



AS HISTORY

Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy, 1603–1702

Component 1D Absolutism challenged: Britain, 1603–1649

Wednesday 14 May 2025 Afternoon Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7041/1D.
- Answer **two** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 50 minutes on Section A
 - 40 minutes on Section B.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Extract A

Political power and social influence, in the early seventeenth century, were still defined by land ownership and thus power remained firmly with the aristocracy and richest gentry. Traditionally, the population was divided into two categories: 'the better sort' and 'the meaner sort', with only the 'better sort' having access to political power. However, in the early seventeenth century, as a result of economic development, this established order was challenged as a 'middling sort' started slowly to emerge. This was the beginning of change in early modern society, although its extent should not be exaggerated. Social, economic, cultural and political influence was still dominated by the aristocracy and the richest gentry, the 'better sort'.

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Adapted from D Hirst, *England in Conflict*, 1999

Extract B

The early seventeenth century saw the consolidation of those in the middle of society at the expense of those at the bottom and those at the top. There was a redistribution of wealth away from the rich and poor towards those in the middle. The richest derived most of their income from rents on land. However, inflation meant that this income decreased. At the same time a rising population and declining wages made it hard for the poor. In contrast, those in the middle, the prosperous merchants or craftsmen, may have had a larger income than many gentlemen. The wealthy merchant or lawyer had some prospect of buying a manor and becoming a gentleman in this period of significant change.

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Adapted from J Morrill, *The Stuarts*, 1992

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With reference to these extracts and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two extracts provides the more convincing interpretation of social change in the years 1603 to 1640?

[25 marks]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Either

0	2
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'James I managed his parliaments successfully in the years 1604 to 1625.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

or

0	3
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'Opposition to Charles I, in the years 1625 to 1640, was due to the King's views on monarchy.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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