

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced Subsidiary

Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations

Option 1B: England, 1509–1603: authority, nation and religion

Wednesday 17 May 2017 – Afternoon

Extracts Booklet

Paper Reference

8HI0/1B

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From William Simpson, *The Reign of Elizabeth*, published 2001.

Essex's Rebellion had delayed Parliament's summons until October. On 7 November, Cecil called for £300,000 to be raised by Easter. With the Spaniards entrenched in Ireland, Cecil argued 'it is time to open our coffers*'. The House agreed in principle, but there was considerable argument and delay over monopolies. Monopolies had been a long-standing grievance, and had been raised in the 1597–8 Parliament. When the Commons met in 1601 it was not long before the grievance was raised again. A bill to examine the legality of monopolies was introduced by a private member, and gained growing support. The Queen had made it plain in 1597 that she regarded such action as intruding on her prerogative. Cecil attempted to persuade the House to drop the bill and to refer the matter to a special committee. But, when the Clerk called the Commons to give the subsidy bill its first reading, the House cried it away and raised the issue of monopolies. They had openly adopted the principle that redress of grievances should precede the granting of taxes.

* coffers = strong boxes for storing money

Extract 2: From Neville Williams, *Elizabeth I*, published 1975.

The Commons was summoned in 1601 to vote heavy taxes for the vigorous conduct of the continuing war against Spain, and the campaign against the Irish rebels. At once discussion turned to the grievance of monopolies, for the Queen had not kept her promise made in the last Parliament to reform the system, and soon government business was at a standstill. With her touch sure as ever, the Queen intervened, promising widespread reforms and even undertook to cancel various patents. The House was so delighted that members asked to send a deputation to thank her, and when she agreed to receive a hundred members in the Council room in Whitehall, they said they all wanted to come. Outwardly at least she had achieved a harmonious relationship with her faithful Commons. The long battles about the succession and marriage, and the campaigns of the Puritans for a root and branch reform of the Church, which had persisted to 1593, had been fought and won, and she had never given an inch.

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