

# Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

## History

Advanced

**Paper 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth**

**Option 33: The witch craze in Britain, Europe and North America,  
c1580–c1750**

Sample assessment materials for first teaching  
September 2015  
**Sources Booklet**

Paper Reference

**9HI0/33**

**Do not return this booklet with the question paper.**

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**PEARSON**

### Source for use with Section A.

From Thomas Potts, the *Wonderfull Discoverie of Witches in the Countie of Lancaster*, published 1613. Potts was Clerk of the Court during the trials of the witches. He was instructed to write this account by the two presiding judges and one of them, Sir Edward Bromley, checked and revised it before publication.

Though public justice hath passed at these Assizes, the eyes of all parts of Lancashire and the other neighbouring counties in the North were fixed upon this business.

An infinite multitude came to see the trial of these witches at Lancaster, the number of witches being known to exceed all others at any one time to be accused and tried for so many murders, conspiracies, charms, meetings, hellish and damnable practices, all so apparent from their own confessions. My Honourable and worthy Lords, the Judges of Assize, after great consideration, thought it necessary to publish to the whole world their most barbarous and damnable practices, together with the direct proceedings of the Court against them. In part this is because there are several uncertain and unreliable reports. Also several came to give evidence against many who were found not guilty, and so remain very discontented and not satisfied. Also it is necessary for men to know and understand the means whereby witches work their mischief, the hidden mysteries of their devilish and wicked enchantments, charms and sorceries, the better to prevent and avoid the danger that may ensue.

Pray give me leave, before I proceed to the trial of the prisoners in the Castle, to lay before you the life and death of the damnable and malicious witch (Old Demdike) from whose evil this whole business flows. Without her confession, we would never have had a clear understanding of the case: for from this woman, a sink of villainy and mischief, has all the evil proceeded.

She was a very old woman, about the age of fourscore [eighty] years, and had been a witch for fifty years. She dwelt in the Forest of Pendle, a vast place, fit for her profession. What she committed in her time no man knows. She lived securely for many years, brought up her own children, instructed her grandchildren, and took great care and pains to bring them to be witches. She was a general agent for the Devil in all these parts. No man escaped her, or her furies, who ever gave her or her brood any offence, or denied them anything they stood in need of. Certain it is, no man near them was secure or free from danger.

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