

Examiners' Report
January 2013

GCE History 6HI01 A

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Introduction

Examiners once again reported that the majority of candidates understood the essential requirements of the Unit 1 examination.

Many were able to structure their work effectively, provide a range of relevant and accurate material to support the points they were making, and maintain a sustained focus on the question set. At the highest levels of attainment were those who displayed the ability to analyse a range of factors in detail and present a convincing answer overall.

However, examiners also noted that there was a significant number of responses that were limited by specific areas of weakness. Although more candidates are attempting analysis (Level 3) and, indeed, producing analytical responses with some good understanding (Level 4), many are limited to the lower bands due to a lack of accurate and relevant exemplification. In this session, in particular, examiners commented on a lack of secure supporting knowledge and chronological awareness. It is important that arguments be supported with sufficient secure and accurate evidence to make the points stand up. In addition, higher level responses explain how these points relate to the question, whether supporting or challenging the premise of the question.

Also once again, many candidates failed to read the questions carefully, leading to responses which did not focus directly, or even well, on the key issues. In general, this led to marks being awarded at low band Level 4 or Level 3. For example, in Option E/F many candidates confused the Weimar Constitution with the Weimar Republic itself, leading to a limited discussion of the problems caused by constitutional issues. In other cases, the complete misreading of questions led to Level 1/Level 2 marks and, in a few unfortunate cases, there was no rewardable material despite a developed response having been written.

Quality of written communication is integral to the awarding of marks within the Level descriptors. Although areas of weakness have been highlighted in previous reports, it has been felt that the general quality of organisation, expression and spelling, punctuation and grammar, has been good. Therefore, it is a little concerning to note that many examiners observed that in this session they had seen a slight decline in the quality of written expression, punctuation, particularly the use of capital letters, and spelling.

Some candidates were also clearly disadvantaged by a lack of choice of questions within their topic area studied. It is vital that centres cover all of the content specified in the bullet points in the specification, if candidates are to have a choice. Questions may be asked on specific bullet points, or across the bullet points, and so failure to cover the specified content adequately may lead to a lack of choice and/or imbalanced answers. Examples of topics where content clearly was not always covered include A2, B5, D4, D5, E/F2 and F7. In particular, centres should note that topic D5 refers to Equality in the USA, 1945-68 and is not focused wholly on the civil rights of African Americans. Topics which have clearly benefited from increased coverage in past sessions include D3, E/F2, E/F3 & E/F6.

Despite the weaknesses noted above it is important to note that, in general, candidates produced well-organised and knowledgeable answers and that the best responses engaged the examiner to create a very pleasant reading experience.

Question 1

Several candidates did not produce a balanced response which addressed Anglo-Saxon disunity and the strengths of the Viking invaders. Many were aware of disunity between, and within, the kingdoms, but often could not support their arguments with detailed information. Most were aware of the long-standing conflict in Northumbria over the throne, but few referred to the difficulties faced by Burgred of Mercia and Edmund in East Anglia, or to the assistance which Wessex had provided for Mercia on occasions. On the other hand, most were able to attribute Viking successes to their own military skills, and provided some detailed commentary on matters of leadership, sea power and strength in battle. Some gave perhaps too much credit to the role of the berserkers, whose influence in battle was often quite marginal.

Question 2

Very few candidates for topic A1 chose to answer Question 2, but the quality of their answers covered a very wide mark range up to high level 5. Weaker answers found it very difficult to isolate reasons why Alfred was able to survive during the stated period. They tended to be descriptive accounts of Alfred's life and reforms, which went well beyond 878. However, there were others which displayed a very secure grasp of the course of events and shaped a focused analysis on the question before reaching a judgement. These answers noted the outcome of several of the battles of 871, Alfred's accession after the death of Aethelred, and the extent to which his accession was questioned by the West Saxon nobility. The significance of Guthrum's attack of 876 was known, and many understood the importance of the attempted coup against Alfred at Chippenham in 877. Strong candidates were able to assess the significance of events thereafter, including Alfred's creation of a loyal army and his triumph at Edington.

Question 3

Almost all answers attempted to consider both the government and the wealth of pre-conquest England, and often deployed a wide range of knowledge to support the argument. The issue of wealth was usually seen as positive, using the evidence of trade, mints and coinage. A few attempted some counter-argument, suggesting that wealth was concentrated in the hands of a small elite, and that prosperity did not extend to the majority. The government of the country was approached in a fairly balanced way, contrasting peace and stability in Edward's early years with the later rebellions of the Godwins, and Edward's inability to ensure a smooth succession in 1066. Most answers dealt only with the reign of Edward the Confessor, but some went back to Cnut, Ethelred and even Alfred. A number of answers lacked balance, whether because they focused only on the strengths of pre-conquest England or because they lacked an analytical focus. David Carpenter's notion of the three pillars of society was quoted extensively in many essays, more relevantly in some than others.

