



A Level History

7042/2B The Wars of the Roses, 1450-1499

Report on the examination

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Contents

The below table is interactive. You can press the control button click on the title of the question to go directly to that page.

Contents	Page
General guidance about question types	3
Individual questions and exemplification	5
Further support	21

General guidance on question types

Question 1: The 'Source' Question

- An assessment of the value (and limitations, where appropriate) of each source in relation to the question set.
- Students should address the content and provenance of sources and use their own knowledge to support their evaluation. Where relevant, students could also consider the emphasis and tone of a source in their assessment of the value in relation to the question set.

Qualities seen in more successful responses

- A clear judgement is made about the value of the sources in relation to the question set.
- Answers move beyond a balanced description and provide an argument driven by the student's judgement overall about a source's value in relation to the question set.
- Comments on tone, when used, focus on the value of the source to an historian studying the given issue in the question.
- The content and provenance of the sources is understood, and relevant and accurate knowledge is used to assess value in relation to the question set.
- There is roughly equal treatment of all three sources.

Qualities seen in less successful responses

- Follows a very rigid structure and/or relies heavily on pre-learned phrases, which convey a sense that answers have not understood the sources set.
- Confusion over terminology and exactly what makes a source valuable. Words such as 'bias' are often used without being able to explain how this links to a judgement on value. Bias may well be the reason that a source is valuable.
- Answers that ignore the historical focus set in the question. Answers give a general evaluation of the source without explaining how it might be valuable to a historian studying a set topic.
- Over-reliance on lengthy quotations with little supporting knowledge and/or explicit assessment of value in relation to the question set.

Questions 2-4: Essay questions

- Demonstrate a clear and full understanding of the question and its demands.
- Provide a balanced, analytical response which reviews the issues raised by the question.
- Provide appropriate and full coverage of the question, with appropriate supporting evidence.
- Substantiate judgements on the issues, throughout the answer and/ or in an extended conclusion.

Qualities seen in more successful responses

- Evidence of careful planning seen in the structure and organisation of the answer.
- An analytical approach which avoids lengthy narrative passages.
- Appropriate range, both in relation to any date range identified in the question and of issues to be considered.

- Balance of treatment, used to advance an argument and with appropriate judgement of the issues.
- Use of well selected supporting information.
- Provide an effective introduction which sets out the argument to be advanced and an effective conclusion demonstrating overall judgement.

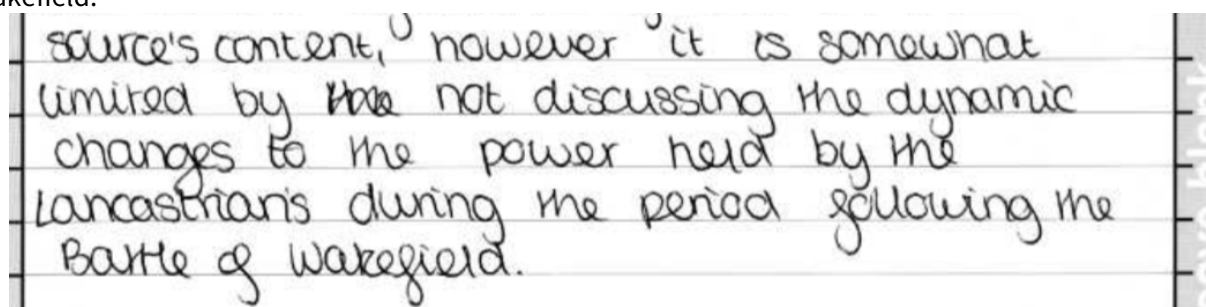
Qualities seen in less successful responses

- Limited evidence of effective planning and structuring.
- Tendency towards partial responses to the question asked, either in terms of the date range specified in the question or range of issues to be considered.
- Inclusion of descriptive passages not clearly linked to the question.
- Over-lengthy introductions which do little more than provide contextual information.
- Inclusion of conclusions which repeat points already made.
- Issues with, or an absence of, sustained analysis and judgement.
- Occasional use of inappropriate language, such as over-use of first person etc.

