

A LEVEL

Examiners' report

HISTORY A

H505

For first teaching in 2015

Y207/01 Summer 2023 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.

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Paper Y207/01 series overview

Y207/01 is one of twenty four units in Paper 2 for the revised A Level examination for GCE History. This unit tests an extended period of History of about 100 years through a short-answer essay and a traditional essay. The paper contains two questions, each having two parts, a short-answer essay and a traditional essay and candidates had to answer both parts of one question.

To do well on the short-answer essay question, candidates needed to consider the significance or importance of both issues, factors, individuals or events mentioned in relation to the question. Having analysed or explained both they must reach a supported judgement as to which is the most important or significant.

To do well on the traditional essay, candidates needed to address the issue in the question, using detailed supporting knowledge. To reach the higher levels candidates needed to assess the issues they discussed and reach a supported judgement, at least in the conclusion.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gave equal consideration to the two issues in the short-answer essay • reached a developed and supported judgement as to which issue was more significant or important • linked their knowledge of the issues to the focus of the question • discussed at least two relevant issues in depth • gave supporting detail that was both accurate and relevant to the question set, not just the topic • reached a supported judgement about the issue in the question • made a series of interim judgements about the issues discussed in relation to the question. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • considered only one of the issues or discussed one in a superficial way • produced a judgement that was not supported and was therefore assertion or a judgement that did not follow logically from the response • were unable to use their knowledge to address the issue in the question • showed a poor understanding of the major issues relevant to the essay • were unable to support their response with relevant or accurate material • did not focus on the precise wording of the question • made unsupported comments about issues which were no more than assertions.

Question 1 (a)

1 (a) Which of the following had the greater impact on the development of Charles V's wars with France?

(i) French aggression

(ii) The weaknesses of Charles's Empire

Explain your answer with reference to both (i) and (ii).

[10]

Question 1 was the most popular of the questions. Candidates were particularly good at discussing and explaining the nature of French aggression. In particular, many argued that it was Francis I, and later Henry II, who initiated the wars with Charles. They usually focused their discussion on events in Italy, discussing the invasions and seizure of Milan. There were also comments made about French willingness to make alliances with the Turks and Lutherans to make Charles' problems even greater.

Candidates found discussing the weaknesses of Charles' Empire more difficult and often discussed similar issues, particularly the range of challenges Charles faced. In discussing the range of challenges, many pointed to the threat from the Ottomans both in the east and in the Mediterranean. However, some responses did consider the problems he faced within the Holy Roman Empire in terms of its structure, the Diet and his weak financial position.

Exemplar 1

1	a)	<p>French aggression was extremely pivotal in determining the development of Charles V's wars with France. The initial stages of the Hapsburg Valois war began in 1521, with French invasions at Navarre, and Luxembourg. Furthermore, in 1542, it was Francis I who broke the 1538 Truce of Nice by attacking Charles in Perpignan in 1542. This demonstrates how great of an impact French aggression had on the development of Charles V's wars with France as the reason the war was characterised by an inability to gain a lasting peace was predominantly because of the invasions perpetrated by France. Despite this, the fact that French aggression was a result of factors, such as Charles' provocation in Milan in 1536, and the numerous allies lined up against Charles throughout his reign indicates that, as French aggression was rooted in other factors its impact on the development of the Hapsburg Valois war is therefore limited.</p>
		<p>The weaknesses of Charles' Empire also played a key role in the development of Charles' wars with France.</p>

Firstly, financial difficulties, most notably debts, which reached 36 million ducats by 1556, meant that Charles was severely weakened in his capability to fight against France, promoting the likelihood of invasion, such as the French capture of Turin in 1536.

Secondly, internal divisions, driven by the Schmalkaldic League, also impacted the development of Charles V's wars with France, as displayed in 1552 when the Protestant Maurice of Saxony signed the Treaty of Chambord with Henry II, accumulating in the French capture of Metz, Toul, and Verdun.

Thirdly, opposition to the Hapsburg ~~Empire~~ family was a weakness within Charles' Empire which impacted the development of the French wars. The ability of France to align with Charles V's enemies, in 1536 under the League of Cognac, and in 1536 and 42, signing Franco-Ottoman alliances, emboldened France, leading to an increased likelihood of war, as shown by the capture of Nice in 1542 by a combined Franco-Ottoman fleet. However, it could be argued that Charles V's Empire was not in fact that weak, with 6,000 Protestant ~~coats~~ taking

		in the 1525 Battle of Pavia, indicating a level of Empirical unity.
		In conclusion, however, the weaknesses of Charles's Empire had a greater impact on the development of Charles V's war with France in comparison to French aggression. This is because, the role of French aggression was determined by the empowerment provided by Charles' weaknesses to Francis I and Henry II. Therefore Charles' weaknesses play a greater role, as they were the cause of French aggression.

