



GCE AS/A Level

2100U50-1 – **NEW AS**



HISTORY – Unit 2

DEPTH STUDY 5

Religious Reformation in Europe c. 1500-1564

**Part 1: The Outbreak and Spread of the Reformation in
Germany c. 1500-1531**

P.M. WEDNESDAY, 25 May 2016

1 hour 45 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **both** questions.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in square brackets at the end of each question.

You are advised to spend around 50 minutes on answering each question.

The sources and extracts used in this unit may have been amended or adapted from the stated published work in order to make the wording more accessible.

UNIT 2

DEPTH STUDY 5

Religious Reformation in Europe c. 1500-1564

Part 1: The Outbreak and Spread of the Reformation in Germany c. 1500-1531

Answer **both** questions.

QUESTION 1

Study the sources below and answer the question that follows.

Source A

You should know that all who confess and in penance put alms into the coffer according to the counsel of the confessor, will achieve complete remission of all their sins. Why are you standing there? Run for the salvation of your souls!

Don't you hear the wailing of your dead parents and others who say "Have mercy upon me, have mercy upon me, because we are in severe punishment and pain"? From this you could redeem them with a small alms and yet you do not want to do so. "Open your ears" as the father says to the son and the mother to the daughter. "We have created you, fed you, cared for you, and left you our temporal goods. Why then are you so cruel and harsh that you do not want to save us, though it only takes so little? You let us lie in flames so that we only slowly come to the promised glory."

[Johannes Tetzel, speaking in a public sermon in Germany (1516)]

Source B

I must deny that there are seven sacraments, and for the present maintain that there are but three and they are baptism, penance and the bread. All three have been subjected to a miserable captivity by the Roman curia, and the Church has been robbed of all her liberty.

The sacrament does not belong to the priest but to all men. The priests are not lords but servants in duty bound to administer to all who desire these sacraments. The abuse by the Church that the mass is a good work and a sacrifice is wrong. The mass or Sacrament at the Altar is Christ's testament, which he left behind at his death to be distributed among his believers.

[Martin Luther, writing in his critical tract, *The Babylonian Captivity of the Church* (1520)]

Source C



[A woodcut by Lucas Cranach the Elder, a supporter of Luther, which illustrates the Pope counting Church taxes (c. 1522)]

With reference to the sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the outbreak of the Reformation in Germany by the early 1520s. [30]

QUESTION 2

Study the extracts below and answer the question that follows.

Interpretation 1

The sixteenth century seems an age of truly dramatic change. Traditional and established ways of men's thoughts about themselves and the universe were giving way to new and different concepts of heaven and earth. The quarrels of the Reformation about the proper standards of religious knowledge seemed to stir up matters which hitherto had been accepted without much question. The first large scale use of the printing press extended the circle of those who had become involved in discussions which challenged old traditions and spread their ideas throughout Europe. The invention of printing had led to an increased availability of the Scriptures to European laymen who were now able to read and interpret the Bible themselves. The claim of the Church to act as the indispensable intermediary between God and man was critically undermined in a way that would have been impossible before the printing press was invented by Gutenberg.

[H.G. Koenigsberger, George L. Mosse and G.Q. Bowler, academic historians, writing in a general history of Europe, *Europe in the Sixteenth Century* (1989)]

Interpretation 2

The printing press was merely an available invention making possible a more rapid dissemination of the message of reformers. It is hard to imagine the Reformation growing without printed propaganda. However, this does not mean that the availability of printing was crucial in the spread of the Reformation. The press existed for some sixty years before the protests of Luther and his allies. It was by no means obvious that easier communication of texts would favour dissenters. For the Reformation to achieve its aims through printing, its authors had to have something dramatic to say to a wider public, to say it much more persuasively than their opponents, and to evade or subvert official censorship. Printing was an important catalyst, but not of itself a main reason for the dissemination of the Reformation.

[Euan Cameron, an academic historian, specialising in sixteenth century European history writing in *The European Reformation* (1991)]

Historians have made different interpretations about the reasons for the spread of the Reformation in Germany. Analyse, evaluate and use the two extracts above and your understanding of the historical debate to answer the following question:

How valid is the view that the use of the printing press was the main reason for the spread of the Reformation in Germany? [30]

END OF PAPER