Individual questions

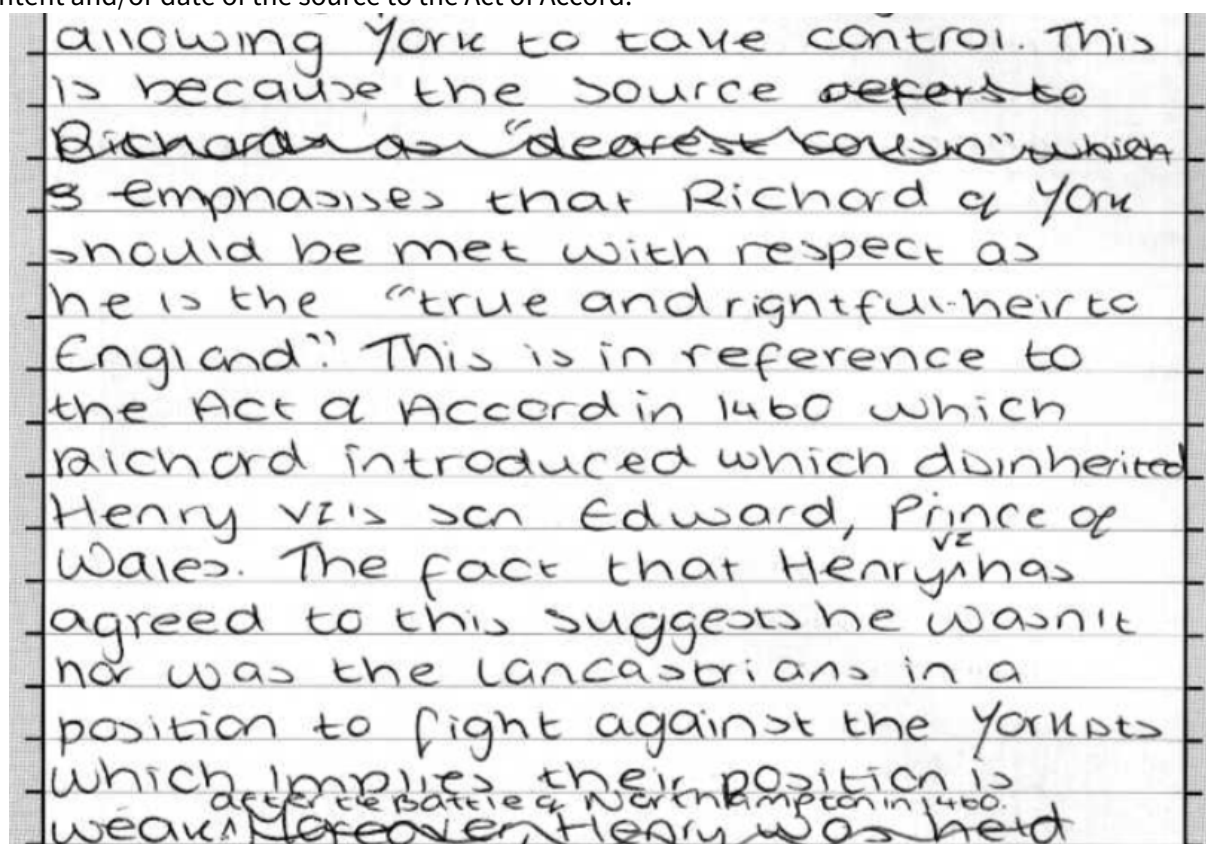
Report on Question 1

The sources for Question 1 were generally well handled. Students' comprehension of the content of all three skills was good, if not better in the majority of responses. However, there are still a few candidates who judge that the value of a source is limited because of what it omits. This is an unfair way to judge a source, as no source can cover everything. These comments often made reference to events that occurred after the source was created, so the author could not have been considering such events. For example, the following extract was in reference to source A, which was written prior to the Battle of Wakefield:



source's content, however it is somewhat limited by the not discussing the dynamic changes to the power held by the Lancastrians during the period following the Battle of Wakefield.

