

A LEVEL

Examiners' report

HISTORY A

H505

For first teaching in 2015

Y108/01 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 Y108/01 series overview

Y108 is one of thirteen units for the revised A Level examination for GCE History. This unit tests an extended period of History of about fifty years through an Enquiries or source-based option and an essay. The paper is divided into two sections. In Section A candidates have to answer a compulsory source question based on four written primary sources. The question requires them to use all four sources to assess the validity of a view. In Section B candidates are required to answer one essay question from a choice of two.

To do well on Section A, candidates need to be able to both:

- consider the provenance of the sources, and
- apply contextual knowledge to the content of the sources.

This allows them fully to answer the question set by reaching a judgement **about the sources** in relation to the issue in the question.

It is important that the judgement reached is based on an evaluation of the reliability of the evidence given, and that it is not merely the candidate's own judgement on the topic based purely on their own contextual knowledge.

In order to reach Level 6, a good strategy is to make a judgement at the end of the analysis of each source, with an overall judgement in the conclusion.

To do well on Section B, candidates need to address the issue in the question, using detailed supporting knowledge. In order to reach the higher levels candidates will need to assess the issues they discuss and reach a supported judgement at least in the conclusion. To reach Level 6 candidates should also make an overall judgement as well as interim judgements when assessing each factor.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • considered the provenance of the source(s) and used relevant contextual knowledge • clearly linked the contextual knowledge to the source being discussed to show whether the view of the source was valid or not • reached an overall judgement as to the extent to which the sources supported the view in the question • in answering the essay question, discussed at least two issues in depth • wrote 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"> • did not consider the provenance and use contextual knowledge to evaluate the sources • wrote an unbalanced answer in their treatment of the sources, with very little consideration of one of the sources • reached a judgement based on their knowledge rather than the sources • showed a poor understanding of the major issues relevant to the essay • were unable to support their answer with relevant material • did not focus on the precise wording of the question • made unsupported comments about issues which were assertions.

Section A overview

The Enquiry section in this unit examines the extent to which the army was responsible for Charles I being brought to trial. The question requires candidates to critically assess evidence and reach judgements. The critical evaluation of sources is the central theme in this section with all marks awarded against AO2.

Question 1

The Execution of Charles I and the Interregnum 1646–1660

- 1 Using these four sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the view that the army was responsible for Charles I being brought to trial. **[30]**

Candidates certainly found the sources accessible and were able to at least explain the sources in relation to the question, although Source C did create a few misunderstandings. Many were able to use contextual knowledge to explain Sources A and B, with some able to apply their knowledge to all four sources. Provenance was also more accessible to most and therefore there was a good range of responses. The ability to handle the provenance of most sources resulted in a significant number of candidates being able to reach a judgement based on provenance.

In discussing Sources A and B many argued that these showed the army was responsible, often using the comments about Charles being a man of blood and therefore giving them little choice. However, others argued that despite this it was the king's fault as he rejected numerous offers, such as the Newcastle Propositions, and even went as far as to ally with the Scots and bring about a second Civil War. The level of detail and support shown by some was impressive, even referencing Charles' correspondence with his wife to support their argument. The provenance was also well-handled with comments about the purpose of Source A and the army justifying their actions just eighteen months after the king's execution and Source B also an attempt by a Republican who had signed the death warrant to justify their actions at a time when a restoration was becoming a possibility.

Source C caused the most difficulties with some candidates not carefully reading beyond the first line which did seem to suggest that the regicides were under the awe of the army, ignoring the phrase 'for excuse' or the second sentence that stated, 'men were left to their free liberty' and therefore setting up a discussion as to whether the army did force parliament to bring him to trial. Many were able to make reference to the army carrying out Prides Purge to argue that despite Hutchinson's comment parliament was under pressure from the army. Discussion of the provenance was, as a result, somewhat confused, as a significant number did not note that Hutchinson was protecting the legacy of her husband and that it might have been necessary to make a defence of him given that it was written in the first decade of Charles II's reign when association with the former king's death could have led to repercussions.

Source D presented fewer challenges and most responses noted that the source placed the role of Ireton at the centre of events. There were candidates who were able to expand on this and explain both his role and the attitudes of both Fairfax and Cromwell, at least at the start of the process. Some also noted that there was not popular support for the trial and execution and went on to comment on the reaction to his death. Some were also able to make some comment about the date of the source and the background of the author.

