

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced Subsidiary

Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations

Option 1C: Britain, 1625-1701: conflict, revolution and settlement

Wednesday 16 May 2018 – Afternoon

Extracts Booklet

Paper Reference

8HI0/1C

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From John Miller, *The Stuarts*, published 2006.

The bishops and Tory politicians agreed to toleration in order to prevent the weakening, or destruction, of the pure spirit of Anglicanism, or, even worse, a split within the church. The Toleration Act of 1689 was the product of a cynical political deal. It was a grudging measure. It did not repeal any of the laws against Dissent, but laid down that laws against dissenting meetings should not be enforced against mainstream Protestant dissenters. There was to be no freedom of worship for Catholics, Unitarians* or Jews. Meeting-houses had to be registered with local Justices of the Peace and had to keep their doors open during meetings, as there was still the clear suspicion that dissenters were plotting treason. The laws against dissenters holding office (including the Test and Corporation Acts) were to remain in force, as was the ban on dissenters attending England's two universities. Public office and higher education were to remain under Anglican control.

*Unitarians = a Christian form of religion that believes in the unity of God and rejects the doctrine of the Trinity - that God has three forms, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Extract 2: From Robert Bucholz and Newton Key, *Early Modern England 1485–1714*, 2nd edition, published 2009.

In 1689, the Convention Parliament passed the Toleration Act. From then on, virtually all Protestant Churches were to be tolerated. Most of the penalties passed by the Cavalier Parliament were removed. The chief remaining obstacle faced by Dissenters was the Test Act. This was very important psychologically but it could be got round by the practice of occasional conformity. Occasional conformity meant that, on appointment and twice a year thereafter, all a Dissenting officeholder had to do was set aside his religious convictions and participate in an Anglican service. Catholics, of course, could do no such thing; they remained subject to extensive legal restrictions. The Toleration Act freed not only Dissenters from having to go to church, but also the sceptical, the lazy or the plain sleepy. Church courts, which had traditionally regulated personal behaviour, were in decline in most parts of the country by the early 18th century. In short, the Church's ability to demand obedience and good behaviour from its followers was weakening.

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