Many candidates were also able to use the historical context, linked to the content, in order to evaluate sources. This was most frequently successful for Source A where many candidates were able to link the content and/or date of the source to the Act of Accord:



allowing York to take control. This is because the source refers to Richard as "dearest cousin" which emphasises that Richard of York should be met with respect as he is the "true and rightful heir to England". This is in reference to the Act of Accord in 1460 which Richard introduced which disinherited Henry VI's son Edward, Prince of Wales. The fact that Henry has agreed to this suggests he wasn't or was the Lancastrians in a position to fight against the Yorkists which implies their position is weak. Moreover, Henry was held

The best responses were able to use multiple points of content, coupled with good understanding of the historical context, to give a more holistic view of the source's value as seen in the following response:

Source 'A' is valuable to an historian studying the position of the Lancastrians after the Battle of Northampton in 1460 and before Towton in 1461, for it demonstrates the effects that the Act of Accord of October 1460 had on the prospects of the Lancastrians. After the battle of Northampton - a victory for the House of York, with King Henry captured - the Lancastrian cause looked less secure than before. As source 'A' is from a parliamentary session from October - November 1460, it is likely that the events of it are in direct relation to the Act of Accord. The tone of the source is commanding, investing the 'Duke of York' with the powers to 'repress, subdue and pacify the regions' on behalf of King Henry, as his 'dearest cousin'. The Act of Accord - forced on Henry as a compromise where he would rule, and York would be his 'heir to England, France and Ireland' - signed in October 1460 detailed that York would have the full support of the crown. From this, one can infer the position in which the Lancastrians found themselves in: without an able king to rule, with York - convicted of treason at Dartford - using the king's power in his name. An historian can also see that the position of the Lancastrians was a weak one, for now Lancastrian supporters were referred to as 'foreign enemies' and of needing to be 'pacified'. Therefore, source 'A' is valuable to an historian studying the position of the Lancastrians after the Battle of Northampton in 1460 and before Towton in 1461, for it demonstrates the difficult situation which they were in, with their previous enemy now using the 'King's power', and commanding support from those loyal to the throne.

However, an area that many would have benefitted from developing further was the use of provenance. There were many responses that simply paraphrased the provenance, or made simple assertions:

The north came from, we know the writer was well-educated. This adds value to the source. Once again

Others made simplistic/stock comments, without substantiating their comments and/or not linking them to the value of the source/s in relation to studying the position of the Lancastrians at this time:

Source A is a declaration made in parliament in 1460 and certainly provides value to a historian studying the period between 1460-61. Firstly, the provenance of the source means that a historian can trust that this is a source ~~more~~ concurrent with the period in question ~~and therefore not likely to be~~ due to its nature as an official document. This means that the source will not suffer from time distorting the events. However a downside of the provenance is that, as the source is an official record, it cannot be relied on for personal thoughts or events nor more detailed accounts as it is the 'state sponsored' ~~and~~ recounting.

Such observations on provenance can be strengthened by linking them to evidence from the source. This turns stock comments into more bespoke analysis:

Source B is a letter from a Yorkist supporter, Francesco Coppini, in January of 1461. This could make the source less valuable as it is written by a Yorkist, who may be trying to paint the Lancastrian victory as wasteful or insignificant, which would be inaccurate.

Other less successful approaches included the failure to link the provenance to the content of the sources, leading to misconceptions. In the following example, the candidate concludes that Source A, being an official parliamentary role, would not display bias, when the tone of the source was definitely partisan:

Source A was written in a parliamentary session with the purpose of being put into the parliamentary roll which was the official record of English parliament. As the source was written during a parliamentary session it is likely that the declaration was written by parliament. This makes the source more valuable as the source will not have an overall positive or negative view when writing about any events or people as it is an official document which records what is occurring in English parliament. As

More successful uses of provenance often linked their analysis to the historical context, for example, that the time Source A was written was when York controlled parliament so the source was bound to reflect his strength and the relative weakness of his enemies, the Lancastrians; or that Source C, written in the first reign of Edward IV, praised of the 'illustrious Earl of March' may deflect from the value of the source as the author's purpose may be questionable. The best responses also supported their ideas with evidence from the source/s.

anjar. The Parliamentary Roll usually reflected best on those in power, hence due to the strong position of the Yorkists the ~~source~~ source could have portrayed the kings relationship with York in a better light, hence the flattering tone towards York.

