equal. Before the Black Death happened, the peasants had no reason to think they should be equal. ~~As~~ The Black Death had killed so many people yet the Peasants still weren't being treated as equals when they felt they should be. This shows how the effects of the Black Death contributed to the Peasants' Revolt in 1381.

Another reason that the peasants revolted was because of fiscal pressure. The peasants were constantly being taxed ~~for~~ and the money was going towards the Hundred Years War which was being lost. This angered the peasants as it cost them in two ways; Not only did they have to pay for it but they also had to provide the men. The taxes were high too and the peasants could afford to pay them. Their wages were still low, despite there being less ~~of~~ ~~them~~ peasants. They wanted higher wages. ~~A~~ Another form of ~~first~~ fiscal pressure ^{were} ~~was~~ the Poll Taxes.

(This page is for your first answer.) The Poll Taxes were unfair as it meant that everyone, rich or poor, had to pay the same and the peasants simply couldn't afford it. Some peasants had to give 3 days pay for the Poll Tax. As the peasants were having money constantly taken off them, when they didn't have a lot to start with, it made them angry at the government. This shows that fiscal pressure was another reason that caused the Peasants' Revolt of 1381.

The peasants were ~~angry~~ opposed to the men in government and angry at the nobles which was another reason why they revolted. The peasants were angry at the king's advisors ~~advisors~~ as they felt it was them who were encouraging the king to make bad decisions. The king was only a child at the time and the peasants weren't angry at him. The peasants felt like they ~~should~~ should be ^{equal,} but the government was continuing to oppress them. This is shown through laws

(This page is for your first answer.) Such as the Statute of Labourers and the Sumptuary Law which tried to stop the peasants earning more money and wearing fancy clothing. Laws such as these stopped the peasants gaining social mobility and kept the hierarchical triangle intact; with the peasants at the bottom. This shows how the opposition the leading men in government, the king's advisors in particular, contributed to the Peasants' Revolt of 1381.

In conclusion, there were many reasons as to why the Peasants revolted. The Black Death played an important role but ~~it was not~~ ^{it was not} ~~being~~ the main reason. The Black Death started it off. The effects of it gave the peasants the idea that everyone should be equal but was not enough on its own to start the Peasants Revolt. The Peasants Revolt was a result of many things piling up, angering the peasants and sending them to breaking point. The main reason that the Peasants Revolt started was fiscal pressure. The peasants felt they should

(This page is for your first answer.) be equal because the Black Death showed them they were all the same. But it was the poll tax that tipped them over the edge. The government was bringing in laws to stop them earning more money and ~~also~~ taxing them at the same time. This shows that ~~a~~ fiscal pressure was the main reason ~~that~~ ^{for} the Peasants Revolt in 1381.

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

The opening paragraph notes the effects of the Black Death on the size of the population, but fails to establish a convincing link between the plague and a growing sense of equality. The candidate notes the impact of fiscal policy on people, notably the exactions made to fund the French war. The poll taxes are noted, but supporting detail here is not secure. The anger felt by many peasants and labourers towards the Statute of Labourers and the Sumptuary Laws is made clear. The conclusion suggests that it was a number of separate factors which led to the outbreak of the revolt of 1381. Thus the answer is attempting to frame an analysis because it does understand the focus of the question. However, the range of factors is limited, and, most importantly, the factual material offered, while accurate, lacks depth in its development. The answer thus displays the qualities of a mid-Level 3 answer.

Question 9

For many candidates the weakness of French royal power was explained exclusively through the insanity of Charles VI, and few could resist pointing out the king's intermittent belief that he was made of glass. Better answers noted the personal weakness of Charles VI but also considered the significance of the feud between Armagnacs and Burgundians which had degenerated into open civil war by 1414. Royal disarray led to the murder of John the Fearless and Burgundy's decision to ally with the English. In considering other factors, the focus of many answers was inevitably on Henry V. The strong qualities of kingship which he displayed were linked to his successful leadership of his armies. Most suggested that his victory at Harfleur was achieved by his own skill, and failed to note that the French had failed to send troops to support the town. The reconquest of Normandy was well known, but few went on to note Henry's diplomatic skills displayed in negotiations with both the Emperor and the French. More might have been made of the importance of the Treaty of Troyes on the subsequent development of Anglo-French relations.

