

**AS LEVEL**

**Examiners' report**

# **HISTORY A**

**H105**

For first teaching in 2015

**Y136/01 Summer 2022 series**

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## Introduction

Our examiners' reports are produced to offer constructive feedback on candidates' performance in the examinations. They provide useful guidance for future candidates.

The reports will include a general commentary on candidates' performance, identify technical aspects examined in the questions and highlight good performance and where performance could be improved. A selection of candidate answers is also provided. The reports will also explain aspects which caused difficulty and why the difficulties arose, whether through a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique, or any other identifiable and explainable reason.

Where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report.

A full copy of the question paper and the mark scheme can be downloaded from OCR.

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To support student revision, advance information was published about the focus of exams for Summer 2022 assessments. Advance information was available for most GCSE, AS and A Level subjects, Core Maths, FSMQ, and Cambridge Nationals Information Technologies. You can find more information on our [website](#).

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## Paper Y136/01 series overview

Y136 is one of a number of British Period Study and Enquiry units. Each unit has two elements: a period study and an enquiry. The enquiry element either precedes or continues the period study so as to provide increased coherence and coverage of the chosen period of British History. The Period study element of the component group is assessed by essays, with two set from different key topics and candidates are required to answer one. In the Enquiry element candidates are required to critically use three sources. The first question requires candidates to consider the utility of one source in relation to an issue and the second question requires candidates to use all three sources in their historical context to assess the validity of a view. In both questions, candidates are required to explain the source or sources in relation to the question and apply both contextual knowledge and consider the provenance of the sources in order to reach a judgement based on the sources on the issue in the question.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally did the following:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally did the following:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• used both contextual knowledge and provenance to evaluate the sources used in Questions 1 and 2</li> <li>• came to an overall judgement on the strength of the sources in relation to the question in Question 2</li> <li>• compared or weighed up the importance of factors in the essay questions</li> <li>• made a supported judgement in line with the arguments made in the essay questions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• did not use contextual knowledge and/or provenance in Questions 1 and 2</li> <li>• described the sources in Questions 1 and 2</li> <li>• wrote descriptive essay questions which were topic based rather than focused on the issue in the question</li> <li>• did not grasp the requirements of the essay questions on the paper.</li> </ul>

## Section A overview

The question requires candidates to consider the utility of a source in relation to a specific issue.

### Question 1

1 How useful is Source C as evidence for the ability of Mary Tudor as a ruler?

[10]

Many candidates were able to explain the source in relation to Mary's ability as a ruler, considering issues such as her courage, grandeur and dignity in order to argue that she was able. However, some also noted that her ability might be questioned and made reference to issues of her gender and her use of ministers. In considering the latter some explained that it was a weakness as there were divisions. Contextual knowledge was used to support both sides of the argument with many referencing her courage during Wyatt's rebellion and her refusal to leave London despite advice and her ability to rally Londoners. In discussing weaknesses, responses considered the issue of faction within the Council, particularly the division between Paget and Gardiner and also mentioned her reliance on the advice of Renard. Discussion of provenance was done much less well as Exemplar 1 shows, with comments often not progressing beyond the stock that he was an ambassador and therefore it was his job to report accurately or that he was a foreigner and would therefore not understand the intricacies of court life. Stronger responses did note that it was written towards the end of Mary's reign. Candidates sometimes did not reach a judgement as to the overall utility of the source in light of their evaluation.

#### Misconception



Question 1 will not always require Candidates to use Source A; candidates must read the question carefully.

## Exemplar 1

1	<p>The source suggests that Mary's ability to rule is impeded, simply by her gender and also the factions within government.</p>
	<p>This theory is supported by the common fear at the time of a female monarch due to the stereotypes at the time; a woman wouldn't be able to involve herself in politics as she <del>wasn't</del> wouldn't be clever enough; a woman wouldn't be able to lead troops to battle - leaving the country to battle the country vulnerable to other countries looking to exploit this and also the idea that a woman on the throne would leave the country vulnerable due to marriage. This is because by marrying an Englishman, their family would dominate court but by marrying a foreigner their country could exploit England as a woman was expected to be submissive within a marriage. The source also suggests that faction was an</p>

issue when it came to Mary's ability to rule. This can be seen ~~is~~ through Paget and Gardiner. Mary brought Gardiner into her government as he was a strong Catholic and Mary wanted a Catholic majority within court. She also kept Paget within her government as she recognised his experience despite the fact ~~is~~ he was a reformist. These conflicting beliefs would naturally cause tensions within government due to the importance of religion at the time. This would lead Mary to not have trust in her government and therefore, this ~~is~~ suggests the source is useful in describing the limitations to Mary's ability as a ruler. Furthermore the source can be seen as useful as it's written by an Ambassador whose job it was to report the true ~~finding~~ events as they happened.

On the other hand, the source does seemingly disregard the ~~the~~ achievements Mary did make as Queen. For example, she ~~actually~~ managed to avoid being exploited through marriage by the Marriage Treaty and would therefore suggest that her ~~is~~ gender didn't prevent her being a good ruler. Also, the source can't be seen as useful as ~~that~~ although Mary didn't lead troops to battle, she was able to rally together a force to protect her from the Deise for the succession.