Pre-conquest England can be viewed as a well-governed and wealthy society, firstly through ^{hand} Carpenter's description of the kingdom as a 'state of great potential power'. Indeed he saw this state to be governed by three 'pillars': ~~a~~ a 'sense of Englishness', a 'high status kingship supported by strong administrative structures' and finally the church, gentry and nobility integrated into the government. Furthermore, the pre-conquest England can also be seen as wealthy through the intensely farmed land, ~~the~~ its thriving urban sector and its commercial revolution. However, ~~despite~~ despite this 'state of a great potential power' being evident, ~~the~~ Carpenter stressed that 'a weakness in a king would undermine the structures'. Indeed this is arguably seen in 1051 to 1052 in which Edward the Confessor was unable to stop the return of Godwin and by 1065 Harold Godwinsson had been named 'subregulus' whilst the late Edward viewed Edward as 'impotent'. Moreover, when analysing the wealth of pre-conquest

(This page is for your first answer.) England one must be astutely aware of the disparities ~~in~~^{of} wealth within ~~the~~ the society and note that 90% of the population were unaffected by this 'commercial revolution'.

~~Pre-conquest~~ It can be argued and, indeed D. Carpenter does, that pre-conquest England was a well-governed kingdom. Carpenter grounds this well-governed kingdom in three pillars.

Firstly 'the sense of Englishness' is argued to have bound the people of England together. The catalyst of this had been the need to ~~control~~ contain and defeat the Vikings. This sense of Englishness is reflected in the single coinage and common oaths of allegiance. ~~Moreover~~ Its successful effects are clear in the avoidance of civil war in 1051, 1052 and 1065. This is because, as an Anglo-Saxon chronicler had noted, 'it was hateful of almost all of them to fight against one another'.

The second pillar of 'a high status kingship, supported by strong administrative structures', gave a pre-conquest England king's further control and power in which to govern England.

The 'high status kingship' is clearly evident in both Edgar's 973 ~~etc~~ and Edward the Confessor's 1043 Easter Day Christocentric coronation. Indeed the hand of Providence also supports this high status kingship in spiritual terms. This kingship was also supported by ~~strong~~ ~~strong~~ the imposition of law and order.

(This page is for your first answer.) The king ~~and~~ created tithings and within these tithings, ten free men were to police in order to prevent stolen property, (law codes) of Athelstan gave this further weight. ~~But~~ However, fundamental to the governance over pre-conquest England was the administration over the 32 counties and 111 boroughs. The king had an effective chancery and officials were used to ~~the~~ effect his command.

Finally the last pillar of the 'church, gentry and nobility integrated into the king's governance' saw a 'unified realm' and so again improved the king's governance over pre-conquest England. ~~The~~ Pre-conquest kings ~~not~~ were not only in power of appointing bishops and abbots, but also addressed the four to five thousand tithings as 'my tithings'. Indeed the absence of castles ~~enabled~~ stopped the creation of over-mighty subjects that could potentially damage the king's governance.

As such, it is unarguably clear to see this 'state of great potential power' which gave pre-conquest kings the ability to ~~exploit~~ exploit ^{their advantage} ~~which they saw fit~~. Indeed Mortimer argued that Edward the Conqueror ~~to~~ himself exploited this 'potential power'.

This strong governance over pre-conquest England was also, arguably ~~met~~ ^{met} a ~~the~~ prosperous and wealthy society ~~and~~ driven by a rising population. This rising population is seen, in for instance in Norwich's expansion

(This page is for your first answer.) from 50 acres in 900 to 200 acres by 1066. Moreover the Domesday Book records that England had a population of 2 million. As such the need to feed the this ever-growing population saw what Barnett termed a 'drive to the margins'. However, this rising population not only saw a need to feed the population but also saw 'thens-on-the-make' attempting to profit from it. This, as such, drove urbanisation, with towns making up 5-7.5% of the population. It also saw a commercial revolution with the money in circulation increasing from £250,000 in 973-1040 to £375,000 by 1086. Indeed the gold was capable of raising £250,000 from 994-1040. These are all clear signs of a thriving economy which was only exacerbated by international trade. ~~From~~ England began trading with Flanders, Portugal and the Rhineland, exporting cornish tin, Stamford pottery and wine in return for Flemish cloth and ^{and} ~~ruines~~ ^{Seech}. This prosperous and wealthy society also saw the formation of unspicuous pretty ~~with~~ ^{Seech} the building of Westminster abbey. ~~Therefore~~ therefore, it can be ~~as~~ argued, supported by much evidence, that pre-Conquest England was a well-governed and wealthy society. However, when analysing this question, it must be recognised that, as Carpenter has argued, 'weakness in a king can undermine the structure'. ~~and~~ This became fundamentally clear in 1052. Godwin arrived at Southwark and demanded his estates back.

