



AS

History

7041/1C The Tudors: England 1485-1547

Report on the examination

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General Comments

The overall number of students taking the AS examination in this paper fell, from 312 in 2024 to 274 this year. The statistical outcomes suggest that students found this paper more accessible than the previous year's paper. Question 02 was the most popular of the two essay questions; students appear to find political areas of the reign of Henry VII more accessible than questions on religion, particularly those which cross two reigns. Most responses, both to the extract question and to the essay questions, demonstrate a familiarity with the assessment requirements. The contextual knowledge displayed in response to the extract question and the supporting evidence for essays is generally consistent with the expectations of a breadth response. However, in the less successful responses the knowledge base was often very generalised, and the communication skills were limited.

Question 01

With reference to these extracts and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two extracts provides the more convincing interpretation of responses of different social groups to the government of Henry VIII in the 1530s?

Students found the two extracts on the responses to the government of Henry VIII in the 1530s more accessible than 01 in 2024. The question in 2024 had considered the dissolution of the monasteries by Cardinal Wolsey in the 1520s and the larger scale dissolution in the later 1530s. In 2024, students had struggled to compare the differing reasons for the two dissolutions, in 2025 the focus on the differing responses to the government of Henry VIII was clearly identified by the majority of students, although a minority did struggle to distinguish between the 'different social groups'.

The less successful responses tended to present unsupported statements, often taken directly from the extract with little or no supporting evidence. The understanding in these was often generalised and was partial. The mid-range responses showed an awareness of the two different interpretations and were able to select appropriate contextual knowledge to support their arguments. Often these focused on more than one element, principally the dissolution, and the responsibility of Cromwell for the unpopularity of governmental policies. The most successful responses presented a developed evaluation of a number of factors in the extracts which were supported with good knowledge.

Extract A: This interpretation by Elton argued that there was 'only limited opposition to Crown policies' and that 'only the concerns of the common people...presented a challenge'. The reference to the Pilgrimage of Grace by Elton led to less successful students writing almost exclusively, and descriptively about this. The reference to the 'backward and barbarous North' was not challenged by many; rather there was an agreement that the Pilgrimage of Grace took place in the North. Some students were able to link the Treason Act to Elton's claim that 'loyalty

and obedience to the King...dominated everything'. The reason for the support of the landed classes related to their self interest in benefitting from the dissolution of the monasteries was picked up by the stronger responses, often giving examples.

Extract B: This extract by David Loades identified the concerns of different groups: the 'religious changes, enclosure and the dissolution' were 'unpopular with the common people' and 'the gentry were angered by the Statute of Uses'. The concerns of the nobility were more complex but had a common root in the work of Cromwell and the view that 'their interests were not considered'. Although this extract identified the different groups, the less successful responses did not always distinguish between these. Mid-range responses, which attempted to challenge the extract often struggled with Loades' claim over under-representation in Parliament, quoting the Council of the North in response. The more successful responses offered developed evaluation of response by social group.

Students are expected to make a judgement as to which is the most convincing of the two extracts in terms of the focus. This should present an assessment of the relative arguments and should provide supporting evidence for the choice. The stronger responses identify key elements of both A and B before offering a judgement. In response to this task there were those who selected A because support was more significant in the 1530s and opposition was marginal. Others selected B because of the widespread nature of the concerns.

Question 02

'Henry VII's use of parliament was the main way in which he consolidated his authority in the years 1485 to 1509'.

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

This was by far the most popular of the two essay questions. The consolidation of authority by Henry VII is one of central issues of his reign. Students were very well versed in a range of short-term and longer-term strategies employed by the King. There was also an awareness to how the pressures on Henry to consolidate his authority changed over time. What was lacking, in too many responses, was an understanding of the use of parliament. Acts of Attainder were quoted as extra parliamentary; bonds and recognizances were given as parliamentary legislation. Most were able to state that parliament was called infrequently, although there was considerable deviation from the seven occasions when parliament was actually called. There was considerable legislation which could have been used to illustrate control of the nobility including Acts to limit retaining. The Act of Resumption was key for Henry, as was the need to call parliament for extra-ordinary revenue.

It is not necessary that a response should be divided equally between the focus of the question and other factors, but it is expected that the focus should be addressed in some detail. In responses credit was given for other factors such as the marriage to Elizabeth of York, relations with foreign powers, the Council Learned in Law for example.

Question 03

‘There was little demand for the reform of the Church in England in the years c 1500 to 1529’.

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

This question was attempted by only a very small number of students. A small number of responses to this question showed a good understanding of support for the Church, whilst acknowledging the existence of complaints about ‘corruption’ and the pressure for reform from within the Church by Humanists. Such responses noted the change over time, increasing with the need to pressure the Papacy. However, the majority of students who answered this question used it as a proxy to write about the demand for the annulment. There was some relevant material which could have been used linked to this, but such material was often missed, and the focus shifted to the events of the 1530s. Where there was an attempt to focus on the years in the question, the less successful answers presented generalised accounts of the Hunne case, Cardinal Wolsey’s ‘failings’, and the development of Protestantism.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.