

A LEVEL

Examiners' report

HISTORY A

H505

For first teaching in 2015

Y107/01 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 Y107/01 series overview

Y107 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 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 response 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 response 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 there was resistance and opposition to Mary's religious policies. 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

Mid Tudor Crises 1547–1558

- 1 Using these four sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the view that there was resistance and opposition to Mary's religious policies. **[30]**

The four sources provided a range of views across the period of Mary's rule and the dates of the sources were important in reaching a judgement as to how far each source supported the view in the question. In most responses candidates were able to explain how a source did or did not support the view, with most also being able to provide some supporting contextual knowledge to back up their argument. However, although many responses contained comments about provenance, this was done less well, and candidates often resorted to 'stock' comments about a diary. It might be helpful if candidates considered the purpose of a source or gave attention to the date the source was written as this will often shed valuable light on their value in addressing the question.

Source A, from Parkyn, on the surface largely challenged the view, but there were some responses that gave excessive weight to the comment about married priests. It does appear to show celebration and joy at Mary's accession, but some commented this may have been due to her legitimacy compared to Jane Grey, while others commented on the popular response to her accession with mass being said in various places before it was law. Many commented on the fact it was written at the start of her reign before any policies had been implemented and the most successful responses noted her comments at the start of her reign. There was valuable discussion about Parkyn's beliefs and the fact he was from Yorkshire, a Catholic stronghold and how this might influence his views.

Source B was seen by most as evidence of opposition, but it would have been helpful to comment on the scale of that opposition and nature of the resistance. Once again, a comment on the date would have helped in analysing the source as it came at the time of Wyatt's rebellion and discussions over heresy laws. There was some discussion about the imprisonment of culprits suggesting people were willing to co-operate. Discussion about the author was varied, but those who were able to link Wriothesley to his cousin who was a member of the conservative faction under Edward made the most valuable comments on his likely outlook.

In discussing Source C, most argued that it showed opposition and a willingness to resist. The knowledge deployed was often wide-ranging, commenting on the numbers either burned or who fled, but others commented on the process of arrests and the role of JPs in this, while others noted the timings and suggested the authorities feared protests, as was seen from the London apprentices, while others commented on it being seen as more like entertainment, evidenced by the cherry pickers from Kent. Candidates were usually able to comment on Machyn being a supporter of Mary, but many did not note this was the first of the burnings and how this might impact.

The analysis of Source D was less successful. The date was crucial here as 1557 was four years into Mary's reign and churches still needed repairs to return them to their former Catholic state. Very few were aware of who an archdeacon was and the purpose of a visitation.

Exemplar 1

Source A ostensibly suggests that there was not ~~was~~ significant resistance and opposition to Mary's religious policies, instead it indicates there was widespread support for the ~~counter-~~ reformation under Mary. Indeed, the source notes that 'every one in all places of the north part greatly rejoiced' at ~~her~~ Mary's arrival to the throne. Indeed, this was also the case even in the more traditionally protestant London with large crowds turning out on the 3rd August as she rode into London, indicating widespread support rather than opposition to her religious policies. The source also notes that 'mass was sung or said in Latin' quickly after Mary's ~~accession~~ accession. Indeed, this was the case for example on the 23rd August 1553 St Nicholas Cole Abbey in London held a sung mass and in Latin and this was followed by 6 other churches in London alone that day, by no means indicating opposition to Mary's religious policies. However, we should not take the source at face value

since it was produced by a Yorkshire priest. Indeed he would have had a view of the popularity of Marian reform that was unreflective of the broader national popularity of the reformer since the north was an outlier in regards to its high levels of support for Catholicism. Indeed, Edward's and Henry's reformation had barely reached many areas of the north so Catholicism remained strong. ~~Even~~ Indeed, in parts of the south there were higher levels of opposition with people dipping handkerchiefs in the blood of protestant martyrs in areas of the southeast. Overall source A's opposition to the view that Mary's religious policies were resisted is of only somewhat value owing to the parochial understanding of the popularity of Catholicism by the source's author.