(This page is for your first answer.) Edward ~~Chickens~~ was unable to raise an army and so humiliatingly had to allow the return of Godwin to Wessex, Harold to East Angles and Edith back to court. Edward's weakness was made only more clear after the death of Godwin in 1053. This saw his final opportunity to regain ~~to~~ his power and authority but failed to do so. ~~For~~ Indeed Barber notes that after the death of Godwin, the balance of power tipped ~~to~~ ⁱⁿ to Godwin's. ~~1065 is crucial in revealing~~ Edward's failure to put down the rebellion against Tostig in 1065 is crucial in revealing this. Harold Godwinson stepped in and resolved the issue, exiling his own brother. However this son-in-law became named as 'subregulus' whilst the late Edward saw Edward as 'impotent'. This ~~failure~~ Edward's fundamental weakness ~~provid~~ provided problems over the succession question which inevitably led to the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

It is not only the governance of pre-conquest England that ~~is~~ can be questioned, but also the wealth and prosperity.

Although it is ~~profoundly~~ clear to see the thriving urban sector and commercial revolution, ~~it~~ it cannot be denied that this was only to be of a benefit by the ~~few~~ a few. The few 'hogs-on-the-make' ~~as~~ was driven by the hard labour of the many. The society remained

Question 4

The best answers recognised that the question required a focus on both change and continuity. There was a clear awareness of the elements of Anglo-Saxon government and society that were maintained under the Normans, as well as an understanding of what changed after 1066. Elements such as the replacement of English landowners and the construction of castles were frequently deployed, but references to the feudal system were rare. Many also addressed changes in the church, with varying degrees of relevance to the question. Some answers spent too long dwelling on the nature of the Anglo-Saxon government, rather than focusing on whether the Normans did, in fact, change the power of the English monarchy. Several answers failed to sustain the focus on the power of the English monarchy, but instead considered ways in which the Normans changed society as a whole, which was not the point of the question.

Question 5

Examiners reported that many candidates did not appear prepared to answer this question. As a result, several answers investigated the restoration of royal power in England after Stephen's reign, with varying degrees of competence, and concluded with only a few sentences on Normandy. Better answers addressed Henry's control over England, Scotland and Ireland, and had some understanding of the king's rights in Normandy. Only a very few contrasted strong Royal control exercised over Anjou and Maine with the limited power used in Aquitaine.

Question 6

Strong answers came from candidates who gave reasonably equal treatment to both Richard and John, and avoided reference to their control over England. These answers noted the growing power of Philip Augustus of France and his successful acquisition of Norman territory, which Richard was never able to recover fully. John's misgovernment of Normandy contributed to Philip's successful seizure of the whole territory. Less secure answers were unable to address both Kings equally, which led to an imbalance in their answers. Very few discussed the significance of the death of Eleanor of Aquitaine, and the financial weaknesses of the Crown were usually described rather than assessed.

Question 7

Several candidates saw the question as requiring an explanation of why the Black Death spread, and thus made few, if any, relevant points. Others had very limited material at their disposal, mostly linked to the plague's impact on population size and food supplies. Only a few answers developed a clear analysis which addressed both the stated factor and other explanations for a declining population. Some high level responses placed 1348-50 into a double context. These candidates noted the weakening of the population as a result of the 1315 famine and England's involvement in war, and then considered the later plagues of 1360s and 1370s, which disrupted the reproductive cycle quite significantly.

Question 8

There was a small number of answers to Question 8. Many were able to discuss the Statute of Labourers, the Ordinance of Labourers, and the growing discontent among the peasantry in the aftermath of the Black Death. One or two answers referred to the peasants' demands made in the months before the Peasants' Revolt, which suggested the growth of significant strains within existing structures of society.

