



GCE AS/A LEVEL

2100U10-1



S18-2100U10-1

HISTORY – AS unit 2

DEPTH STUDY 1

The mid-Tudor crisis in Wales and England c. 1529-1570

Part 1: Problems, Threats and Challenges c. 1529-1553

TUESDAY, 22 MAY 2018 – AFTERNOON

1 hour 45 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

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 1****The mid-Tudor crisis in Wales and England c. 1529-1570****Part 1: Problems, Threats and Challenges c. 1529-1553**

Answer both questions.

QUESTION 1

Study the sources below and answer the question that follows.

Source A

Mistress Boleyn was much offended with the King because he had invited the Lord Cardinal Wolsey to dinner. As she sat with the King in conversation she said to him "Sir, is it not a marvellous thing to consider what debt and danger the Cardinal has brought you. There is never a nobleman within this realm that if he had done but half so much in politicking as he hath done he would be well worthy to lose his head. If my Lord of Norfolk, my Lord of Suffolk, my Lord my father, or any other noble person within your realm had done much less than the Cardinal, they should have lost their heads". The Cardinal did wait with fear and trembling for the King's answer to this lady's malevolent speech. The King did much think upon the lady's words and did begin to question the trust he had long had in the Cardinal's conduct of government and politics in the kingdom.

[George Cavendish, Wolsey's secretary, writing in his personal notes (1529)]

Source B

Secretary Cromwell is witty and well versed in government affairs and reasonable enough to judge them correctly. I have hopes of making him a good Imperialist but one must always be wary: for in negotiating with Cromwell his words seem fair on the surface but his will and intention are sometimes contrary to his words. Nevertheless, Cromwell has shown great affection to Your Majesty's (Charles V) subjects, as he generally does in every other thing that concerns them, which is a very good sign for the future, since, after all, it is he who really governs and conducts all matters here in England. Although the Chancellor (Sir Thomas Audley) is superior in office to the Principal Secretary he is but a tool in Cromwell's hands. The same may be said of the Archbishop (Thomas Cranmer) who also does as he is bid by the King's Secretary.

[Eustace Chapuys, the Imperial ambassador, writing in a confidential diplomatic dispatch to Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor (1534)]

Source C

Prostrate at your Majesty's feet, I have heard that I have been accused of treason. I never in all my life thought to displease your Majesty, much less to do or say anything to offend Your Grace. Your Grace knows my accusers, God forgive them. If it were in my power to make you live for ever, God knows I would; or to make you so rich that you should enrich all men, or so powerful that all the world should obey you. For your Majesty has been most bountiful to me, and more like a father than a master. I ask you mercy where I have offended. If I had obeyed your often most gracious counsels I would not be in this position. I have done my best, and no one can justly accuse me of having done wrong. Written with the quaking hand and most sorrowful heart of your most sorrowful subject, and most humble servant and prisoner, this Saturday in the Tower. I plead for mercy, mercy, mercy.

[Thomas Cromwell, former Chief Minister, in a letter to Henry VIII written in the Tower of London (1540)]

With reference to the sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying Henry VIII's relationship with his ministers in the period 1529-1540. [30]

QUESTION 2

Study the extracts below and answer the question that follows.

Interpretation 1

King Henry was a powerful ruler who took hard decisions and action against rebellion but even the government of his young son and successor Edward VI was never in any real danger from rebellion. Neither Kett nor the leaders of the Western rising had any intention of threatening, let alone harming the boy-king. Their quarrel was not with the crown but with greedy local landowners and petty officials who were oppressing and exploiting the poor in order to enrich themselves. Kett did not march on London with his 15,000 strong-army and neither did the Western rebels. Indeed, although England's second largest city, Norwich, was taken by Kett, he soon abandoned it in favour of the heathland outside it. The Western rebels failed even to take the city of Exeter which easily withstood the ill-fated siege. When the royal armies took to the field the rebels were quickly crushed and peace was restored once more. The people who took part in these so-called rebellions were more protestor than rebel and as such they never seriously posed a threat to the youthful King or his government.

[Nicholas Pocock, an academic historian and specialist in Tudor religious history, writing in a specialist book, *Troubles connected with the Prayer Book of 1549* (1884)]

Interpretation 2

Few historians would doubt the seriousness of the threat posed by rebellion to the crown and its government in this period. Any rebellion, no matter how small or how remote its location, posed a threat because the rebels were challenging the crown's power and authority. They were breaking the King's peace and challenging the spiritual and moral authority of the Church by wilfully ignoring the Great Chain of Being. Freed from the shackles of social and moral restraint they could wreak havoc and who or what was there to stop them? The kingdom had no police force or a standing army. The fear that thousands of peasants were abandoning their work to join a rabble-rousing mob in search of plunder was the nightmare scenario which made even the mightiest nobleman tremble with fear. This threat can be shown by examining the Western and Kett rebellions in 1549. The King was but a child whom the people did not fear as they had his father Henry. That two rebellions had broken out at opposite ends of the country within a short time of each other underlines the seriousness of the threat facing Edward VI and his ministers.

[Roger Manning, an academic historian and specialist in social history, writing in a journal article, *Violence and social conflict in mid-Tudor rebellions* (1977)]

Historians have made different interpretations about the threats posed by major rebellions in this period. 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 rebellion posed a serious threat to the Crown in the period 1529-1553? [30]

END OF PAPER