Source B ostensibly supports the view that there was resistance to Marian religious policies. Indeed, the source describes how a

dead cat was hanged on the post by the galleys, dressed in cloth like the vestment of a priest at mass. ~~suggesting that~~ this and when to bishop Bonner's ~~seemingly~~ to voice the ~~& did~~ discontent at the reintroduction of Catholic practices, like the use of vestments. Indeed it was the case that there was resistance to Marian reform - indeed 300 clergy were deprived of ~~their~~ on account of a failure to return to Catholic practices. ~~However the source's example of~~ ~~an~~ ~~in~~ ~~town~~ ~~never~~ the example cited in the source should not be taken as evidence of widespread resistance to a return to Catholicism. In fact ~~the~~ church records indicate that ordinary people made ~~the~~ sizeable contributions for the restoration of ~~the~~ local churches without being compelled to ~~suggesting~~ the reforms were in fact popular. ~~However,~~ ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~source~~ ~~is~~ Further the fact that the source is an account of an eyewitness in London ~~further~~ weakens its value

because London was not of
 London's trading links to northern
 Europe there was a substantial
 protestant presence in the city that
 was not representative of the
 country more widely, therefore
 the source necessarily exaggerates
 the level of opposition. However
 the source's ~~value~~^{value} is somewhat
 strengthened because of the fact
 it was produced by a cousin of
 Thomas Wriathley, a leading
 Catholic, therefore the fact that
 the author even admits there was
 an instance of opposition
 is surprising ~~and~~ and atypical
 of what one would expect of a
 Catholic and therefore potentially
 valuable. Overall however
 source B's support of the view
 in question is of limited value.

Source C ostensibly suggests that
 there was opposition to Marian
 religious reforms. Indeed, the
 source notes that ~~Edward~~ & master
 Cooper and Saunders were
 sent away to be burned. It was
 the case that many ~~sources~~ conducted

burnings of those resistant to Catholicism around the country to serve as a warning to other protestants, suggesting there was opposition. Indeed for example, in March 1555 bishops Ridley and Latimer were burnt in Oxford and in October 1556 bishop Cranmer was burnt at the stake, as he was burnt he recanted Catholicism and plunged and plunged the hand he had signed his recantation of Catholicism into the fire first (*). However, the source in fact contains some inaccuracies indicating it of limited value - for example it states 'Rogers' was a 'sometime vicar of St Pauls' in fact John Rogers was a biblical translator and not a member of the clergy. ~~We should note~~ The source is however strengthened on account of the fact it was produced by someone who 'welcomed Mary's intentions to restore Catholicism' we would typically expect a Catholic to evade the reality of protestant opposition, the fact he does record it makes an appeal for the source is of some value. What's more the source

is a 'diary' so the author would have had nothing to gain from evading the truth as to Marian opposition levels, suggesting the source is of some value. However the fact the source records there were ~~celebrations~~ 'burialists' does not indicate opposition was in fact widespread or serious, in fact many suppressed the 'burnings' with heat, many picked viewing it as an opportunity to sell their harvests. Overall the opposition of source to the view there was opposition is only of limited value.

Source D suggests there was not opposition to Marian religious policies. Indeed, the source notes that 'front cloth for the altar' and 'a canopy and veil' were restored to the Church of Goodnestone, this reintroduction of Catholic ceremonial items suggests there was in fact

(*) what's more, as a whole 283 people were burnt over her reign.

support for Mary's refo^{Counter-}rmation. Indeed, this was the case with chalices (a Catholic item ceremonial item) appearing at Oxford in ~~October~~ ^{Angoulet} 1553. ~~What~~ the source notes that at another church there was repair of the glass windows of the church suggesting a return of Catholic stained glass windows. Indeed, it was the case that there was the active rebuilding of Catholic aspects of churches, indeed going beyond just repair of churches monasteries were also restored ^{for example} after the January 1555 monastery commission with St Benedictine House in Westminster was restored. That the source is from a visitation of "the diocese of Canterbury" adds to the source's value as we would expect that in such a Protestant stronghold the restoration of Catholic churches would have proceeded at a perhaps slower pace, the fact that even in Canterbury such a restoration was happening indicates that there was in fact limited opposition to repairs even in Protestant strongholds.