Put a cross in the box indicating the FIRST question you have chosen to answer ☒.
If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒
and then put a cross in another box ☒.

Chosen Question Number:

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(This page is for your first answer.) Plan

1. Weakness of Royal power = ^{military}paragon/finance.
2. Finance
3. Losses in France - factionalising nobility
4. Individuals - York, Mof A

Weakness of royal power was a major factor that caused the outbreak of civil war in 1455.

It explains the outbreak of war very well, as it is essentially the root that caused many of the other problems such as losses in France, and financial difficulties.

Henry VI came on the throne as a 6 month ~~yo~~ old baby with the legacy of Henry V's French empire. However, his kingship was extremely weak, he was not a military leader like his father and preferred the policy of appeasement in France rather than policy of

(This page is for your first answer.) conquest. This was a major issue as a very important aspect of medieval kingship was waging war, conquering territories and bringing glory to the kingdom. Furthermore, it caused factions in the nobility as conservatives like Henry's uncle, Humphrey Duke of Gloucester and Richard of York had spent their lives attempting to strengthen the empire. Conquest was also a way of keeping the nobility occupied to ensure that they had a common enemy and prevented them from rebellion and factionalising as they did in Henry's reign. Moreover, this factional nobility was heightened by Henry's favoritism. He was weak minded and easily manipulated by the dominant Beaufort faction, whose emerging leaders Somerset and Suffolk also favoured the policy of appeasement. Henry awarded patronage to his favourites such as Somerset who became Captain of Calais in 1451, but failed to keep other noble families such as the powerful Nevilles happy. Furthermore in August 1453, Henry went mad, and was not responding in any way. The regency struggle over protectorship that ensued ~~etc~~ between York and Margaret of Anjou would contribute hugely to the ~~later~~ start of the War of the Roses as York was able to gain power in March 1454 and imprisoned Somerset.

(This page is for your first answer.) However, when Henry recovered in December 1454, he immediately restored Somerset and failed to control York. Henry kept receiving more bouts of insanity from 1453 onwards, with another collapse in January 1455. This began the struggle for control over a weak king which resulted in the First Battle of St Albans in 1455 which was caused due to the deposition of York's second protectorate and began the civil conflict. Therefore ~~Henry's~~ the weakness of royal power explains the beginning of the conflict as Henry was essentially a weak, easily manipulated and inefficient king who failed to maintain peace among the nobility ~~causing~~ causing an internal power struggle for the control over the king.

Finance was another factor that ^{explains the} ~~contributed~~ outbreak of civil war. It is also closely linked to the weakness of Henry's royal power. By 1450, the crown was already in debt by £372,000 and the debt was growing at a rate of £22,000 per annum. Furthermore, ~~before~~ after the marriage of Henry and Margaret of Anjou, the royal expenditure went from £8000 a year to £27,000 a year, with Henry's annual income only £33,000. This is mainly due

(This page is for your first answer.) to Henry's inefficiency in controlling his finance and exerting authority over his money. It caused many problems especially as in 1450, all crown lands given out since Henry's reign began were taken back. However, Henry made exceptions which further showed favouritism. Moreover, by 1449, the Calais garrison were owed £20,000 in wages and Richard of York, then, Lieutenant of France had not been paid and was forced to sell manors and a jewel collar to sustain himself financially. This caused resentment among unpaid soldiers and unpaid nobility especially as requests for money from the King's favourites such as Somerset were always met. Cade's rebellion in 1450, in Kent was a result of the high taxes but lack of pay and a bid to remove the King's 'evil councillors'. It not only showed Henry's personal weakness in the inability to efficiently pay his employees but also showed the weakness of the monarchy as the rebels reached London and the King and Council fled. The only reason the rebellion was stopped was due to the Queen granting free pardon. ~~It~~ It also showed the already disgruntled nobility due to the inability of the King and Council to cope with rebellion ~~and~~ and

(This page is for your first answer.) pushed their resentment of the royalty. It gave a chance for York to emerge as a Reformer, wanting to remove bad influence from the king. York would start the conflict ~~due to the~~ by wanting control over the king.

