

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced

Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations

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

Sample assessment materials for first teaching

September 2015

Extracts Booklet

Paper Reference

9HI0/1B

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From J E Neale, *Elizabeth and her Parliaments Volume II 1584–1601*, published 1957.

Since the dissolution of the 1593 Parliament, the domestic history of England had been weighted with misfortune. Even during the meeting of that Parliament, there was concern about the severity of the plague in London. The following year, 1594, was the first of five continuous years of scarcity. Great storms of wind in March were followed by torrential rains in May, June and July. There was a fair harvest in August, but destructive rain in September; and the price of grain soared. Scarcity continued in 1595; in London there were food riots. A similar tale came with 1596. 5

Though the government attempted to relieve the situation by buying foreign grain, the grain market was not then a flexible, international one; indeed, within England itself, it was local rather than national. Crop failure therefore meant starvation for the poor. The strain reached breaking point in one county – Oxfordshire – in the autumn of 1596, when some exasperated, foolhardy men planned a rising. They talked of attacking the gentry, cutting their throats and marching on London to make common cause with the apprentices, who had demonstrated their rebellious mood the year before. There were food riots elsewhere in this and other years. 10 15

Extract 2: From Paul Johnson, *Elizabeth I*, published 1974.

Among other things, the 1601 parliament summarised and codified the social legislation, on poverty and employment, which had been one of Elizabeth's abiding interests. This legislation embodied the experience of local communities, like London and Norwich, in tackling the problems of economic disruption, homelessness and population growth. It translated them into a countrywide scheme, part of the nation-building process of unification which she had done so much to promote. It testified to the resilience of Elizabethan government, and of the Queen herself, in facing the challenge of fundamental social issues during a period when war was straining the energies of the nation. 20 25

Elizabeth's last parliament was critical, active and vigorous in viewing the shortcomings of society. But it still had a strong sense of partnership with the monarchy, and gratitude to the remarkable woman who had made this partnership possible. At the dissolution, on 19 December, the Speaker, John Croke, drew attention to the fact that England, alone of Europe, had known nothing but internal stability throughout her reign. 30

Acknowledgements

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