



# A-level HISTORY

## Component 1D Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy, 1603–1702

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Friday 23 May 2025

Morning

Time allowed: 2 hours 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 7042/1D.
- Answer **three** questions.  
In **Section A** answer Question 01.  
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- 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:
  - 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
  - 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

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**Section A**

Answer Question 01.

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**Extract A**

Charles II, having spent the Interregnum consumed with a desire to become king, lacked the drive to pursue any systematic programme throughout his reign. It was satisfaction enough for him to enjoy the exercise of power and a lavish lifestyle. He did not seek to implement a particular vision of Britain. He pursued neither long-term strategies nor a coherent agenda. He did have preferred attitudes or lines of policy, most notably religious toleration and an accommodation with France, but he would not push these beyond what was politically possible. Nor did he allow his own popularity to suffer by defending an unpopular minister. Charles was conscious that politics was the art of the possible. He knew how to make tactical concessions, and although he was never proactive, he reacted to changing political circumstances with great skill. In his preference for consensus over conviction, his readiness to govern with Parliament and his desire for a broad church, Charles II was like his grandfather.

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Adapted from DL Smith, *A History of the Modern British Isles, 1603–1707*, 1998

**Extract B**

Charles II was a complex character. Quick-witted and intelligent but his misconceptions and his flaws of character led him into exactly the sort of political crises that he tried to avoid. He believed that the English were a disaffected people and there was a real danger of another 'great rebellion'. Acting on this misconception, that he faced more danger from his enemies than from his friends, he tried to appease the former. Charles was also unwilling to trust in loyalty. He was suspicious of human nature and reluctant to trust anyone. His ministers could therefore not rely on him to back them up. Charles hated routine and paperwork. Although he prided himself on his ability to make up his own mind, he was easily led by those close to him and found it difficult to say no to those who pressed for favours. Ultimately Charles' main concern throughout his reign was to look after himself.

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Adapted from J Miller, *The Stuarts*, 2004

**Extract C**

Charles II was a lazy king. He was the only one of the Stuarts not to be a visionary, not to have long-term goals, apart from a vague aim of improving the position of Catholics. This made it easy for him to back down when his policies were opposed. But while he lacked vision, he did not lack prejudices or preferences. He was a man with a strong rationalist streak and had a belief that he possessed divine powers. While he could be good humoured, which made him accessible to many, he was only really close to his family. This was part of the reason why he was also strongly drawn to Catholicism, but he was much too sensible politically to declare himself until on his deathbed. It did lead him to make a clear commitment to toleration. Both this and his obvious admiration for Louis XIV caused growing alarm in England, especially after 1670.

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Adapted from J Morrill, *The Stuarts*, 1988

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to Charles II.

**[30 marks]**

**Turn over for Section B**

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**Section B**

Answer **two** questions.

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 How successfully did James I manage the religious issues of his reign? **[25 marks]**

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 'In the years 1625 to 1646 Charles I consistently failed to impose his authority.'  
Assess the validity of this view. **[25 marks]**

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 How far was political and religious radicalism, in the years 1647 to 1667, a threat to the State? **[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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