

A LEVEL

Examiners' report

HISTORY A

H505

For first teaching in 2015

Y105/01 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 Y105/01 series overview

Y105 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 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 Richard, Duke of York, had ambitions for the crown. 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

Wars of the Roses 1445–1461

- 1 Using these four sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the view that the early actions of Richard, Duke of York during the years 1450 to 1455 clearly demonstrate his ambition for the crown. [30]

Most candidates were able to access the four sources and use them to explain the extent to which they either supported or challenged the view in the question. The explanation was generally sound, although there was some confusion on Sources A and D. Responses were usually able to apply contextual knowledge to the sources, but often provenance was much weaker and consisted of limited comments about Chroniclers. Responses that considered both to a reasonable level reached Level 4, but where they were limited, they were placed in Level 3. In order to reach Level 5 and above there needed to be a judgement based on the provenance of the source.

Source A, although on the surface straightforward, presented some challenges as a number of responses thought that Cade's rebels wanted York to be king and did not take notice of this being a result of the 'false lies' from Henry's favourites. In applying contextual knowledge many were able to comment on the rebellion, the removal of York from high office and the losses of land in France. However, much focus was on York remaining in Ireland during the rebellion, suggesting he was loyal. In discussing the provenance of the source there were comments about the purpose of the source.

In discussing Source B, comments about Richard arriving with 3000 armed men and with his sword borne before him were made and there was discussion as to the implications of this, with many suggesting that this show of force did imply he wanted the crown. However, very few commented on the tone of the source and the last sentence which showed some sympathy towards Henry. In terms of applying contextual knowledge, comments were made about the relationship between York, Warwick and Somerset in 1450, while others went on to comment about York's consistent claim of loyalty.

In considering Source C, a number neglected to comment on York being seen as a traitor, instead focusing on the earlier part of the source. However, even when comments were made, they often attributed the comments to the king himself rather than on his behalf. Most responses applied some contextual knowledge, either looking back to the professions of loyalty or York's government during the protectorate. Comments about the provenance were often limited to the likely purpose, but here speculation was not helpful, while stronger answers tried to place the source in the context of relations with Burgundy.

Source D saw the greatest range of responses, with the least successful dismissing it as written outside the time period, while more successful responses suggested why this might be true only of the period after 1455 and made reference to the parliament of Devils and York's treatment at the hands of Margaret and the effect of the attainder on him. This was then used to argue that York's ambitions changed as a result. Candidates often struggled with the date of the source, uncertain when it was written.

Exemplar 1

1.	<p>Overall, the sources do not support the view that from 1450 to 1455 the Duke of York had ambitions for the throne. Only source C supports the view, describing that the King had no traitors to be removed, York rising against the crown. Source B on the other hand provides the strongest support against the view, realising the Yorkist march on ^{London} at Bedford was caused by William Oldhall sought to remove Somerset rather than take the crown.</p>
	<p>Source C provides the only support for the view that York had ambition for the crown in between 1450 to 1455, describing the King replying to York that the crown "did not have any traitors near him but the duke of York himself." Whilst this is somewhat accurate, given the 1455 Battle of St. Albans, in which Yorkist forces captured the King, the King was not taken off the throne. Rather, Somerset and Northumberland were executed, enemies of the Yorkist faction. As such, the source's accuracy is weak in weakens the strength of the source's support. However, the source is somewhat strengthened by its provenance, given that it was contemporary, being written at the time of the Battle, however, not only this, it is foreign, meaning it is more likely to have an impartial view on</p>

		<p>domestic politics in England. However, it is likely have to have been written by a Burgundian member of Henry VI's court, and as such influenced towards their cause. As such, the source provides weakened, but the only support for the view that York intended to seize the throne from 1455-1460 in 1455 at St. Albans.</p>
		<p>The Source ^{Source D} version provides the weakest support against the view that Richard did not intend to seize the throne before 1455, describing that in 1460, York declared "no person more in this realm more deserving of that title than I", seemingly suggesting York always intended on seizing the throne. However, this only occurred as a result of the drastic actions of Margaret of Anjou at the 1459 Parliament of Devils, in which the Yorkist York and Warwick were stripped of their lands and titles, having fled Ludford Bridge in 1459. It was only after Warwick's return and victory at Northampton which reversed the drastic Parliament of Devils and brought the Act of Accord, disinheriting Henry VI for Richard of York. As such the source realises it was only after the seizure of York's land in 1459 which lead to him claiming the throne in 1460, so providing weak support against the view. As The source's strength is further weakened by its provenance, given that it was written in 1465 under the pro-Yorkist rule of Edward IV, likely</p>

biased in explaining York's actions as being forced by Margaret of Anjou. Not only this, Walthamstead was based in the south of England, a Yorkist stronghold, and thus likely supportive of the actions of Richard of York in claiming the throne overall. Therefore the source's pro-ancestry weakens its support against the claim that Richard of York intended to seize the crown in 1455, only becoming ambitious after the Parliament of Devils in 1459.