Where candidates made more simplistic comments about sources, such as Coppini (B) being a supporter of the Yorkists, meaning he was biased, the comment was often strengthened by linking it to precise evidence from the source. For example, Coppini's statement that the Battle of Wakefield being an 'unimportant victory' for the Yorkists being evidence of his partisan views as the outcome of the battle was hugely significant with the Yorkists losing their leader. Source B seemed to pose the most issues for candidates in regards to provenance, with many making shallow observations. However, there were a small number of candidates who demonstrated very impressive knowledge about who Coppini was and his mission in England at the time. While this is not explicitly a requirement of the specification, it was very pleasing to see candidates with such in depth knowledge.

The weakest responses often misinterpreted sources, such as concluding that in Source A the Lancastrians were in a strong position as they were now working with York, or that the 'Northern men' referred to in Source C were the Yorkists. Other, weaker, responses failed to focus sufficiently on the position of the Lancastrians; either focusing on what the sources said about the position of the Yorkists or stating that the source was valuable ('Source B is valuable for finding out about the position of the Lancastrians. It says...'), but without making specific inferences about what the position of the Lancastrians actually was.

An area that candidates seem less confident in is the ability to make clear and substantiated judgments about the value of the source. They often go through strengths and limitations in a mechanical manner, then writing summative judgments. More successful approaches included using new criteria to make a clinching argument, or analysis of either the strengths or limitations in order to conclude that one outweighed the other. For example:

Ultimately, however, source 'B' is still valuable to an historian studying this period, for even if a form of propaganda, it is still useful in seeing why this view was held, and how it reflected in the actions of others; the refusal of London to open its gates to Margaret's army - the Lancastrian force - in February 1461 could be influenced by the likes of information spread in this letter against the 'cruelty attributed to those Lords with the Queen'. Therefore, source 'B' is valuable to an historian studying the position of the Lancastrians after the Battle of Northampton in 1460 and before Towton in 1461, for it demonstrates the impacts that the actions of the Lancastrian army had on its reputation, and how this reputation ultimately damage their prospects with the refusal of London aid, thus weakening the Lancastrian position in this period with as the lack of support that they had.

There were a number of very impressive responses, which achieved Level 5 as they were able to explore the content, context and provenance of all three sources, as well as tone where relevant, and used this analysis to make clear and substantiated judgments about each source.

Question 1: Exemplification of Level 5 qualities

The provenance of Source A does not make it a particularly valuable source. It details that it was documented between ~~the~~ October to November 1460. The significance of this is that this period saw York dominate the law with his establishment of the Act of Accord. This Act disinherited Henry VI's son Edward of Westminster and made York ^{one} his lineage the ^{next} heir's. Therefore, a historian must be cautious of the validity of the claims made as they are produced under York's influence. However, the provenance ~~does~~ does show that it is an official record and is valuable in highlighting the weak position of the Lancastrians between the period as it shows how easily ^{himself} they were removed from Parliament.

As the provenance suggests, the tone is overtly biased towards Richard of York. It writes "his dearest cousin Richard, true and rightful heir to England". This tone diminishes

the overall value of the source because it will only emphasise the success of the Yorkist position. However, where the source can be considered valuable in studying the Lancastrian position after Northampton is in the quote "The support of the King's subject is necessarily required" This quote highlights that the source required nobles to ask for noble support, rather than immediately receiving it. This is therefore valuable to a historian because although the Lancastrians have been removed from London, nobles were still hesitant to depose an anointed monarch. When Richard of York laid his hand upon the throne in ~~1460~~ September 1460, he did not receive support that he had anticipated. Therefore, this highlights how the Lancastrian position had not yet been defeated after Northampton because support for Henry VI still existed in Parliament.

However, with the overall emphasis being on the grace of York, it does not make it a valuable source for a

historian studying the Lancastrian position. For example, the quote "King Henry undertakes that great rebellions be committed in various regions of his realm". This is an inaccurate portrayal of the monarch and instead serves as propaganda for York. The actuality was Henry's poor mental state after 1460 means he was unable to even remotely monitor the state of his kingdom. ~~Therefore this makes~~ that Henry has a fit him, it is unlikely that he would've signed the Act of Accord. Therefore, this removes the value of the source as it gives an inaccurate portrayal of the Lancastrian position by 1460/61.