## Question 2

- 2 Using these three sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the view that Mary Tudor's government was weak. [20]

Most responses did consider the three sources but there were some that did not use Source C, perhaps believing that because it was discussed in Question 1 so it was not necessary to discuss it in this question.

Candidates did not struggle to access the sources and while Source B was clearly in support of the view that the government was weak, many were able to use A and B to support both sides of the argument. In discussing Source A many suggested that Mary's response to Wyatt's rebellion showed the strength of the government and pointed to the numbers she raised to counter it and went on to argue that this was similar to her reaction to events of 1553, while others suggested that the fact there was a rebellion and royal troops deserted to Wyatt showed weakness, some also arguing that it failed only because it was in winter. Provenance was not handled well with many thinking this was the same Wriothesley who was in Somerset's government; many simply suggested that as a Chronicler he would be reliable.

In discussing B candidates were stronger on the provenance and often commented that as a trusted advisor, Renard would have a clear understanding of issues and that you might expect him to be pro-Mary in writing to the Imperial ambassador because of the restoration of Catholicism and the marriage of Charles' son to Mary and therefore because it offered a negative view it was more reliable. The strongest responses commented on Renard's attitude to Mary's religious policies, using their contextual knowledge to explain his view. There was also reference to the issue of monasteries and the struggles over that and the Exiles Bill in parliament to show weakness.

In discussing Source C some did use information used in Question 1, but others considered the size of her privy council and reforms to it. Exemplar 2 provides a good example of a response where contextual knowledge was used and there was some provenance. In order to reach the top level it is vital that responses reach a judgement about the sources in relation to the question. Do the sources, in light of evaluation support or challenge the view?



Centres should focus on making sure candidates use both contextual knowledge and provenance to evaluate each source and that their judgement is about the sources and their view about the issue, in light of their validity and not simply about the issue



## Exemplar 2

2	<p>Both sources B and C agree with the statement by suggesting that Mary's style of rule and government is despised by the people and is limited by her gender. Source A, however, suggests Mary was a great ruler and therefore contradicts the statement.</p>
	<p>Source A portrays Mary to be a great ruler and it was her 'good spirit' which defeated Wyatt's rebellion and in turn suggests it was her <del>sole</del> actions alone that put down the unrest. This source is referring to the speech she made in which resulted in over 1,000 ordinary people coming together to defeat the rebellion. This would suggest that Mary's government was so good that people were willing to risk their own lives and die for their Queen. However, the source ignores the other factors which enabled Mary's troops to come out victorious - the fact that Wyatt's army progressed slowly throughout the country meant that Mary had time to rally troops. (Had the rebels moved faster, the outcome may have been different), also the fact that the rebellion occurred in the winter made it harder for Wyatt to rally troops in order to march across the country. These factors worked greatly in Mary's favour and can be argued that without these elements of luck, <del>her</del> she <del>would</del> would've failed and <del>would've</del> may have even been overthrown. The <del>provenance</del></p>

fact that the author of the source was a contemporary gives the source credence because it means it was written at the time the event occurred. This would therefore mean they know all the context surrounding it. On the other hand, it was written by a chronicler which means they were employed by the crown and this could've been used by Mary as propaganda. This is plausible given the overly positive tone throughout, attempting to make Mary appeal to the people in a time of unrest, by making her seem as though she's the one to sort things out. Therefore, whilst this source suggests her government was strong, there are many factors of luck which allowed the chronicler to portray her this way.

On the other hand, sources B and C criticise her government through her marriage, gender and factions. Source B suggests that her marriage caused unrest through fears of colonisation. This is supported by Wyatt's rebellion, as highlighted in source A, where people gathered together due to the proposed marriage to Philip of Spain. ~~The source highlight~~ The source also highlights the fear of the return of the monasteries. However, this wasn't a common fear as there were few Protestants across England at the time and it only affected the nobility who'd purchased former monastic lands. As well as this, Mary

had actually dealt with these fears caused by the marriage through the Marriage Treaty which prevented any real power for Philip in England. In terms of provenance, this shows that although there were huge fears in 1554, she does deal with these, suggesting that her government was actually strong. In terms of provenance, Simon Renard was her trusted advisor and so this source is likely to be accurate. Also, it's a letter, meaning it's only meant to be read by Charles making it reliable as there's no real intention to ~~convince~~ persuade people. Source C also appears to agree as it claims her government was divided and she had to rely on advisors. This is supported by the factional struggles she faced such as Paget and Gardiner, who had opposing religious beliefs. However, it's been suggested that their government actually ran smoothly and their beliefs didn't impact the day to day running of government. This would suggest the source exaggerates the limitations of Mary's government. The provenance may also support this theory as ambassadors have foreign interests and it's plausible that they were trying to convince the Venetian ruler to invade England.

Overall, the majority of the sources seem to disagree with the so agree and as by

		arguing her government was in fact weak
		and influenced by her marriage, gender and
		factions. However, the sources are influenced
		by foreign <del>int</del> interests when in actual
		fact, her day to day running of government
		was efficient and she managed to control the
		impacts of her marriage through the
		Marriage Treaty.