Exemplar 1

C	H	P	
A			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charles was to blame for CW + deaths Reject "all" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter prayer meeting Army Remonstrance Newcastle, Proposals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After death In Scot - Covenant as CII had sworn in June 	A + B
B			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KC was wrong as was of co much blood No to religion + liberty Revolt in army 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd CW J. W Covenant Republican 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Republicans 59 - Justify to CII. 	A + B
C			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retreated Neither persuaded nor compelled Army - subject to them - fear insolence grow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 135 - John Bradshaw as no one wanted Take blame from soldier + put onto army 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wife PL soldier + request defend him 	
D			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did not blame Pres or city - wanted it - Irton to blame 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pike's purge HOL banned Presbyterian in shock Not all army committed ↳ Fairfax + SOMPs withdrew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was not there consulted 1683 	

Source A and B agree with each other, outlining how the king was responsible for his own trial — not the army. Source D emphasises the role of particular individuals that were responsible — particularly ~~Tricon~~. ~~as oppose to~~ Source D blames the leading figures of the army for the trial of Charles. Source C recalls hesitancy of those involved in trial (similar to source D), but implies those responsible were the fear and insolence of the army.

Or

Source A emphasises how Charles was responsible for his being brought to trial. Source A highlights how Charles was to blame for the Civil war, and how he rejected all proposals — thus being responsible for his own trial. Indeed, Charles had rejected ~~numerous~~ all of his nearly all of proposed peace terms. For example, the Heads of Proposals proposed by the army was rejected by Charles; ~~along with other~~ ~~not~~ Additionally, Charles did ~~as~~ engineer a second Civil war by formally swearing to the covenant after his escape to the Isle of Wight. Thus, there is some truth in this. However, it must be acknowledged that this was written by the New Model Army in Scotland in 1650. June of that same year — Charles II had formally sworn to the Scottish Covenant. Thus, the Provenance can be seen as ~~as~~ presenting a very one sided view of the events leading up to the trial, ~~probably~~ ~~also~~ possibly acting as propaganda to the rising

hostility in Scotland at that time. Additionally, it must be noted that D source A fails to mention the Treaty of Newport - that Charles did agree to and the army rejected - thus evidencing the bias one-sided view source A takes on ~~the~~ the army's culpability. The army are seen to try remove themselves from culpability.

Source B, similar to A, talks of the King thirst for blood - blaming him for his own trial. They blame his stance on religion and liberty as key for this, and mention how there was no other choice than execution (especially ~~in~~ ^{with} rising army revolts - the army had no choice). Indeed, it can be noted that Charles delay was causing divisions within the army and Parliament, thus resulting in his execution. Charles was attempting to exploit this through his delay of response. Examples of growing divisions includes the Levellers, who had some minor popularity with the Rank and File. The Provenance of this source makes it seemingly less biased (like source A). The Republicans ~~stood against~~ like Scot were fundamentally against monarchy, and thus would resolve all blame for chaos onto the monarchy. ~~This can be~~ This is further enhanced by the fact Scot signed the death warrant, and thus would not want to be accused of regicide. Overall source B does not believe the army was responsible for Charles' ~~the~~ trial, but rather Charles himself.

Source D seems to blame Ireton - the leader of the

Parliamentary army for the execution of Charles.

Source D ~~resolves~~ does put some blame on Cromwell (though acknowledges his hesitancy) and puts no blame on the Presbyterians, Charles or the public.

Therefore, Source D is mostly supportive of the view that ~~Charles~~ the army was responsible. ~~with~~

Indeed, it was the army that drove it on. Pride's Purge ~~was~~ (which led to the High Court of Justice being established that was used to trial Charles) was a product of Army dictatorship, led by army leaders like Taton.

~~Thus this Source D uses~~ However, Source D uses

Fairfax's hesitancy to resolve the army of being completely responsible - rather, ~~mostly~~ Source D sees the army as mostly responsible. Indeed, Fairfax ~~did~~ and 50 MP's did remove themselves from the trial.

~~The However~~ ~~the~~ The Provenance of Source D ~~is seen to make~~ it ~~less~~ not wholly convincing provides an explanation for this. It was written in 1683, after the restoration.

This means that it would not present Charles I, or the Presbyterian MP's (who eventually ^{helped} restored Charles II to the English throne) as responsible. Additionally, it ~~is based upon eye-witness accounts and thus~~

Source C ~~presents~~ mentions how many were acting of "free liberty" when choosing to be involved in Charles' trial. Source C puts culpability on the army. ~~Indeed~~, and mentions ~~how~~ the High Court of Justice. Indeed, the High Court of Justice was set up by the Rump following Pride's purge - who

were under the army's instruction. ~~The~~ The
 provenance of this source makes it more useful,
 as it was written ~~to~~ by the wife of a regicide. Thus,
 she had no personal baggage connected to the trial
 (unlike the regicides like Thomas Scot who signed the
 death warrant) and thus would give an unbiased
 view of how army officials acted. She would have
 great knowledge of this considering who her husband
 was. Therefore, Source C presents the army as
 responsible.