Question 9

There was a small number of answers to Question 9. Most were able to describe the military leadership provided by Henry V in the years 1415-20, although his diplomatic skills, shown by his handling of the Emperor Sigismund and John the Fearless of Burgundy, and again in the peace negotiations with France, were much less well-known. The growing significance of the Duke of Bedford was mentioned by only a few. There was some mention of French weaknesses as alternatives to the stated factor, but these were sometimes little more than references to the poor leadership displayed at Agincourt. Only a few mentioned the personal weaknesses of Charles VI.

Question 10

There were no answers to Question 10 reported in this session.

Question 11

Most answers recognised the need to address the stated factor and a number of alternatives. At the higher levels of attainment were those answers which had a good range of factors, supported by detailed and accurate information. Plenty of material was offered on Henry VI, Margaret of Anjou and Richard of York. Henry's mental incapacity was noted, along with the fact that the ambitions of both Margaret and Richard made some sort of clash between Lancaster and York almost inevitable.

Some candidates broadened their consideration of Henry's difficulties by noting his excessive expenditure and his poor decision-making, which resulted in widespread resentment of his favourite courtiers. The loss of French lands, and the growing divisions between the nobles were also addressed. Less secure answers often strayed outside the stated timescale.

Whilst a comparison between Henry VI and his father is a fair one to make, some answers were diverted into an extended narrative of Henry V's achievements in France. A few sought to address the weaknesses of Henry VI's claim to the throne, even going back to Bolingbroke's usurpation of 1399. Some decided to draw on evidence after 1455 to illustrate the rivalry that existed, rather than directly addressing the question.

There were a few very weak answers to question 11, but equally only a small number accessed level 5. Most provided some analytical shape to their answers, but the range and depth of supporting material was very variable. It is worth noting that many answers quoted directly from historians, although these quotes were often inserted to little effect, as they lacked obvious relevance.

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
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Question 13	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Question 14	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

(This page is for your first answer.) To what extent were Henry VI's weaknesses as king responsible for the outbreak of civil conflict in 1455?

The outbreak of civil conflict in 1455 is down to three main reasons, Henry VI's weaknesses, Richard Duke of York's ambitions and Margaret of Anjou's control over Henry and Lancastrians. However, Richard Duke of York's ambitions and Margaret of Anjou's control both stem from Henry VI's weaknesses.

Henry VI was a very pious and individual, he lacked military and political skills and was heavily under pressure to fulfil the legacy left by his father, Edward IV. He relied strongly on his nobility, particularly his favourites, people such as Edmund Beaufort, Earl of Somerset who

(This page is for your first answer.) persuaded Henry greatly and became an over mighty subject. This caused the outbreak of civil conflict as other Nobles became jealous and angered by Somerset's power, causing friction within the Nobility. On top of this, due to Henry's severe lack of military and political skills, much of the land won in France by his father was lost. This ~~and~~ led to extreme debt within England, angering commoners due to the raise of taxes and irritating the Nobility due to the poor kingship of the king and the drop ~~of~~ power England had now received. The loss of French land led to conflict as the Nobility felt powerless and in need of a stronger king.

The only part of France the English controlled by 1455 was the port of Calais which was under the power of Richard, Duke of York. Richard Duke of York was Henry's ~~closest~~ ~~most~~ ~~relative~~ heir presumptive until the birth of Henry's son Edward and the ^{second most} ~~most~~ powerful man in England after the king himself. He was a strong and brave man with

(This page is for your first answer.) good military ~~and~~ and leadership skills. When Henry suffered a mental collapse from Catatonic Schizophrenia in 1454 Richard, was made protector. ~~He~~ Once made protector he immediately imprisoned Edmund Beaufort ~~the~~ as they had disputed on many ~~a~~ occasions over Calais and Richard felt he was becoming too powerful so therefore seeing him as a threat. This lead to the outbreak of Conflict as Margaret of Anjou and other Lancastrians were angered by the imprisonment of Somerset and wanted revenge. As time went on, Richard became more and more powerful ~~and~~ ^{gaining more support,} and his ambitions became greater. ~~and~~ ^{greater.} It is ~~clear~~ clear that at the beginning of 1454 Richard wants nothing more than to protect and look after the country. However, he then becomes power-thirsty to the extent where he places his hand on Henry VI's throne at a meeting of Parliament ~~at~~ at the end of 1454, ~~stating~~ indicating that he wishes to be king.