Overall, Source A can be deemed not valuable to a historian studying the inquiry as the impact of the provenance gives means that an over-very favourable portrayal is given to York which is only partially valuable in seeing the dominance of the Yorkist cause in 1460.

This is a Level 5 response as there is very good understanding of all three sources in relation to content and with a good range of historical context, as demonstrated by the above extract relating to Source A. The use of provenance for Source A is very good, coupling it with content and context to make convincing judgments. There is a clear overall judgment about the value of the source and comment is consistently well focused on the question

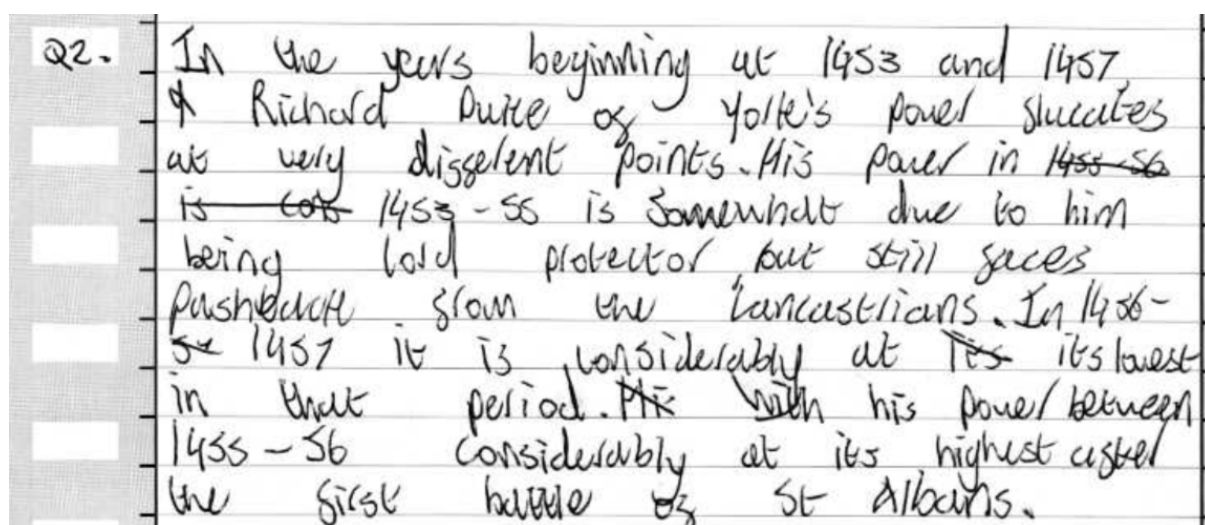
Report on Question 2

There were some very good responses to this question, with candidates able to give detailed evidence from across the years identified in the question. There were candidates for whom the dates proved a challenge, with some discussing events outside the parameters of the question, such as Cade's rebellion or the Parliament of Devils. However, some candidates were very sophisticated, using events prior the question to establish a baseline, saying that the loss of his position in France or being forced to swear allegiance at Dartford showed that at the start of the period Richard was in a weak position and using this as a contrast to later events when York's power significantly increased.

Candidates spoke with confidence about York's protectorates, often being able to give good detail about his successes and the limitations to his powers that he experienced. However, many candidates do refer to York as being 'protectorate' rather than 'protector'. The most common approach was to consider that York was powerful when he was protector, but that this was a temporary position, so his power fluctuated with Henry's health. Other common evidence deployed included the Battle of St Albans, with many concluding that York's ability to take and control the King demonstrated his strength. Some very pleasing responses also included details on the relevance of York being acquitted for what amounted to an act of treason in taking arms against the King, and that the death of Somerset and him being blamed for the battle also showed the political (and military) power York possessed.

The argument regarding York's political position weakening tended to focus on Margaret of Anjou: the birth of Edward meaning that Richard was no longer heir to the throne; or her use of the Prince's Council to strengthen Lancastrian allies and exclude York. Many of these were well focused and analytical.