The response in Exemplar 1 provides a good example of an answer that reached the top of Level 4, showing good use of both contextual knowledge and provenance to explain the sources. However, despite the high level of knowledge and provenance displayed it did not get into Level 5 as there was no judgement based on the provenance of the sources. This shortcoming has been evident in a number of responses and is something that needs to be worked on by candidates.

Assessment for learning



It would help candidates to reach Level 5 and Level 6 if attention was given to making a judgement on each source based on its provenance.

Section B overview

Candidates are required to answer one essay from a choice of two. Each question is taken from a different Key Topic and requires candidates to weigh up the importance of a range of factors or issues.

Question 2*

The Early Stuarts 1603–1646

2* How successful was James I's foreign policy?

[20]

The most successful responses identified James' aims in foreign policy and then considered the extent to which they were achieved. Most answers were able to make at least some reference to his desire to be 'rex pacificus' and to discuss his desire for the marriage of Charles to a Catholic princess, initially Spanish but then French.

Many argued that his initial policy was a success as the war with Spain was ended in 1604, but some took this further and argued that there were Puritan MPs who did not think England should be making peace with Catholic Spain, even if it brought trade benefits. There was discussion of James' peace-making over both the Julich-Cleves dispute and the Sweden-Denmark wars, which helped James achieve his aims, even if they were not viewed as important by MPs. Many also argued that the marriage of his daughter to the Elector was also a success as it linked England to a Protestant state in central Europe.

In discussing the Spanish match and its failure, most were able to argue that for James this was a failure and the trip by Charles and Buckingham to Madrid a humiliation, even if parliament was pleased to see it fail. However, some believed the Spanish princess was Henrietta Maria, confusing her with his future wife. There were comments about James' failure to support Protestant states in the Thirty Years War, while a significant number of responses ignored developments in the king's latter years and did not comment on the Mansfeld expedition or the disaster in France.

Exemplar 2

How ~~successful~~ was James Foreign Policy. Going by Evans & Early = successful.

Middle = not so successful, end = least successful.

① 1604-1614 Big argument: it deteriorates in success

1604 - treaty of London - ends war with the Spanish, this alleviates some financial problems.

~~#~~ Rex Passivities - James wishes to stay neutral.

1613 - James marries his daughter to son of the P. This established trade and shows support for P.

② HOWEVER:

~~#~~ 1614 - workage scheme fails.

1618 - outbreak of 30 years war, pressure from Parliament.

1619 - Frederick loses land in B. James only sends 6000 troops.

~~#~~ This annoys parliament.

~~#~~ ③ End is the worst by a lot.

① The Spanish match, this makes him super unpopular.

② The Mansfield expedition - This bores Parliament & lot of Money, 60,000 and sets the stage for Charles and B. major expeditions.

James' foreign policy varies in success across his reign. It is clear that the success of James' foreign policy deteriorates over the course of his reign. While his 'Pax Pacifica' role in Europe is refreshing at the start of his rule, Parliament slowly became exasperated by James' inaction and failed plans. ~~Between~~ Between 1603 and 1613 ~~there~~ ^{it is} clear his policy is successful, but in the periods of 1614-21 this becomes strained due to ~~the~~ ^{the} 30 years war. Finally, we can see that 1621-25 was the worst period, setting up for Charles' strained relationship with Parliament ~~in this way~~ ^{in this way}. James' foreign policy begins well but deteriorates. Firstly, it is clear that James is most successful in the beginning of his reign. Inheriting a costly war with Spain (James inherits a £400,000 debt from Elizabeth), ~~James~~ James signed the Treaty of London with Spain ^{in 1604} ~~which~~ which not only alleviated expenses ~~but also~~ and provided opportunity for Spanish trade but also instated his ~~primary~~ intended role as a peacekeeper in Europe. This is also shown in ~~1603~~ 1613 with the Marriage of his daughter Elizabeth to Frederick of the

Palatinate, ~~was~~ ^a protestant. This was successful in that it pleased Parliament after the Gunpowder plot and proved James' catholicism in face of growing Anglicanism at this time.

~~The~~ ~~James~~ ~~also~~ ~~made~~ ~~some~~ ~~progress~~ ~~in~~ ~~his~~ ~~desire~~ ~~for~~ ~~union~~ ~~with~~ ~~Scotland~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~early~~ ~~period~~, ~~which~~ ~~was~~ ~~discussed~~ ~~in~~ ~~Parliament~~ ~~in~~ ~~1606~~, ~~and~~ ~~some~~ ~~recognition~~ ~~of~~ ~~his~~ ~~ambition~~ ~~being~~ ~~recognised~~.

