Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced

Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations
Option 1C: Britain, 1625–1701: conflict, revolution

and settlement

Sample assessment materials for first teaching September 2015

Extracts Booklet

Paper Reference

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From Julian Hoppit, A Land of Liberty?: England 1689–1727, published 2000.

Truly the Glorious Revolution was miraculous. The reigning monarch [James II] was ousted and his crown placed upon the head of a foreigner and his wife [William of Orange and Mary]. In England it all happened with virtually no bloodshed, though in Ireland and Scotland the toll was much heavier. For many, William's invasion and dynastic revolution was the price of restoring an 'ancient constitution'.

In truth, however, the constitution which emerged after 1688 was new, not old. The permanent place of Parliament within the government of the nation, the willingness of all monarchs to rule through it, and the decline in monarchical power eventually created a workable form of government which the nation had sought for over a century. To contemporaries this was essentially a mixed and balanced government, with monarchy, aristocracy and democracy all present. Few disagreed that absolute authority resided only in parliamentary legislation, that is, the agreed deliberations of Crown, Peers and Commons. Parliament in its widest sense became pre-eminent in ways that had been unimaginable before 1688.

Extract 2: From John Morrill, *The Oxford Illustrated History of Tudor and Stuart Britain*, published 2009.

There was held to have been an official interval from James's flight until William and Mary's acceptance of the crown. Both were then offered full monarchical authority with decision making in William's hands. This was more of a medieval than a modern takeover.

It changed the King without doing much to change the monarchy. James was deemed to have deserted the kingdom and thereby forfeited the throne (the Scots promptly deposed him as a tyrant and the Protestants in Ireland just did what the English told them). Those who wanted to, could believe this meant that James had been deposed; those that did not want to believe it, could believe that William and Mary were rightful successors. No blood was shed and there was no way of showing that there had been actual resistance or a loss of support for the monarchy from the people. Those who wanted to, could believe that a contract now existed between Crown and people; those that did not, did not have to.

Acknowledgements

Extract 1 is from Julian Hoppit, A Land of Liberty?: England 1689-1727, Oxford University Press 2002. By permission of Oxford University Press; Extract 2 is from John Morrill, The Oxford Illustrated History of Tudor and Stuart Britain, Oxford University Press. 1996. By permission of Oxford University Press.

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