There were also a number of candidates who attempted to use second order concepts to reach an overall judgment. The most common approach for this was using the concept of chronology/change over time to show that Richard's position started weak, grew in strength up to the aftermath of St Albans, but then decreased as Margaret assumed control over the Yorkist faction. Although some students were not able to fully articulate the complexities of this idea, there were very pleasing responses that reached sophisticated and convincing definitive judgments. The very best of these were established clearly in the introduction, sustained throughout the supporting and challenging arguments and then brought together in clear conclusions:



Report on Question 3

This was by far the most popular of the three essay options. There were some very well focused essays, the demonstrated excellent and in-depth knowledge of the topic. However, this was also the essay

option where candidates were most likely to slip into narratives. The temptation to tell the story of the princes in the tower, often proved too great, and there were many that went into great detail of how Richard took the princes, attempts to free them, other methods that Richard used to delegitimise his nephews, and even the pretenders that presented to Henry VII claiming to be the princes:

It is believed that Richard III murdered the princes in the tower to enable himself to become king. The princes in the tower were the nephews of Richard and future heirs to the throne. However, there is proof that Richard never murdered them. There is evidence to suggest that Perkin Warbeck was one of the princes in the tower. He claimed to be him but renounced under the threat of Richard III. Perkin Warbeck received lots of support from Ireland and named Lord Leutenants. Furthermore, his identity was never questioned by Margaret Beaufort and he was taken in with no question. A modern historian, Phillipa largely has modern evidence from a grand Guppie to prove that the boys in the tower ~~would~~ were never murdered. If this was found out to be true it would change the history of war of the roses. Therefore, it is not the main reason for Richard III losing his throne because there is evidence to counter argue it.

When considering the supporting interpretation, there were also many responses where the analysis was quite generalised; candidates would conclude that the rumours surrounding the murder of the princes made Richard unpopular. While this was not inaccurate, such statements often lacked specific focus on the question. They described events in Richard's early reign, without convincingly explaining how this lead to the loss of the throne. A monarch can be unpopular without losing their position, so such comments did need to be linked to the specifics of how Richard lost his throne. A more convincing approach was to link the disappearance of the Princes to Buckingham's rebellion and how this lead to Tudor becoming a legitimate threat, such as the support of Elizabeth Woodville or the agreed marriage to Elizabeth of York. Another link that worked well was examining how Richard attainted southern nobility after the rebellion, leading these, influential and wealthy members of society to join Tudor in exile, leading strength to his eventual invasion.

The counterargument was, generally, the stronger of the two. Candidates considered a wide range of factors such as the rise of Tudor, Richard's position as a 'northern' king or the Battle of Bosworth itself. There were many very strong arguments, which contained detailed and precise supporting evidence, were well focused on the question and lead to clear and convincing analysis. There were also a good number of candidates who attempted to reach a definitive judgment. While there were responses that relied on summative comments for this, which were less convincing, there were others that reached clinching arguments or linked the factors together in order to produce compelling overall judgments. For example:

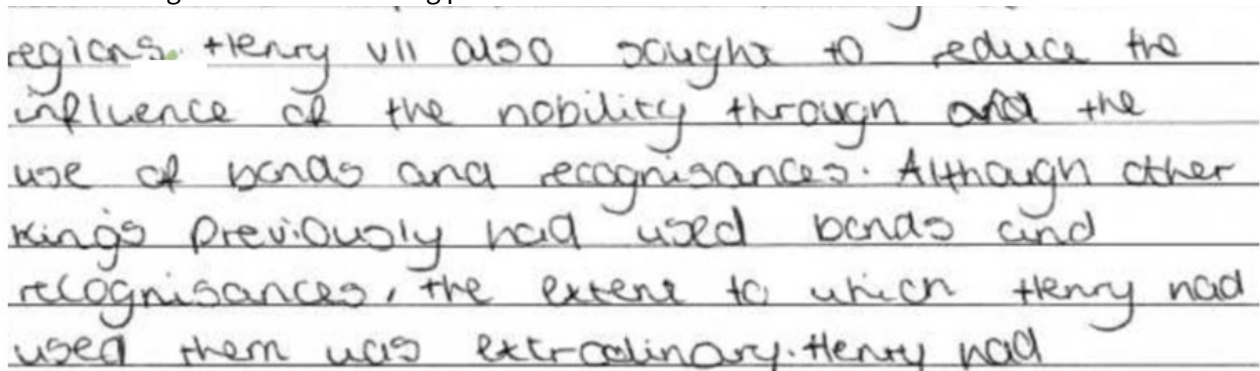
In conclusion, though all events that led to the downfall of Richard - Buckingham's rebellion and Bosworth included - they were influenced by a multitude of factors, and all were linked by the widespread belief that Richard III had murdered the Princes in the Tower: without this he would not have faced rebellion, and ultimately lost out in battle to a foreign pretender with the backing of some of the most important nobility in England - the Stanleys. Richard's reputation was widespread: he had so few supporters because of it. This reputation was sealed by one significant action - the perceived murder of the Princes in the Tower. Therefore, main reason for why Richard III lost the throne in 1485 was the widespread belief that he had murdered the Princes in the Tower, for this influenced all of his reign, and culminated in his defeat at Bosworth on the 22nd of August, 1485 to Henry Tudor.

