



AS
History

7041/1C

Report on the Examination

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7041/1C

The overall number of students for 1C fell, from 406 in 2023 to 312 this year. The statistical outcomes suggest that students found this paper less accessible than the previous year's paper; the mean mark as a percentage of the maximum mark fell from 58.73 to 53.2. The difficulty experienced by students was most evident in the response to 01, but the responses to 02, the most popular of the two essay questions, went some way to lessen the impact on the overall outcomes

01

Students did find the breadth question on the reasons for the dissolution of the monasteries more difficult to access than the 01 question on last year's paper which was on the early years in the reign of Henry VIII. The main obstacle to understanding seemed to lie within the links made in both extracts between the reasons for Wolsey's limited dissolution and the large-scale dissolutions undertaken in the 1530s.

A significant problem underpinning students' responses was frequently to approach the extracts line by line, rather than reading the whole extract before starting to write and dealing with the overall argument

Extract A: This, firstly made the distinction between the reason for Wolsey's dissolutions, being to increase his personal status and those of Cromwell, who had worked with Wolsey, dissolving the monasteries for financial gain. This distinction was evident in some, but by no means in all the responses. Many students were acquainted with Wolsey's foundation of an Oxford College* and Ipswich School. However, a significant number mis-read the second line '...The Cardinal would never have robbed the Church in the interests of the State...' to 'agree' with the Extract and to argue that is exactly what he did, and then wrote extensively about Wolsey's greed, attempts to raise money to enable Henry to fight the French and the Amicable Grant. The financial benefits to Henry VIII and Cromwell of the dissolution were better known, the final sentence about the spiritual failings of the monks being only picked up in face of opposition, was not often addressed.

- Noted in Extract B

Extract B: This made the distinction between Wolsey's attempt to use the money from the dissolution to support the quality of learning in the monasteries and Henry VIII's dissolution as an attack on the monasteries themselves. Henry VIII sought to destroy practices promoted by the monasteries, and 'wiped out' the monasteries to challenge the continuing influence of the Papacy. Many students were able to link the dissolution to Henry's break with Rome, the reports from Cromwell's visitors and the 1536 Injunctions. There was far less on Wolsey's motives, which were ignored by many.

There were some reasonable comparisons made as to which was the most convincing extract. Most selected Extract A as it was mainly about finance.

02

This was by far the most popular of the two essay questions. It was attempted by 288 of the 312 students. The mean mark as a percentage of the maximum mark was 57.5, which was only slightly lower than that achieved for 03 on the 2023 paper.

The challenge of the pretenders is particularly well known. The lengthy challenge of Perkin Warbeck was analysed for its impact on the security of Henry VII on a number of different levels: links with foreign powers, especially Margaret of Burgundy and Scotland; the difficulty in disproving his challenge, and the support given by Stanley. There was a worrying confusion with Simnel, in believing that Warbeck had been crowned King in Ireland. The comparison with the threat posed by Simnel was generally well done, although Simnel's challenge culminating in the Battle of Stoke field was often dismissed as 'easily' overcome. The other challenges to the security of Henry VII were discussed, especially the rebellions. There is still some geographical confusion as to where Yorkshire is, more significantly there is a confusion as to what Warbeck's relationship with the Cornish rebellion actually was. The military threat of Blackheath was often underplayed, and few picked up that the inability to raise taxes was a serious threat to Henry's security. Henry's awareness of the potential threat presented by the nobility was also considered.

There were some students who used this question to write what was essentially a foreign policy essay. The threat from foreign powers was clearly an issue for Henry VII, but this was not the main focus of the question.

03

This question was attempted by 24 students. It was not well done. The mean as a percentage of the maximum mark was 32.3 for this question.

The main issue which affected student response concerned which were 'the first twenty years of the sixteenth century'. For many of the 24 students this went up to 1529 and beyond, this enabled a discussion of the Great matter and the steps taken to break with Rome. The better responses examined anti-clericalism with some knowledge of simony, pluralism and the Hunne case. Some also included material on Erasmus as a criticism of the Church. There seemed to be limited knowledge of the acceptance of the Church at parish level and the extent of support from within the establishment.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.