Another major factor ~~was~~ were the losses in France. By 1449, Normandy had fallen to Charles in the Battle of Formigny and in 1453, the Battle of Castillon effectively ended English control of Gascony and left only Calais as the only place with English control in France. The loss of prestige and glory as well as the loss of Norman estates for Richard of York was a factor in disgruntling the nobility, especially the pro Conquest faction. ~~The~~ Moreover, it showed the military weakness of Henry as well as factionalising court. In 1447, Somerset arrested Gloucester on charges of treason and the king did not interfere. The powerful were taking advantage of the weak king and pursuing their own goals, thus dividing England into factions, which would eventually lead to war. However, it can be argued

(This page is for your first answer.) that the French legacy was too ambitious and would eventually have crumbled regardless of the weakness of royal power. ~~How~~ But, the weakness did catalyse the fall of the French empire, eventually leading to civil war.

The emergence of "supernobles" as Steve Gunn puts it ~~was also~~ also explains the start of conflict. Richard of York was heir presumptive and ambitious. ~~The~~ The birth of Edward, Prince of Wales diminished his claim which led him to exploit ~~the~~ rumours of illegitimacy as Henry was mad in 1453 and could not officially recognise Edward as his son ~~at~~ at his birth. Furthermore, York also came back after Cade's rebellion from Ireland and demanded to see King with 3000 retainers. He gained a seat in Council and battled for Protectorship with the Queen who was pro Beaufort faction. His ambition to have control eventually led to him ~~a~~ instigating the ~~the~~ First Battle of St Albans which began the conflict. However, it can be argued that the

(This page is for your first answer.) *weakened of royal power caused him to become an overmighty subject.*

In conclusion, the weakness of royal power explains why well why conflict broke out in 1455 as it has a lasting influence on factors such as France, Finance and "supernobles". It causes the factionalism at court and the favouritism which eventually leads to the power struggle which becomes the war of the Roses.

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

The answer is sharply focused on the question. The introduction links royal power to other factors, though not all the points subsequently addressed are mentioned here. There is an extensive and detailed section on Henry VI's personal failings, especially his failure to lead the country in war, and the impact this had on the growth of noble factions. Financial problems are also dealt with in depth, with an impressive array of material. The losses in France from the late 1440s are highlighted, along with the growing independence of the nobility; and there is a secure commentary on the power and ambitions of Richard Duke of York. The introduction and conclusion might have been more extensive and targeted to the question, and the divisive role of Margaret of Anjou could have been expanded on. Nonetheless, this is a secure analysis of the situation in England in the years before 1455 which shows real understanding of the key issues surrounding the outbreak of conflict in 1455, and deploys a wide range of detailed information. A secure Level 5 answer.

Question 10

There were too few answers to allow for a meaningful report.

Question 11

Some explained the outbreak of conflict in 1455 simply in terms of the leading personalities involved. Many dealt at some length with the personal and political weaknesses of Henry VI, effectively contrasting his weak kingship with that of his father. Some considered the role of Henry VI only within the context of his many favourites, without going on to investigate the importance of this factor, especially on relations between York and Somerset. The role of Margaret of Anjou was also well known, especially her attempts to control the government of the country during her husband's increasingly frequent bouts of insanity. York was the third leading personality which most candidates considered (there was much less confusion than last year between Richard of York and Richard of Gloucester). Knowledge of the service he had provided to the king was often impressive, and many appeared to sympathise with his claim, if not to the throne, then certainly to involvement in government. An answer which focused exclusively on personalities could access Level 3, or low Level 4 if supporting information was strong. Better answers went beyond the leading personalities to consider other reasons for the outbreak of conflict. Candidates are becoming well versed in the local noble conflicts, especially between the Nevilles and Percies, and their contribution to unrest and instability. Many referred to the financial weakness of the Crown, and to the devastating impact of the defeat at Castillon in 1453 and the collapse of Lancastrian France. At the highest level were knowledgeable and detailed responses which evaluated the relative significance of a range of relevant factors.