Report on Question 4

This was the least popular of the three essay options. While there were a few examples of good responses, many were less convincing. Candidates often did not know enough specific detail of the question. They would attempt to fit what they did know about the early years of Henry VII's reign, but this was often very generalist and lacked relevance to the specifics of the question. For example, there were responses that were determined to discuss the pretenders Warbeck and Simnel. While this could have been made relevant to ways that Henry limited the power of the nobility, such comments rarely were.

Another common issue was that candidates could formulate a convincing response concerning ways in which Henry limited the powers of the nobility but were less confident when considering the counter-argument.

However, there were responses where candidates demonstrated good understanding, using detailed own knowledge to make convincing points:



regions. Henry VII also sought to reduce the influence of the nobility through the use of bonds and recognisances. Although other kings previously had used bonds and recognisances, the extent to which Henry had used them was extraordinary. Henry had

established the Council learned in law, which was an disliked organisation which dealt with bonds and recognisances and was headed by Richard Empson and Edmund Dudley. Bonds were a formal recognitions of debts to the King, whereas recognisances were fines imposed onto the nobility; it is estimated that 3/4 of noble families were placed under bonds or recognisances in Henry's reign. Henry had reduced the influence of the nobility massively through this by placing extremely high bonds on some of the most prestigious nobility: such as Thomas Grey, Marquis of Dorset, who had his friends raise £10,000 in bonds as well as the £8,000 a year from William Stanley's bonds and

recognisances. By placing such high bonds and recognisances on the nobility not only did it reduce their overall influence but extended Henry's as by keeping the nobility poor, he was able to get richer allowing him to combat rebellions.

Question 3: Exemplification of Level 5 qualities

^{treason}
In the summer of ~~1485~~ 1483, the Prince in the Tower (the son of Edward IV and Elizabeth Woodville), disappeared empty, which was believed to be due to Richard III murdering him. This widespread belief is ultimately the catalyst for Richard III losing his throne at Bosworth, although one could argue the most prominent reason was due to noble disloyalty at Bosworth itself, yet this view is heavily flawed. Consequently, the view is of complete validity.

The ~~wholesome~~ belief that Richard III murdered the Prince in the Tower being the reason he lost his throne is clear when considering its impact in the rise of Henry Tudor. The suspected murder of the Prince led to ~~many~~ many Edwardian Yorkists seeking other options for leadership, as the suspected murder had tarnished Richard III's reputation and destroyed Edward IV's legacy. ~~Thus~~ These Edwardian Yorkists, such as the Marquess of Dorset, John Cheyney and Daubeney ultimately began to favour Henry Tudor and his Beaufort-Lancastrian claim. This claim was the

bolstered in the eyes of the Edwardian Yorkists as the late suspected murder of the Princes led Elizabeth Woodville to vengeance. This vengeance became apparent when on 25th December 1483, Henry Tudor swore an oath to marry Elizabeth of York, the late King's Princes' mother's eldest sister. This marital pact solidified the support of the Edwardian Yorkists who were disillusioned by the belief that Richard III had killed the Princes; the pact allowed Edward IV's cognate heir to take the throne as Queen Consort and any heir of Henry Tudor would also be the heir of the Princes and Edward IV himself, as Edward IV's male-descendant bloodline was predicted dead. This thus bolstered Henry Tudor's Edwardian Yorkist support, which formed his ability to successfully launch the invasion of England in 1485 that would ultimately culminate at Bosworth Field, with the loss of Richard III's throne. As a result, it is thus clear that the belief that Richard III murdered the Princes in the Tower is the main reason he lost the throne in 1485 - it enabled the rise to prominence and ultimate success of Henry Tudor.