(This page is for your first answer.) from 50 acres in 900 to 200 acres by 1066. Moreover the Domesday Book records that England had a population of 2 million. As such the need to feed the this ever-growing population saw what Barnett termed a 'drive to the margins'. However, this rising population not only saw a need to feed the population but also saw 'thengs-on-the-make' attempting to profit from it. This, as such, drove urbanisation, with towns making up 5-7.5% of the population. It also saw a commercial revolution with the money in circulation increasing from £250,000 in 973-1040 to £375,000 by 1086. Indeed the gold was capable of raising £250,000 from 994-1040. These are all clear signs of a thriving economy which was only exacerbated by international trade. ~~England~~ England began trading with Flanders, Portugal and the Rhineland, exporting cornish tin, Stamford pottery to wine and fur Flemish cloth ^{and} ~~ruines~~. This prosperous and wealthy society also saw the formation of unspicuous petty ^{See note} ~~with~~ the building of Westminster abbey. ~~Therefore~~ therefore, it can be ~~pr~~ argued, & supported by much evidence, that pre-conquest England was a well-governed and wealthy society. However, when analysing this question, it must be recognised that, as ~~Barrett~~ has argued, 'weakness in a king can undermine the structure'. ~~and~~ This became fundamentally clear in 1052. Godwin armed at southward, and demanded his estates back,

(This page is for your first answer.) threat as they continued to disagree with one another over land and possessions. This led to conflict as the Percies were Lancastrians and the Nevilles were Yorkists; meaning York and his supporters would side with the Nevilles and the king, Margaret and their supporters would side with the Percies.

In conclusion, the outbreak of civil conflict in 1455 was down to over-mighty subjects eg ~~the Duke~~ Richard Duke of York and his rival with Somerset. The Queen and her determination to see her son king. And the division of factions in the North. However, if Henry VI had been a stronger and more respectable king he would not have created an over-mighty subject in Somerset, Richard would not have sought to be king himself, and Margaret wouldn't have angered so many nobility and the Percies and Nevilles would have been easily dealt with. Overall, it is Henry VI's weaknesses as king that led to the outbreak of

(This page is for your first answer.) *Civil war complice in 1455.*



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The answer links together three factors:

- Henry's weaknesses
- York's ambitions
- the role of Margaret of Anjou.

These points are developed effectively within the answer, which also deals with Henry's favourites and the wider conflicts among the nobility.

The answer relates well to the question, and the analytical framework is supported by accurate and relevant material.

There is a slight lack of balance because key factors such as the financial weakness of the Crown and the loss of French lands are not securely investigated.

A high level 4 answer, 23 marks.

Question 12

A number of strong answers recognised that the stability of royal government could be measured both in terms of stability at the time and strength in the longer term. They addressed the weaknesses of Edward's first reign and Henry's brief readoption, and contrasted these with the relative strength of Edward's second reign, domestically and internationally. However, they also recognised that Yorkist rule survived Edward's death by only two years, demonstrating that there was a longer-term instability caused by Richard's usurpation and his subsequent defeat at Bosworth.

Good answers addressed a range of factors to assess stability, considering the role of over-mighty subjects - notably Warwick - financial stability, and relationships with other countries, especially France. Many noted that Edward strengthened his position, and royal power overall, by using trusted nobles to administer various regions of the country. However, some pointed out that Richard's role in the North provided short term stability but by giving his brother so much power, Edward had laid the seeds of future upheaval.

Less secure answers displayed very uneven development. The first reign was evidenced essentially through the Woodville marriage and Warwick's opposition, and candidates seemed much happier dealing with a wider range of relevant material on the second reign.

Question 13

The quality of answers varied considerably. There seemed to be some issue with the phrase 'personally responsible'. For example, some candidates argued as follows: that Henry changed to the system of chamber finance, but since Edward IV had first introduced it then Henry was not personally responsible. Clearly the nursery rhyme, '*the king was in his counting house, counting out his money*' was unknown to these candidates. Equally, the awarding of the French pension at Etaples was the personal responsibility of the French king, not Henry VII, according to a large number of candidates.

Other candidates weakened a perfectly good response by launching into a counter argument of what Henry was not responsible for, which proved illuminating bearing in mind that efficiency and a rapacious nature were synonymous with Henry's style of government when it came to finance.

There was a surprising lack of knowledge regarding Henry's 'New Men'. Some mentioned these hated figures, but went on to show that they did not understand the relationship between Empson and Dudley on the one hand, and the king on the other, by writing that they, not the king, were personally responsible for the improvement in royal finances.