~~Also, the fact that the source is~~
~~a list of the physical modifications~~
~~to the churches~~ We should note that
although the source indicates that
this restoration was done at the
"orders" of officials we know
that in fact much church restoration
was done without such orders
with for example Altars and
crosses appearing at 7 London
Churches in August 1553 prior to
proclamations. Overall the source's
opposition to the view in question
is highly helpful.

~~As a set of four sources~~ ~~the~~
~~it seems~~ when considered
as a set of four sources it
~~seems that~~ the four sources
oppose the view that there
was opposition and resistance
to Marian religious reform.
Indeed, the two most valuable
sources A and B oppose the
view there was resistance and
give us a picture of the levels
of Catholic support across the
country. Sources B and C
support the view in question

but one of limited value.

Exemplar 1 provides a good illustration of a script that reached the top of Level 5. There is an overall judgement about how the provenance of the sources impacts on reaching an overall view, but to reach Level 6 there would need to be interim judgements about individual sources.

Assessment for learning



To achieve the higher levels candidates must evaluate the four sources using context and provenance and reach a judgement on the reliability of the sources. Exemplar 1 shows a judgement on the sources that reached Level 5 with the candidate evaluating the provenance here.

Assessment for learning



In some instances candidates will need to pay close attention to the date of the source and place it in the context of what is happening at the time.

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*

Elizabethan England

2* How serious were the problems facing Catholics in the period from 1558 to 1589? **[20]**

This was the less popular question. Some candidates who attempted the question did not focus on its demands and instead wrote about how serious a threat were the Catholics to Elizabeth, whereas some struggled to manipulate their knowledge to the actual question.

The question is taken directly from the specification which notes 'the problems facing the Catholics 1558-1589.' That said, there were a number of good responses that covered the whole period. These responses considered issues such as the impact of Elizabeth's religious settlement on Catholics, the support or lack of it from overseas, the challenges presented by the arrival of Mary, Queen of Scots, and how it impacted the position of Catholics, a discussion of fines and the arrival of seminary priests and Jesuits.

Exemplar 2

There were various problems facing the Catholic population in England, deriving from external influences, internal divisions and ultimately the nature of Elizabeth's rigid religious settlement. Whilst the settlement's legitimacy depreciated over the first ten years of the reign, providing increased flexibility for Catholic worship, the external support for the Catholic cause faded in the final years of the reign. Ultimately, the problems facing the Catholics intensified throughout the period from 1558 to 1589.

The first issue which inhibited the Catholic cause was inevitably the nature of the religious settlement. An Anglican monarch, the Act of Supremacy of 1558 terminated links with the Vatican and re-established state authority over the Church, subverting Catholic reform implemented under the Marian regime. Aspects of the settlement which proved unfavourable to Catholics, despite it intending to be a 'via media', were decidedly inflexible, as shown by the refusal of Elizabeth to make any alterations to the settlement despite influences from the Puritan Choir and William Strickland.* Measures intensified throughout the reign, for example the Three Articles under Whitgift which reaffirmed the 39 Articles, ~~under~~ Crown Supremacy and Book of Common Prayer, which made it increasingly difficult for Catholic worship to remain as even establish greater influence in the Church of England.

* moderate and radical Catholics became polarised by the deliberately vague settlement, weakening the overall strength of the group.

