



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

A Level History A

Unit Y308

The Catholic Reformation 1492–1610

Sample Question Paper

Version 0.14

Date – Morning/Afternoon

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes



OCR supplied materials:

- 12 page Answer Booklet

Other materials required:

- None



* o o o o o o *

First name										
Last name										
Centre number						Candidate number				

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Complete the boxes above with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer Question 1 in Section A and any 2 questions in Section B.
- Write your answer to each question on the Answer Booklet.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **80**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- Quality of extended responses will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document consists of **4** pages.

Section A

Read the two passages and then answer Question 1.

- 1** Evaluate the interpretations in both of the two passages and explain which you think is more convincing about Philip II's support for the Counter Reformation.

[30]

Passage A

Philip II's first official act as king on his return to Spain from Flanders in 1559 was to preside over the second anti-Protestant auto de fe, held on 8 October in the Plaza Major of Valladolid, at which twelve suspected Lutherans were condemned to death at the stake, including the leader of the group, whose last-minute appeal to the king for mercy was refused. In the fires that raged on the outskirts of Valladolid on 21 May and 8 October 1559, the outward traces of liberal spiritual persuasion that permeated elements of early 16th century Spanish society were dramatically extinguished. By giving his support to the Inquisition's spectacular propaganda exercise waged against Protestantism right at the beginning of the new reign, Philip associated himself directly with the ruthless extirpation of heresy from his realms. The rejection of 'contaminated' northern European thought and the imposition of a strictly regulated ideology from the centre served to reinforce social cohesion and a sense of national identity at a time when Spain felt particularly under threat from outside influences. By taking on the task 'keeping at bay the enemies of God', the Holy Office, supported by the intensely catholic Philip II, imposed a model of conformity that bolstered the authority of the Catholic Church at home and abroad. The Inquisition used the spectre of Lutheran heresy, rather than the real existence of it, to instil fear into the Spanish people and to reinforce its ideological control over them. The calculated campaign directed by the Holy Office over the ten-year period 1555–65 reached its climax in the autos of 1559–60 and successfully prevented Protestantism from establishing itself in Spain. As a result, it never posed a major threat to the religious stability of the Spanish kingdoms.

Adapted from: H. Rawlings, *The Spanish Inquisition*, published in 2005

Passage B

The index of 1559 was in many ways extremely severe. Cutting off the supply of foreign books and restricting theological writings impeded the free circulation of ideas. It is difficult, however, to determine how permanent the consequences were, especially as Valdes was replaced by Cardinal Espinosa as Inquisitor general in 1566. The prohibition of Spaniards studying abroad was never total and distinguished Spaniards were still to be found in the universities of Italy, Flanders and France. The struggle between Philip II and the Papacy, made worse by the Carranza affair, served to weaken the forces of the Counter Reformation. The Inquisition was reduced to little more than a department of state; the King insisted on the right to scrutinise papal bulls, and if necessary to forbid their publication. Philip II's zeal for the preservation and extension of royal prerogatives was natural enough, his behaviour also suggests that in his heart he considered religion too serious a matter to be left to the Pope. Terrified of heresy, he would trust none but himself and his own chosen agents to eradicate it from his dominions.

Adapted from: J.H. Elliott, *Imperial Spain 1469-1716*, published in 2002

Section B

Answer **TWO** of the following three questions.

- 2*** How accurately does the term 'Counter Reformation' describe the developments in the Catholic Church in the period from 1492 to 1610?

[25]

- 3*** To what extent was the Council of Trent the major factor in the revival of the Catholic Church in Europe in the period from 1492 to 1610?

[25]

- 4*** Assess the reasons for the varied impact of the Catholic Reformation in different parts of Europe in the period from 1492 to 1610.

[25]

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Passage B: From: *Imperial Spain 1469-1716*, J. H. Elliott.

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