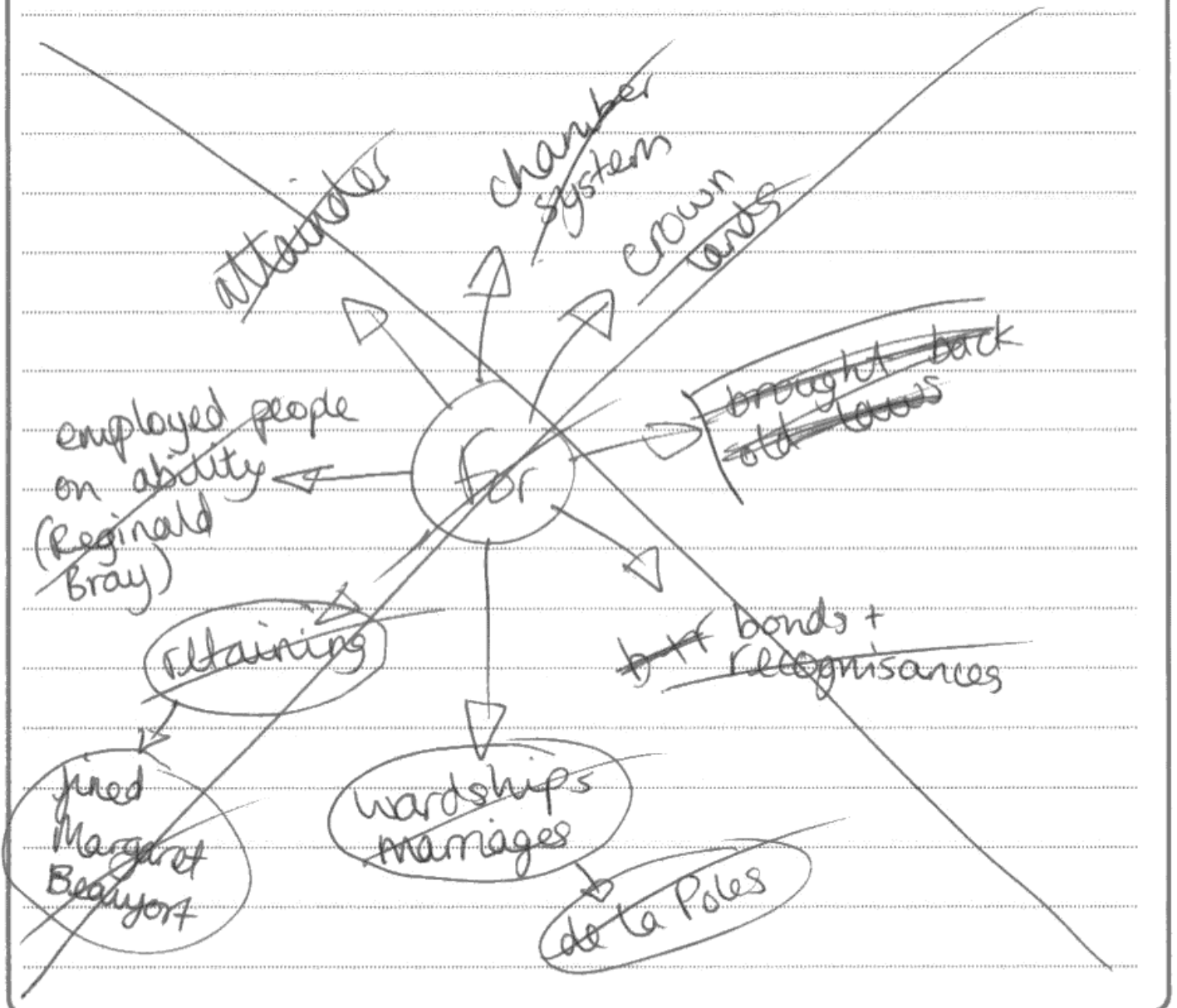
There was also a lack of understanding that Tudor kings 'lived of their own' – a pity really, as this was the nub of the question. However, stronger answers displayed both range and depth of support in an analytical response. These candidates noted Henry's weak financial position in 1485 and how he went on to exploit traditional sources of revenue such as Crown lands and feudal dues, whilst at the same time squeezing the nobility through a sustained campaign of bonds, recognisances and attainders. Only a very few noted that peace at home and the avoidance of conflicts overseas inevitably contributed to the improved royal finances under Henry VII.