Question 12

Most candidates for Option A6 preferred Question 11 but there were many strong answers to Question 12. Some referred to the problems which Edward had faced in the 1460s and noted that his victory over Henry VI and the death of the two leading Lancastrian claimants had strengthened his own position considerably. The chaos surrounding the readeption was quickly dispelled and candidates noted the development of largely effective royal policies at home and abroad. Central to most discussions was the restoration of royal finances, with detailed discussion of the use of the Chamber and the importance of parliamentary grants. Answers also noted the re-establishment of order, whether through sheriffs and JPs or through the skilful deployment of loyal nobles around the country. The significance of Gloucester's role in the north was well known, including his taming of Scotland. A few candidates answered both Questions 12 and 14 and used more or less the same information in both answers; this approach is not recommended.

Question 13

There were many strong answers to this question. The best candidates deployed a wide range of information on both Simnel and Warbeck, noted Henry's response to both, and concluded with an investigation of which threat was the more serious. Foreign policy considerations featured highly here, especially the inflexible opposition of Margaret of Burgundy, the diplomatic games played by other rulers, and changing attitudes in Ireland and Scotland. There were some very thoughtful conclusions on the nature of each threat, though some students hedged their bets by equivocation and some muddled thinking. At all levels of attainment accurate supporting material was mostly deployed, though some thought Simnel was impersonating Edward V, and others were confused about the link between Warbeck and the Cornish rising. Although candidates knew the details, some produced answers which were driven by information rather than analysis. Some placed an incorrect interpretation on the question, and were driven into largely irrelevant material on other risings, such as the Northern and Cornish rebellions, and other minor Yorkist attempts to overthrow Henry VII.

Question 14

There were two distinct approaches to this question, with some retaining a focus on financial policies, while others sought to compare financial policies to other methods used by Henry to strengthen the power of the monarchy. The better answers kept to financial policies. These were well known by many candidates, who could deploy an impressive amount of detail on a wide range of financial matters. The transfer of authority from the Exchequer to the Chamber was assessed, and its impact on royal income was understood. The restoration of Crown lands was linked to both a rise in income and of royal power. Henry's policies towards the nobility were well known, with most candidates aware that bonds, recognisances and loans not only increased income but also established the king's growing power over the nobility. A few commented that these exactions had become so severe that there was the genuine threat of a noble rebellion at the end of Henry's reign. Strong candidates noted that the significant increase in income allowed the king to become increasingly independent of parliament in the later years of his reign. Those who considered other factors which influenced royal power often referred to foreign policy and dynastic marriages, including treaties concluded with France, Spain and Scotland. However, few had sufficient supporting evidence to make these points stand up.

Put a cross in the box indicating the SECOND question you have chosen to answer . Your second question choice must be on a different topic to your first question choice. If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then put a cross in another box .

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(This page is for your second answer)

How far did Henry's ^{VII} financial policies strengthen the power of the monarchy?

Plan: To begin with bad: Exchequer
↓ later reverted to Chambers system - more efficient closer working
collected money = more power

Bonds = money - ^{control nobles} stewardship?
Taxes

Money from French Pension

Domestic policies to carrot + stick
order of the Garter
Councils
Parliaments

(This page is for your second answer.)

To a certain extent, Henry's financial policies did strengthen the power of the monarchy. To begin with his methods were not that strong; he used the slow and inefficient method of the Exchequer to manage his finances. However, he later switched to the Chambers system which was far quicker and more productive, and it meant he had a more personal management of his money. He also used bonds as a way of gaining money from his nobles and to keep them under control. A third way in which he strengthened the power of the monarchy through financial success was by ~~the~~ the money and peace he gained through the treaty of Etaples.