Exemplar 1 shows a response that displayed a good discussion of both issues and showed some supported judgement and was therefore placed in Level 5 with 8 marks. In order to reach the top level, greater depth and a more developed judgement were required.

Question 1 (b)*

(b)* 'The most serious Ottoman challenge to Charles V was from Barbarossa in the Mediterranean.' How far do you agree?

[20]

There were many impressive responses to this question with candidates displaying a very good range of knowledge and showing the importance of a firm grasp of chronology. Candidates usually divided their answers between the threat in the Mediterranean and the threat in the east. However, in discussing the Mediterranean, candidates did break that down into a range of issues, including Barbarossa, the Ottoman alliance with the French, and Turkish actions, such as the capture of Rhodes. Candidates also found it quite easy to weigh up the relative challenges, using issues such as danger to the empire, the aims of Barbarossa and the significance of his conquests and the short and long term challenges presented.

In discussing Barbarossa, many responses considered the capture of various territories and whether Charles was able to regain them. There was also discussion of Preveza, although this could have played greater significance given it gave the Ottomans control over the east of the Mediterranean. There was discussion of the financial costs and the threats to both communications and grain supplies.

The discussion of other challenges inevitably focused on the east and the significance of the threat posed following the Battle of Mohacs and the failed sieges of Vienna. There was some discussion of the position of Hungary and the challenge this posed to the empire. However, some responses did consider other actions in the Mediterranean and how serious the challenges were, for example Admiral Pasha, the capture of Rhodes by the Turks and the capture of Tripoli. In conclusion, the question drew a series of very good responses.

Exemplar 2

Q1	b	The most serious Ottoman challenge to Charles V was indeed from Barbarossa in the Mediterranean, as his corsair raids not only threatened Hapsburg territories such as Italy - particularly after the capture of Tunis in 1535 - but but also created the threat of the possible incitement of the Morisco communities in Spain. Although another serious Ottoman challenge to Charles was in Eastern Europe, Charles regarded this as a less dangerous threat, seen when he refused to divert funds to Hungary in 1530. Additionally, Barbarossa was particularly a challenge to Charles V in the Mediterranean after the Franco-Ottoman alliance in 1536 which resulted in new attacks on Charles' territory Southern territories. Hence, Barbarossa was the most serious challenge to Charles with his raids and expansion in the Mediterranean.
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Barbarossa's actions in the Mediterranean were the most significant threat to Charles as he expanded towards Hapsburg territories, seen with the 1522 Siege of Rhodes, which presented a problem to Charles as the Ottomans encroached towards Hapsburg lands. This problem was exacerbated after 1529 when Barbarossa was made admiral of fleets, thus

increasing corsair raids in the Mediterranean. This presented a significant threat to Charles V as there was the possible excitement of Morisco communities in Spain, thus weakening Charles' rule as this would have led to the disintegration of his empire. Barbarossa particularly presented a problem to Charles V as his movement in the Mediterranean meant that there was no fixed Ottoman battlefield for Charles to attack, seen after the capture of Tunis in 1535 by Charles which resulted in Barbarossa moving to Algiers, a greater threat as it was closer to Hapsburg territories Spain and Italy. This therefore presented a serious Ottoman problem as Charles V was limited in his ability to stop the ~~new~~ Ottoman threat in the Mediterranean. Hence, Ottoman ~~the~~ threats to Charles V were greatest from Barbarossa's actions in the Mediterranean.

Despite this, another serious Ottoman challenge was present in Eastern Europe, especially in Hungary; however, this was a less significant problem as Charles V and Ferdinand were able to reclaim some

Hapsburg territories, such as Buda in 1541, thus strengthening Charles' position in Eastern Europe. Nevertheless, the Ottomans were a threat to Charles V in Eastern Europe particularly in the 1520s, when the expansion since the 1400s resulted in the Siege of Belgrade in 1521 and the capture of Penon in 1529. These threatened Charles' territories as they opened the Ottoman route into Eastern Europe through the Danube valley, thus presenting a serious problem to Charles V as the Ottomans encroached on Hapsburg territories. This serious challenge to Charles V in Eastern Europe increased with ~~the~~ the 250,000 Janissaries that marched towards Vienna in 1532, presenting ~~a~~ a threat to Hapsburg territories particularly as Ferdinand had only 25,000 men in defence, thus outlining how the Ottomans were a serious challenge in Eastern Europe. However, Barbarossa in the Mediterranean was a greater problem as Charles ~~is~~ believed he could not afford to lose land in the Mediterranean - seen with the capture of Tunis, 1535, and the attempt to reclaim Algiers in 1541 - whilst ~~he~~ he appeared less threatened by

The Ottoman challenge in Eastern Europe, seen explicitly in 1530 when he refused to divert funds to Hungary to protect Hapsburg territories. Thus, whilst the Ottoman challenge in Eastern Europe was serious, the most significant threat was Barbarossa in the Mediterranean.