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 If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒
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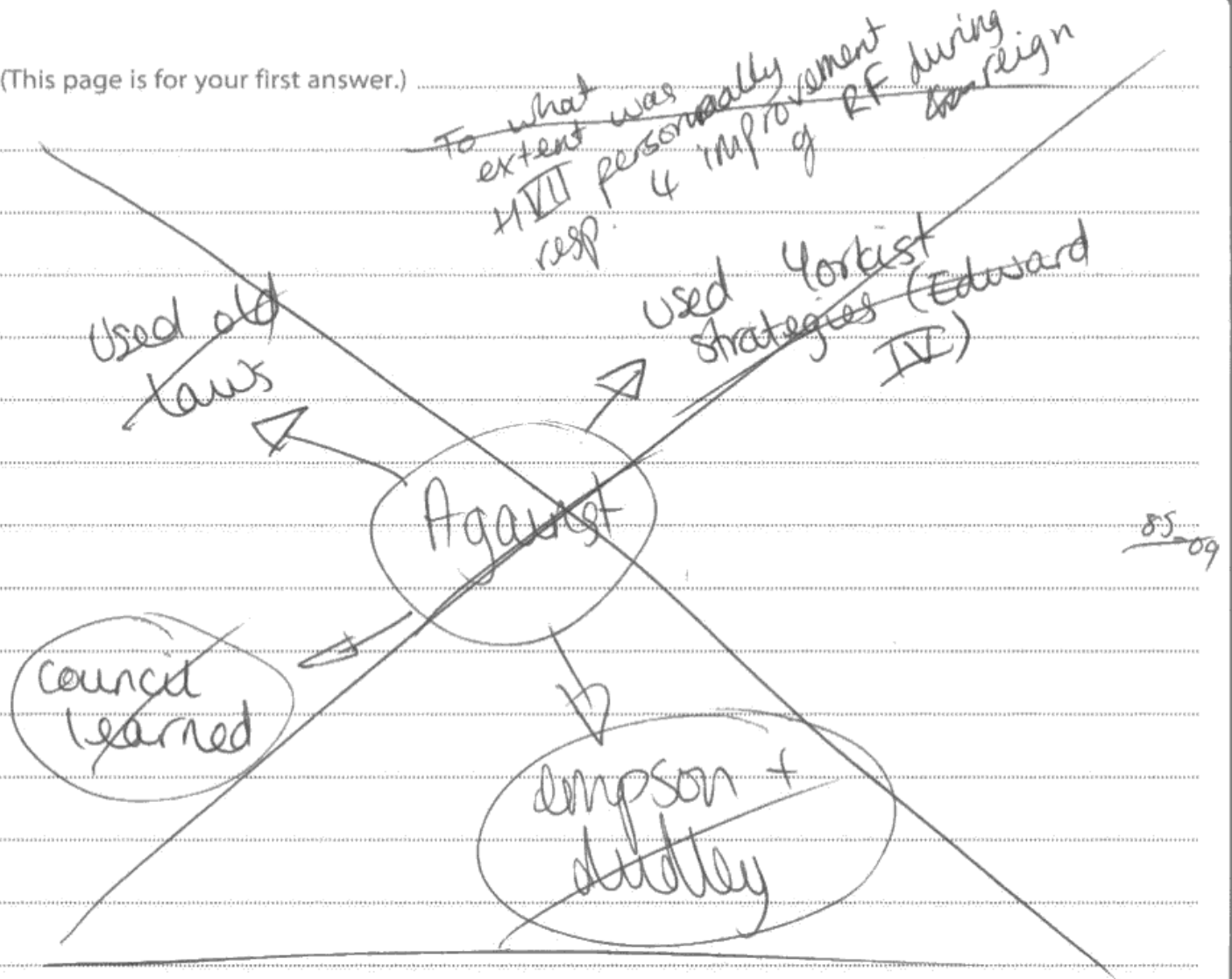
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Henry VII managed his finance well during his 24 years on the throne between 1485 and 1509. Previous kings, such as Henry VI, had dragged England into huge debts which was partly solved during the reign of Edward IV. Henry VII used old laws as well as Edward's techniques when it came to income, and greatly increased his income during his reign.

One of the techniques Henry used was retaining.

(This page is for your first answer.) This not only improved his finances, but increased his stability on the throne: retaining meant that nobles weren't allowed to raise private armies. This eliminates the threat of ~~an~~ over-mighty subjects, and also allows Henry to heavily fine nobles with too many servants. Henry followed this law to extremities, even fining ~~his own~~ Margaret Beaufort, his own mother. Retaining wasn't used by many kings, who didn't want to anger the Nobility, but Henry saw retaining as a win-win situation: his nobles weren't too powerful, and his annual income increased. He used wardships in a similar way, inheriting nobles' land and restricting the power their heirs received. An example of this was at the death of John de la Pole when his son, Edmund, was forced to pay £5000 only to receive part of his inheritance. Henry was quite harsh with money, but it certainly improved royal finances.