## Section B overview

In answering essay questions candidates should consider a range of issues or factors and reach a supported judgement in order to reach the highest levels.

### Question 3

**3\*** How effectively did Henry VII manage the nobility?

**[20]**

The question required candidates to focus on the issue of the nobility. Weaker responses saw it as an opportunity to consider a range of other issues or simply focus on rebellions, which were often not noble driven. Stronger responses explained the problem of the nobility, most notably as over-mighty subjects and considered how effective Henry was at managing them. This provided an opportunity to consider a range of methods, often referenced as 'carrot and stick'. Many considered methods such as the Order of the Garter, Bonds and recognisances, Acts of Attainder, the Act of Resumption and restrictions on private armies. However, the key to a more successful response was to analyse the effectiveness of these methods. There were few who realised that Attainders caused serious problems towards the end of Henry's reign, with some historians believing that the country was on the verge of civil war. In discussing unrest the early Yorkist rebellions were discussed, some arguing he was effective as they were crushed while others suggested that the very challenge suggested he was not effective. Discussions of Simnel and Warbeck were effective only if they were linked to the issue of nobility.

Exemplar 3 provides a Level 4 response where the candidate is aware of a good range of methods and there is some discussion of effectiveness, but it lacks specific examples of nobles to take it higher in the level and does not reach a supported judgement as to how effective.

## Exemplar 3

3	<p>When Henry came to the throne in 1485 he had an unstable start as he was a usurper and had spent 14 years in exile, as well as there still being Yorkist support, therefore he had to rely on nobles to support him but also manage them to make sure they didn't manipulate him and become more powerful.</p>
	<p>One way Henry <del>managed to control</del> <sup>was able to</sup> manage the nobility was by carrot and stick policies. An incentive was Acts of Attainder which meant that if noble families went against him then they would have everything taken away from them. This was <del>also</del> significant as it meant that nobles followed laws and rules as if they had all their land taken away from them they would fall from power, as land was directly proportionate to power. In addition, Order of the Garter was a knighthood that was offered to nobles who were loyal to him at Oxford and Bosworth. This was a successful way to control the nobles as it was seen as a great honour to have a knighthood for being loyal, and also Henry was more forgiving and offered more benefits to loyal nobles. Also, the King's Council provided a membership for certain nobles, which was seen</p>

as a great sign of trust to the nobles. These incentives were all successful in controlling the nobility as they all linked to honour and status which was very important. However, it did cause some hatred towards Henry if punishments had to be given out, but because the incentives were so successful this rarely happened.

Henry VII also used ~~his government to manage~~ the nobility. Land to manage the nobility. When Henry was managing his finances, he made sure that he didn't take all the land back from the nobles as he didn't want to annoy them. Even though this was a failure of ordinary revenue, it was a huge success in managing nobility. This is significant because it meant that nobles got to keep their land, and ultimately power so they had no need to cause any unrest or rebel against Henry. Another incentive was feudal dues which placed Henry at the top of the system but also gave nobles land which made them satisfied. This incentive is particularly significant as it was important that Henry didn't give the nobles too much power and they knew he was at the top otherwise they could create factions and manipulate Henry. The restoration of the crown lands also managed nobles as in the 1486 Act of Resumption it took back land granted away before the War of the Roses

and granted it to nobles. Again this was significant because the nobility were happy and under control as long as they had land to portray their power.

Finally, another way Henry managed the nobility was through his government. With the central, regional and local governments Henry elected members from ~~the gentry~~ slightly lower status to make sure that nobles didn't get too powerful. The central government was elected by Henry and chosen from the gentry instead of nobility to make sure that the advisors in his government remained loyal. In addition, for the regional government he avoided choosing nobility and for the local government he elected people from the second rank of landowners. This was significant as it meant that nobles had power through their land, but they could also not have to worry about government and allow the gentry and second rank of landowners do that ~~task~~ task. Throughout Henry VII's reign he faced rebellions, but never because of nobles wanting more power or rebelling against him, which shows that he managed the nobility effectively so that they were satisfied but also didn't take advantage of Henry and become too powerful.



		Overall, it can be said that Henry VIII managed the nobility effectively as he managed to offer them enough land, rewards and support, whilst maintaining the highest level of power for himself. This is important as the nobles could have easily rebelled because and taken advantage of his vulnerability at the start of his reign, however he was successful in managing them so they stayed under control throughout his entire reign.
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#### Question 4

4\* 'Foreign policy in the years from 1509 to 1529 was largely unsuccessful.' How far do you agree? [20]

This was the less popular question and candidate knowledge was often very patchy or inaccurate with very few being able to cover the whole period. It was particularly surprising that the issue of the King's Great Matter in relation to foreign affairs was given little attention. Responses were usually much stronger on the earlier period, particularly regarding wars against France and Scotland. Many adopted a country by country approach, while others looked at Henry's aims and tried to assess whether they were achieved. However, knowledge was often thin or in a number of instances inaccurate with candidates getting into a tangle over the chronology and undermining their arguments, particularly when discussing events in the 1520s.

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