However, the rigid nature of the settlement did not inhibit Catholic influence as much as can be expected. The exclusion of Catholic nobles from power, such as Westmoreland and Northumberland, actually provided the means for the Rebellion of the Northern Earls to take place in 1569: an uprising which proved instrumental in the long term, securing the Ridolfi Plot alongside Papal excommunication. Such established the English Catholics as a legitimate area of attention for the Papacy, whose uniting with Philip II in the Ridolfi Plot provided the foundation for Catholic influence to amplify and manifest itself in the Throckmorton and Babington Plot of the 1580s. Moreover, the settlement by nature was not as vehemently anti-Catholic as it could have potentially been, as elements of Catholic worship still remained, for example vestments. Thus, whilst the settlement may have acted as a barrier to the previous freedom of Catholic worship under Mary I, its long term benefits allowed the increase in power of the English Catholics.

Another problem which plagued the demography during this period was the external forces, and subsequent implications on internal cohesion. The attempt at conciliation with the French via the Treaty of Blois indicated a move towards Anglican Protestant and Huguenot unity, as well as hostility towards Spain. The deterioration of Anglo-Spanish relations, jointly via the refusal of Elizabeth to wed

Philip, and via the 1584 Treaty of Joinville, eliminated the chances of an Anglo Spanish alliance and the possible restoration of Catholicism. Attempts at increasing Papal influence via the influx of seminary Jesuits and priests from Douai, of which 100 arrived between 1575 and 1580, were met with extremely harsh policies. The 1572 Treason Act, as well as the 1585 Act against Jesuits, intensified persecution of English Catholics and magnified the seriousness of their problems. Visions of a Spanish invasion to reconvert the faith were eradicated by the failure of the 1588 Armada which, alongside the divisions ~~on~~ between secular and Jesuit priests during the significantly weakened the power of the Catholics alongside increased persecution and more frequent enforcement of state loyalty measures such as the Three Articles. Therefore, whilst attempts to establish Catholic autocracy seemed relentlessly persevering, via the successive plots against Elizabeth, the acknowledgement of the practical threat posed by Catholics instigated legislation which stifled any influence they had retained.

~~To conclude~~, To conclude, the English Catholics faced detrimental issues which intensified ~~from~~ throughout Elizabeth's reign. The settlement both directly and indirectly posed problems to the Catholics - forming the adoption of various implicitly Protestant doctrines, yet also corrupting the cohesion of the Catholics by

polansing the radical and moderate groups in terms of opinion. Declining overseas support for the Catholic cause as a result of Elizabeth's hardline policy towards the Jesuits, added to relentless failures of Catholic plots against Elizabeth, rendered the idea of overseas intervention in the name of the Catholic cause virtually impossible. Despite displays of Catholic fortitude against Elizabethan policies, for example the Seminary priests, or the Rebellion of the Northern Earls, which did indeed boost the legitimacy of the Catholic threat and magnify their influence, the issues facing the Catholics far outweighed any ability to overcome these out of defence of the Catholic faith.

The response in Exemplar 2 provides a list of problems facing Catholics within England but does, in the conclusion, reach a supported judgement as to how serious the problems were and therefore goes into Level 5.

Question 3*

3* How serious were the economic and social problems that Elizabeth I faced in the period from 1588 to 1603? [20]

This was the more popular question and drew a wide range of responses. Unfortunately, there were many candidates who did not understand the key concepts of social and economic and instead wrote about any of the problems facing Elizabeth.

As with the other essay question, this topic is taken directly from the specification and is developed in it with issues such as: harvests, rising prices, local unrest, food riots, the Oxfordshire rising. Candidates could also bring in their knowledge of poverty from Key Topic 3, as was seen in many responses. Where responses focused heavily on issues such as war and monopolies, they needed to link their material to economic problems and avoid drift into finance. There were many who did drift into the financial issues and therefore provided only a partial response. However, those that focused on the demands of the question were able to explain a good range of issues and explain them, with some detailed comments about inflation, population rise and its impact on the population structure. Responses often provided detailed knowledge about a range of food riots and the scale of the unrest. Despite explaining the problems, however, some did not go on to analyse 'how serious' and reach a supported judgement.

Misconception



Candidates at A Level do need to distinguish between economic and financial issues.

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