It is further made clear that the widespread belief that Richard III murdered the Princes in the Tower was the main reason for his downfall when regarding the implications the belief had on Buckingham's Rebellion. Although Buckingham had cognate

followed Richard III's rise to power, date which culminated at his coronation on 6th July 1483, this swiftly crumbled by September 1483, when Buckingham-led plots began to circulate in the South of England, potentially due to Buckingham personally learning the fate of the Princes. The plot embroiled many Edmondian Yorkists, such as Sir William Berkeley and Dorset, who were bitter at the suspect murder of the princes and thus Richard III's rule overall. Whilst Buckingham's Rebellion was unsuccessful, it ultimately did lead to how Richard III's downfall as it displayed to Alastair Margaret Beaufort and Henry Tudor that popular discontent to Richard III's reign was rife in the South of England and resulted in over 100 dissident Yorkists implicated in the plot to flee to Brittany in support of the Tudor cause. Thus, the belief the Princes the Tower were killed by Richard III clearly led to his loss of the throne in 1485 as it led to Buckingham's rebellion which itself displayed discontent was rife for Richard III's rule and enabled Henry Tudor to rapidly gain followers, and especially particularly amongst dissident Edmondian Yorkists. Henry Tudor thus utilised this and usurped Richard III at Bosworth, conclusively settling furthering the validity in the view that the widespread belief that Richard III murdered the Princes in the Tower was the main reason he lost the throne to be completely valid.

However, we could argue that it was not the belief that Richard III murdered the Princes in

to be the main reason he lost the throne in 1485, but the lack of loyal noble support he received at Bosworth (22nd August 1485) itself. This is evident that when taking into account the fact that Northumberland did not commit his troops to the field at Bosworth and that the Stanley brothers did not commit to either side until Richard III's charge against Henry Tudor, when they sided with Lord Stanley's stepson, Henry himself. This could thus evidence that Richard III's downfall at Bosworth itself was actually due to a lack of solid noble support, as it resulted in Richard III's outnumbered forces to become initially inferior to Henry Tudor's Tudor's, as he received 3000 men from Stanley and did not have to battle Northumberland's men. This, we could agree that it was indeed not a lack of noble loyalty at Bosworth that ultimately meant Richard III lost his throne, not the belief he had murdered the princes in the Tower. However, this view is inherently weak and flawed as it is extremely short term in nature. The Stanleys and Northumberland only caused Richard III's usurpation at Bosworth itself. This lack of weight in this view is furthered as the Stanleys and Northumberland most likely did not support Richard III on the day due to his violent and unstable untrustworthy reputation that came due to the murder of the princes attributed to him. It was received as

and a king with dubious motives and a potentially bloody and tyrannical streak due to the alleged murder - two being accentuated by Richard III holding Stanley's son Lord Strange hostage and threatening to murder him on the morning of Bosworth Belt. This too evidently proves that the underlying long-term impact of the Richard III being widely believed to have murdered the princes, and the due to the impact on his reputation was consequently the reason for his usurpation, as it ensured a lack of noble support at Bosworth, so the view is thus completely valid.

Overall, it is thus clear that due to the long-term impacts ~~Richard III's~~ the belief that Richard III murdered the princes in the Tower had, in meant that he lost the throne in 1485. This is because it enabled the rise of Henry Tudor and ensured Yorkist support for him - he was ^{another} ~~an~~ ^{other} after the failure of Buckingham's rebellion who appealed to the Catholics through his betrothal to Elizabeth of York, and also ensured a lack of noble loyalties at Bosworth Belt. Therefore, the view raised is thus completely valid.

While there are flaws in the response, such as understating the importance of Richard's ill-fated charge at Bosworth, this is nonetheless an impressive response. Both the supporting- and the count-arguments are well crafted, with a range of in-depth supporting detail and clear and consistent focus on the question. There is a clear overall judgment which is evident in the introduction and then consistent throughout the response.

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