Henry also used things like attainder, crown lands, and bonds and recognisances to squeeze every penny he could from the resources available (mainly, the Nobility). His use of the chamber system as opposed to the exchequer also showed his eagerness to increase his annual

(This page is for your first answer.) income. The chamber was a room off of the king's quarters where all the money was kept and recorded by one man. This system proved far more efficient than the exchequer, which involved lots of people doing lots of paperwork: a longer process with more mistakes. Henry appointed Reginald Bray to be in charge of the system - this was completely unique, as Bray was not a member of the Nobility, but an intelligent lawyer. Henry often employed non-nobles, showing that he cared about ability, not titles. His care for people's ability also shows his care for finance to be dealt with properly, and his techniques show that Henry was responsible for improving royal finances.

Henry also created the Council Learned in the Law in the 1490s. Though this improved royal finances, Henry was not personally responsible for its success: it was run by 2 lawyers, ^{Richard} Empson and ^{Edmund} Dudley. They were in charge of collecting money owed to the king, ~~to which they did~~ and collected a lot of money for Henry during his reign. Many of their ~~claims~~ ^{charges} eventually turned out to be false - though the money gained through this was not needed, it still

(This page is for your first answer.) helped Henry improve royal finances - but they did the work for him, so with the Council Learned, Henry was not personally responsible.

Henry mainly used laws created by Edward IV as well as older laws that had simply been forgotten. He did not personally create them, so he cannot take full responsibility for improving royal finances during his reign.

In conclusion, Henry VII was not personally responsible for improving royal finances during his reign. He did improve finance, but he only did it by being strict with laws invented by somebody else, such as the chamber system, or by employing others to do work for him, such as Bray and Empson and Dudley. Many people believe that Henry VII was successful in improving his income, which he was - but only by using other people's strategies.



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There is a degree of direction and control to the answer, but it does not address convincingly the extent to which Henry VII was personally responsible for the improvement of Royal finances. This is hinted at in places, and this point, as well as the level of supporting detail, makes for a mark of 19, low level 4.

Question 14

The best answers combined a good range of material with a clear analytical focus, and were able to show both the nature and the extent of the threat provided by Scotland and Burgundy. These answers recognised that Scotland and, particularly, Burgundy provided a serious threat at the time, and also that Henry was able to counter those threats militarily and diplomatically, and the long-term measure of his success was the unchallenged succession of his son.

Answers provided a good range of detailed information, notably on James's treatment of Warbeck, and Margaret's support for pretenders. Weaker answers focused exclusively on pretenders rather than on the threat from Scotland and Burgundy as a whole, and many omitted the threat from Suffolk later in the reign. A number of significant factual inaccuracies on the pretenders weakened answers overall. A few included references to both France and Spain, which were not made relevant to the question.

Overall, judgements tended to be generalised, although some either recognised the changing level of threat throughout the reign or else sought to prioritise one country over another. Many felt that Margaret's bitter hatred towards Henry motivated her support for both Simnel and Warbeck, which made Burgundy the greater threat. Others asserted that Scotland's border with England caused significant problems for Henry, but were often unable to support this claim. Few noted that the Treaty of Perpetual Peace of 1502 and the dynastic marriage between James and Margaret Tudor removed all Scottish threats to Henry for the rest of his reign. Those candidates who placed a timeline into the equation when referring to the serious nature of the threats, found it easier to reach a judgement. Candidates who had difficulty finding information on the 'threat' side of the answer tended to rush to the peace negotiations as proof that there was no real threat posed by Scotland or Burgundy during Henry's reign.

Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice.

- Candidates must focus more clearly on the question set, noting its specific wording and the timescale to be covered
- Chronological awareness is sometimes lacking. Candidates should know key dates, and should be able to explain and expand on points made, with accurate reference to the order in which events happened
- The range and depth of supporting material is often the key to success. This support should be relevant, focused, accurate, and in sufficient depth to allow the points made to stand up
- Sometimes, candidates find it difficult to answer questions using sufficient supporting material and/or have a limited choice of questions, if centres do not cover all of the content indicated in the bullet points in the Specification
- Centres should ensure that candidates are familiar with historical concepts and vocabulary relevant to the course of study. In January, many candidates confused the Weimar Republic with the Weimar Constitution, economic and political policies, social and political policies. Several candidates could not frame a secure definition of a totalitarian state.

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