At the beginning of his reign, Henry opted for using the exchequer to manage his finances. This meant that collecting money ~~took~~ could take years, by which time the nobles did not take the fees seriously because Henry had such an inefficient method of collecting them. This weakened the power of the crown to an extent because the nobility believed they could get away with not paying debts to the crown. A few years into his reign however, Henry switched ~~to~~ to the use of the Chamber system. This was a far more effective method, and it meant that

(This page is for your second answer.) money was collected much faster so nobles took their debts (and therefore the crown), far more seriously. This increased the power of the crown because it meant that nobles were far more conscious of having to repay the king, so in this case Henry's financial policy did increase the power of the crown.

Another way in which Henry's financial policy solidified the power of the crown was through the use of bonds and patronage. Henry placed nobles under bonds, so they had to pay money if they were tied to misbehave. This increased the power of the crown because not only did it benefit financially, but nobles were more wary of the authority of the crown and were more likely to remain loyal. Patronage was also a way that Henry used finances to keep power, because he rewarded those who were loyal to him, such as Lord Stanley after the Battle of Barnet. Overall, the financial policies of the crown were very successful in strengthening the power of the monarchy because the nobles were eager not to have to pay large sums of money, and were therefore more likely to support the king, rather than rebel.

However, it was not just Henry's financial policies that strengthened his rule, his other domestic policies had a lot to do with it too. Henry operated a 'carrot and stick' policy, whereby he rewarded the good

(This page is for your second answer.) and punished the bad. He rewarded loyal nobles with esteemed positions, such as knights of the order of the Garter, or positions on the king's, or great council. Nobles were eager to be rewarded in this way because it meant that they gained more power and land, but they also remained loyal to the king. Henry punished the disloyal by using things such as acts of attainder and bonds. These were meant to punish, and although Henry did benefit financially from bonds, it was essentially the threat of being held accountable for another's actions, and losing that land and power one had as a result of misbehavior that really kept the nobility in line and therefore strengthened the power of the crown, rather than financial policy.

Finally, ^{foreign} relations with France also strengthened the power of the crown. This is because of the Treaty of Etaples, wherein Henry gained a great sum of money in the form of a pension, which amounted to 5% of his income each year. He also benefitted from trade agreements ~~and there~~ from this treaty, as well as an agreement of peace and prosperity between the two countries. Once again, even though Henry stood to gain financially from the English-French

(This page is for your second answer.)

agreement, it was essentially a good foreign policy that established his power internationally, and brought peace which meant lesser funding nobles to aggravate the crown.

In conclusion, although Henry did have very good financial policies that helped to him to ~~keep~~ increase his power, it was actually his effective other domestic and foreign policies that really solidified his power and rule. Without a firm grasp of his nobility, he would have constantly been under ~~the~~ ~~the~~ threat, and therefore would have held far less power than he did because the nobles would have gained power.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

The answer considers a number of ways in which the state of royal finances influenced the power of the monarchy. The change from the Exchequer to the Chamber is noted, though its significance could have been developed with reference to the role of important officials. The use of bonds in the king's dealings with the nobility is known but could have been strengthened with some examples; and references to patronage are not very clear. Noble policy as a whole is addressed, with some links established to financial policies as a whole; and the French pension is noted as a long-term benefit for the king. The answer overall is focused on the question and considers several key issues. Supporting material is accurate, though uneven in quality in parts of the answer. There has been some attempt to address the question of 'how far', though this might have been stronger if the answer had investigated some contrary evidence. For example, the financial burdens placed on the nobility almost triggered a revolt at the end of Henry's reign, while other taxes underlay the Northern and Cornish risings, which represented a real threat to royal power. The analysis and supporting information point to a secure Level 4 award.

In conclusion, as one of the examiners commented in their final report, "Able candidates wrote articulately and coherently and demonstrated a logical mind as well as good linguistic skills. Weaker answers were characterised by poor sentence construction, spelling and poor writing skills, which was a limiting factor in some answers where candidates clearly knew their history but struggled or failed to produce a coherent readable response."

Grade Boundaries

Grade	Max. Mark	A	B	C	D	E
Raw boundary mark	60	44	39	34	29	24
Uniform boundary mark	100	80	70	60	50	40

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