~~The~~ Source A provides the second strongest support against the view that Richard, Duke of York did intend on seizing the crown between 1450-55, given that it describes "the King and sovereign lord" and the impeachment of Gloucester in 1447. Whilst fact this is largely accurate, given that Cade's Revolt demanded the removal of Somerset and after his failure in France at Formigny in 1450 and as such, raided his house in London. Not only this, they mention how Gloucester was falsely accused of treason after accusing Somerset and Suffolk of failing sneakily handing over Maine in the 1444 Treaty of Tours. As such, they seem to ask for a removal of Somerset and the King's false advisers. However, the leader rebel leader was dubbed Jack Mortimer, a reference to Henry IV's usurpation of Richard II and the rightful heir being York, weakening the strength of the source, suggesting York had ambitions for the throne.

by 1450. Certainly, the source's provenance is strong in its contemporary nature, however, it was a piece of rebel propaganda, and would not discuss treason or regicide or face losing all support. As a result, the provenance of the source certainly weakens the strength of the source and their naming of Jack Mortimer further weakens the strength of the source. As such, source A provides the second strongest support against the view that York intended to seize the throne by force from 1450 to 55.

~~The~~ Source B provides the strongest support against the view that Richard did not intend on becoming King, from 1450 to 55, describing York going before "the Parliament and King" and "assaulting the Duke of Somerset's house". This is certainly accurate as York wished to clear his name after the Duke's Rebellion in 1450 had named him as ~~an~~ implicated him into the rebellion, ^{meeting} swearing before the King. Not only this, the despoiling of just Somerset's house further shows his actions against Somerset at this point. Somerset had attacked at Fougères in 1449 and lost York's estates in Normandy as a result of his military incapability. As such, the attack on his house indicates the lack of ambition York had for the throne up to this point. Furthermore, the source is strengthened by its

		<p>provenance, being written by Bale a first-hand witness to events in London as a lawyer and resident. Not only this, it was written before 1461 and Edward IV's rule and as such is unlikely to be biased to the Yorkists, as such, providing very strong support against the view. Overall, therefore providing very strong support against the view that York had ambitions for the throne before 1455. between 1450-55.</p>
		<p>Overall, the sources do not support the view that York had ambitions for the crown between 1450 and 1455, rather suggesting it was only the Parliament of Devils which changed his course of action. Source C provides the only but weak support for the view given that Somerset was effectively a traitor and the author an lively member of the King's court. Source B provides the strongest support against the view given its eye-witness accounts of events in London and its lack of bias, being written before 1461. As a result, the sources do provide and do not support the view that Richard of York had ambitions for the throne from 1450 to 1455.</p>

Exemplar 1 is a good example of a candidate who is able use contextual knowledge and discuss the provenance of the sources. However, this moves into Level 5 as the conclusion reaches a judgement based on the provenance of the sources. It is placed at the top of the level as it is developed and the support in the main body of the response has been strong.

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. This exemplar shows a judgement on the sources that reached Level 5 with the candidate evaluating the provenance here.

Misconception



Candidates did not realise that in Source A the rebels are saying that the king's enemies are claiming York should be king and not the rebels.

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*

England 1461–1509

- 2* 'Edward IV failed to establish a successful relationship with the nobility during his first rule and the crisis of 1470 to 1471.' How far do you agree? [20]

Most responses were able to explain some of the issues that faced Edward in terms of his relationship with the nobility, often commenting on his relationship with Warwick and/or Clarence, the Woodville marriage and his policy of reconciliation with the Lancastrians. The more successful responses developed this to consider how important these were in the period 1470-1, with some arguing that they led to his downfall, while others suggested that by 1471 the issues had largely been resolved and therefore he had been able to establish a successful relationship. The more successful responses also displayed a range of examples, referring to specific nobles such as Herbert or events at Dunstanburgh, while others commented on issues such as retaining, and Edward's legislation.

Question 3*

- 3* 'Edward IV was responsible for the failure of the Yorkist dynasty during the period from 1471 to 1485'. How far do you agree? [20]

This question drew a variety of responses, with a number not going beyond the issue of Edward's responsibility. The most successful responses did consider the reign of Richard and the actions of Henry Tudor in order to assess who was responsible, as can be seen in Exemplar 2 below. Responses that discussed only Edward were providing only a partial answer, even if they argued he was to blame. In discussing Edward's role some did look back to the period before 1471, when a focus on events after would have been stronger as made clear in the question itself.

Exemplar 2

3.	<p>The failure of the Yorkist dynasty by 1485 was the result of a culmination of reasons, these reasons are the actions of Edward IV from 1471 to 1483, the actions of Richard III from 1483 to 1485 and Henry VII's actions which lead to the overthrow and end of the Yorkist dynasty at Bosworth. Overall, it was the failures of Richard III which lead to failure of the Yorkist dynasty from 1471 to 1485.</p>
	<p>Edward IV was partially responsible for the failings of the Yorkist dynasty by 1485. For instance, his 1464 marriage continued throughout the period of his second reign, which created an over-mighty Woodville faction despised by many former Yorkists. Not only this, Edward IV failed in terms of his foreign policy, for example in his 1474 treaty of London with Burgundy which required £100,000 for an unpopular invasion of France in 1475. The invasion was stopped by the 1475 Treaty of Picquigny, giving Edward IV a lump sum pay of £200,000 and £50,000 in pension, as such somewhat of a success, in demonstrating the power of the Yorkist Dynasty. However, the treaty of Arras in 1482 sided Burgundy and France and reneged the Treaty of Picquigny. As a As a result of Not only this, Edward IV had continued to make over-mighty nobles such as Gloucester and Clarence, both of which could</p>