However, it is clear that ~~the~~ ~~middle~~ ~~of~~ James' reign was less successful with regard to foreign policy. For example, the Cockayne scheme in 1604, his initiative to sell the ~~wool~~ ~~unfinished~~ ~~wool~~ ~~falls~~ ~~miserably~~ ~~as~~ ~~they~~ ~~simply~~ ~~buy~~ ~~wool~~ ~~from~~ ~~elsewhere~~. This is unsuccessful as it demonstrated to Parliament James' financial incompetence, as this coincided with crown debt peaking at £22,000 in this same year. ~~Religion~~ ~~emerges~~ ~~more~~ ~~as~~ ~~a~~ ~~foreign~~ ~~policy~~ ~~issue~~ ~~at~~ ~~this~~ ~~time~~, ~~in~~ ~~that~~ ~~after~~ ~~the~~ ~~outbreak~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~30~~ ~~years~~ ~~war~~ ~~in~~ ~~1618~~, it was anticipated that James would send aid to their protestant allies. James, ~~only~~ ~~sends~~ ~~6000~~ ~~troops~~, that

which argues parliament ~~and~~ in contrast to the ~~earlier~~ earlier period. This is demonstrated by James' open anger and lack of aid when Frederick's lands are taken in Bohemia. In this way, when compared to the policies of the earlier period, these are much less successful. This shows the growing problem of James' wish to remain neutral compared to parliaments with no action.

Finally, it is clear that James' foreign policy is the least successful at the end of his reign, laying the groundwork for Charles' strained relationship with Parliament. ~~The~~ The ~~first~~ first failure of this period is the opening of talks with Spain for a marriage between Charles and the Infanta, ~~and~~ the subsequent injurious trip to Spain in 1623. ~~This~~ This not only fails logistically, Buckingham and Charles ~~being~~ ^{being} held in Spain for several months, but also ~~ignites~~ ignites years of Catholicism within Parliament, building on those discussed during 14-21. Hence the deterioration of the success of James' peaceful policy becomes clear, in that this ~~was~~ attempt to balance both protestantism and Catholicism

both fail. Finally, we can see this failure in the Mansfield expedition, in that ~~James~~ ~~was granted~~ his goals miserably, wasting £60,000 lent to him by Parliament. This journey ~~to~~ ~~set~~ Strengthened the view that James cannot be trusted ^{with} ~~money~~ even until the end of his reign, but also sets up the strained foreign policy relations between Charles and his Parliaments. In this way it is clear that this was his least successful period, playing into Parliamentary fears of his Catholic toleration, as well as ~~the~~ their perception that he cannot be trusted with money.

Overall, it is clear that ~~the~~ James was successful in the early period of his reign, but that this deteriorated and ~~that~~ overall his foreign policy was not successful. ~~It is~~ ~~sim~~ Although it is true that his foreign policy at the beginning was a success, ~~at the end~~ it simply ~~is~~ cannot be argued that this is the case between 1614-~~1621~~ or from 1621 until his death ~~by~~ because of the effect ~~it~~ had on his relationship with Parliament and the granting of goals of Catholicism. ~~to~~ ~~this~~ ~~to~~ While it

is all ~~is~~ well and good in memory # that James wished to keep the peace, James faced and increasingly anti-Catholic public who wished to see James as a protestant ally in Europe. James' foreign policy in the later part of his reign, especially with regard to religion and relationship with Parliament is what renders him Unsuccessful overall.

Exemplar 2 is a good example of a response where a range of issues and policies are discussed and there is a developed overall judgement. However, with some developed interim judgements about each issue or event discussed this response could have gone into the top level.

Question 3*

3* How effectively did James I manage the religious problems he faced?

[20]

The most successful responses focused on the issue of effective, while many considered whether his religious policies were a success. Most responses looked at James' response to puritanism, Catholicism and Arminianism, however a number did not cover his whole reign and see the growing difficulties and less effectiveness of his policies at the end of his reign. There were also a number who focused their responses around his foreign policy, where this was linked to religious problems this was given but a number might have been better served attempting Question 2.

Responses were usually aware of the religious issues facing James on his accession and wrote well about the Millenary Petition and the Hampton Court Conference when discussing his effectiveness in dealing with the Puritan problem. Similarly, most were able to make valid points about the Catholic problem, usually referencing the Gunpowder Plot and the consequences. Stronger responses also considered the earlier plots, but most argued James was effective as these were the last Catholic plots. Responses became less strong in discussing issues such as the Book of Sports, the publication of Arminian literature and the promotion of Arminian bishops.

Assessment for learning



Candidates should be aware of the limited popularity of Arminianism.

Assessment for learning



Candidates do need to be encouraged to make sure that they cover the whole period stated in the question.

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