

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Wednesday 15 May 2019

Afternoon

Paper Reference **8HI0/1B**

History

Advanced Subsidiary

Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations

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

Extracts Booklet

Do not return this booklet with the question paper.

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From Paul Johnson, *Elizabeth I*, published 1974.

Whilst the previous success of the Elizabethan government in avoiding rural disorder depended to a great extent on luck, both she and her Council kept a close watch on food prices and supplies. When, in the period 1594-7, there were no less than four disastrously wet harvests, the government and local authorities took vigorous action. Grain was bought from abroad and sold at a below the market-price, and Elizabeth allowed grain to be imported free of duty. Elizabeth took a direct hand in urging the Council to impose heavy fines and imprisonment on profiteers. The 1601 parliament enacted the social legislation which had been one of her long-lasting interests. This legislation used the experiences of local communities, like London and Norwich, in tackling the problems of economic disorder, homelessness and population growth, and turned them into a country-wide scheme. Such action demonstrated the political resources and strength of Elizabethan government, and of the Queen herself, in facing the challenge of fundamental social issues.

Extract 2: From John Warren, *Elizabeth I: Meeting the challenge, England 1541-1603*, published 2008.

The Privy Council's main concern in the 1590s was a breakdown of local authority in the face of distress. This was shown by their overreaction to the London food riots and the almost obsessive pursuit of those involved in the so-called Oxfordshire Rising of 1596. The Privy Council had adopted measures because of fear of public disorder, and the Poor Laws provided Justices of the Peace and others in authority with a social control mechanism. That rebellions did not take place does not mean that the Privy Council's measures explain the lack of disorder. We might conclude that real distress was limited in place and time and that the Privy Council fell victim to paranoia. One can also conclude that the overall effect of the Elizabethan measures was very limited. There is certainly evidence to support the case that the Elizabethan Poor Law was exposed as utterly inadequate. The deliberate redistribution of wealth from rich to poor by 1603 was minimal. It was certainly significantly less than private charitable giving for poor relief.

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