seize the throne during his reign, Gloucester made
~~the~~ leader of the North for instance. As a
 result, on upon Edward IV's early death in 1483,
 he left a child a king, an over powerful brother,
 Richard of Gloucester and a weak England in
 regards to foreign relations. As such, Edward IV's
 failed marriage and ~~poor~~ foreign relations allowed Richard
 to seize power further endangering the Yorkist
 dynasty. * ^{Add in motto} However, Edward IV should not have
 known Richard III would act as he did after
 his death and as such, Edward IV is only
 partially responsible for the Yorkist loss at Bosworth
 in 1485, but put the dynasty in a weak
 position and as such has some responsibility in the failure of
 the dynasty.

Richard III had the greatest impact upon the failure
 of the Yorkist dynasty in 1485, being personally
 responsible for failure at the Battle of Bosworth, in
 his rash cavalry charge. Not only this, Richard III's
 ruthless and greedy seizure of power had
 isolated ~~the~~ Yorkists such as Thomas Grey from
 his cause, joining Henry Tudor in Brittany. Richard
 removed Percy of Northumberland from leader of the council
 of the North and supported Harrington in ~~his~~ his
 bad dispute with Stanley, as such losing
 a ~~PA~~ a combined 12,000 troops at Bosworth
 turning the battle. In regard to securing the
 Yorkist dynasty through ^{family} marriage, Richard III also
 failed, given his murders of the rightful

heirs of Edward V and his failure to marry Joanna of Portugal to establish a ^{form} legitimate Tudor Dynasty, ^{after the marriage fell through.} Whilst it can be argued Richard III acted on the interest of the dynasty, given the failings of child Kings such as Richard II and Henry VI, the ruthlessness he went about killing his legitimate nephews suggest otherwise and destroyed the Yorkist dynasty. As a result, Richard III ~~is~~ was to the largest extent responsible for the failings of the Yorkist dynasty in 1485, ~~is~~ by removing legitimate Yorkist heirs, isolating ~~his~~ support for the Yorkist cause through his ^{shocking} ~~ruthless~~ ^{despotic} actions, and by failing to attain a foreign marriage which would bring a legitimacy to his rule and foreign military aid. Therefore Richard III was responsible ^{to a great extent} for the failings of the Tudor Dynasty.

Henry VII's actions were ^{only} ~~very~~ ^{somewhat} responsible for the failure of the Yorkist dynasty in 1485, given his invasion in 1485 and defeat of the Yorkist ~~by~~ Richard III at Bosworth. This is partly due to his pledge to marry Elizabeth of York in 1483, gaining support amongst Lancastrians such as Thomas Grey, who joined him in Poitiers and support from Buckingham who declared for Henry VII in his October 1483 Rebellion. Not only this, Henry was able to get French support for his invasion in 1485, ~~by~~ giving him around 20 ships and

2000 men. He also gained support for Rhys ap Thomas providing 800 Welshmen for the Battle of Bosworth. ^{*And gained support from Oxford, leading his vanguard.} Whilst Henry VII made many actions gaining support, he would not have gained the support he did after landing from Stanley and Northumberland's betrayal had he not Richard III not acted so rashly ~~decide~~ in seizing power and alienated support throughout his reign. Not only this, Richard III abandoned his strategic and numerical advantage as he fell at Bosworth, the battle lost to Richard III's errors rather than Henry VII's support. As a result, Henry VII's success in ending the Tudor dynasty in 1485 is limited in its extent to his actions alone, but he was enabled by the mismanagement by Richard III during his rule.

In conclusion Edward IV was only partly responsible for the failure of the Yorkist dynasty in 1485, he had left England with a risky child king and a poor place in regards to an international dynasty, marrying for love and losing support in France and Burgundy. However, it was Richard III who took advantage of his weakened England for his own benefit, thus ~~was~~ destroying the legitimacy and support for the Tudor dynasty over the course of his brief reign. Whilst Henry VII was responsible for finally ending the dynasty at Bosworth, this was a result of Richard III's mismanagement of noble support and mistakes at Bosworth. As such, Edward IV is only partly responsible

		for the failure of the Yorkist Dynasty in 1485 during his second reign; it was Richard III's great who must take the brunt of the blame for the failure of the Yorkist dynasty owing to his mistakes and the failure occurring under his rule. Therefore I disagree with the statement, Edward IV played a minor role in the failure of the Yorkist Dynasty.
		* whilst this might be the case, Edward IV was able to get out of Henry VI's £350,000 of debt by the end of his reign, leaving England in a relatively stable position.

Exemplar 2 is a good example where there are judgements about each issue discussed, in this instance Edward, Richard and Henry Tudor, before reaching an overall judgement, which is why it is placed in Level 6.

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