The problem in the Mediterranean was indeed the greatest threat to Charles V as Barbarossa's attacks threatened Hapsburg territories such as Naples. This threat in the Mediterranean increased after the Franco-Ottoman alliance in 1536, which exacerbated the threat of Barbarossa as he was given protection in French ports. This increased the severity of the challenge to Charles V as it limited his ability to stop the corsair raids. Additionally, Barbarossa in the Mediterranean particularly presented a ~~challenge~~^{challenge} to Charles V as it threatened Southern Hapsburg territories, such as the joint Ottoman-French attack on Naples in 1537, presenting a serious challenge to Charles V as the Ottomans were further encroaching into European ~~Ottoman~~^{Hapsburg} lands. Barbarossa

in particular was a threat to Charles V as his alliance with the French (through Suleiman) allowed him to progress in his attacks on Charles' territories from the Mediterranean to Hapsburg territories which overlooked the Mediterranean, such as with the attack on Nice in 1541. This attack created a serious problem for Charles V as the Ottomans were advancing onto his European territories and were further strengthened by the alliance with France; the attack on Nice was a particularly serious challenge for Charles as it was a dynastic land claim. Thus, Barbarossa in the Mediterranean was indeed the most serious challenge to Charles V as he advanced onto Hapsburg territories and also dynastic claims, with this Ottoman attack being more difficult to stop than the one in Eastern Europe due to the alliance with France in 1536.

To conclude, the most serious challenge to Charles V was indeed from Barbarossa in the Mediterranean as his corsair raids not only attacked Hapsburg territories and more personal dynastic

		claims but his attacks also threatened
		the unity to Charles' empire with the
		incitement of Morisco communities. This
		was therefore a more serious challenge
		than Ottoman attacks in Eastern
		Europe, as Charles was able to halt
		them, such as with the capture of
		Buda in 1541, and regarded this
		Ottoman attack as less threatening, due
		to his unwillingness to divert funds to
		Hungary. In comparison, Charles sent
		expeditions to reclaim territories in
		the Mediterranean in 1535 and 1541,
		demonstrating that Barbarossa in the
		the Mediterranean was indeed the most
		serious challenge.

This is an example of a very good response. Not only is there a series of interim judgements, but also a developed and substantiated conclusion which takes the response into Level 6 with 18 marks.

Question 2 (a)

- 2 (a) Which of the following contributed most to the development of the German Reformation in the period 1517 to 1529?
- (i) The condition of the Holy Roman Empire
 - (ii) The condition of the Roman Catholic Church

Explain your answer with reference to both (i) and (ii).

[10]

In discussing the condition of the Holy Roman Empire, candidates often focused on the challenges Charles faced outside the empire, most notably from France and the Ottomans. Many responses lacked the detailed knowledge of the issues within the empire that allowed Lutheranism to gain a foothold. There was some consideration of the growing power of the princes and rising German nationalism, but often this was not linked back to how it helped Lutheranism. There was some link made between the problems Charles faced and how it enabled Luther to be given protection, but often that was the limit of the link. There were also a number of responses that went beyond the dates in the question.

Discussions on the condition of the Roman Catholic Church were often very general, considering issues such as nepotism or absenteeism, but as with the condition of the empire, responses did not link this to the growth of Lutheranism. Some of the more successful responses did make specific mention of Tetzel and the sale of Indulgences, while the very best responses noted that Luther's Theses were supposed to generate academic debate and it was the development of printing and growing nationalism that encouraged his ideas to spread.

Question 2 (b)*

(b)* 'Warfare was the most important factor in the development of the German Reformation between 1530 and 1555.' How far do you agree?

[20]

The more successful responses looked beyond warfare within Germany in order to discuss whether warfare was the most important factor. Those who considered warfare just within Germany considered the war with the Schmalkaldic League, but often argued that despite its defeat, Lutheranism survived as it was so entrenched. More successful responses argued that ultimately it was warfare that forced the Peace of Augsburg. Those who looked beyond Germany considered the impact of the wars with both France and the Ottomans in the survival and spread of Lutheranism.

A range of issues were considered in discussing other factors. Many focused on the role of either princes or towns, but again care needed to be exercised to make sure examples were drawn from within the given time-frame of the question. Some also considered the weakness of the Emperor, but the most successful responses linked this back to his wider problems of financing wars against France and the Ottomans and therefore the need to make compromises. The most successful responses were also able to display a range of precise examples to support their argument.

Assessment for learning



Candidates do need to pay attention to the dates in the question.

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