



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

# A Level History A

## Unit Y311

### The Origins and Growth of the British Empire 1558–1783

Sample Question Paper

Version 0.15

## Date – Morning/Afternoon

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes



**OCR supplied materials:**

- 12 page Answer Booklet

**Other materials required:**

- None



|                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |                         |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| <b>First name</b>    |  |  |  |  |  |  |                         |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Last name</b>     |  |  |  |  |  |  |                         |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Centre number</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  | <b>Candidate number</b> |  |  |  |  |

### 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 in its view of Francis Drake.

[30]

**Passage A**

There are few stories in fact or fiction that can rival the extraordinary adventures of Francis Drake on his voyage round the world between 1577 and 1580. Suspicion and suspense, high ambition and dogged resolution were crowned by success beyond the wildest of dreams. At Deptford, on April 4th, 1581, Francis Drake, who, during the previous autumn, had returned from his triumphant circumnavigation of the globe, knelt before Queen Elizabeth and received a knighthood. Drake's triumph then rose to its peak. Cheered by the London crowds wherever he went, he became the hero of the hour. His backers had made a stupendous profit and Drake himself became one of the richest men in England. Great men seldom escape detraction by the jealous. Francis Drake was no exception, but above the pinpricks he rose supreme, the greatest sailor of his time, the first captain to take a ship all round the world, the terror of the Spaniards who called him *El Draque* (The Dragon), the possessor of a magic mirror in which all their secret plans were revealed. Where he conjured fear among England's enemies, he inspired the courage among his fellow countrymen that sent them out across the seven seas in imitation of his great exploit in the *Golden Hind*.

Adapted from: J. Cummin, *That Golden Knight: Drake and His Reputation*, published in 1996

**Passage B**

Drake's knighthood was not universally approved of: Richard Madox, chaplain on Edward Fenton's failed voyage to the Moluccas in 1582, wrote sarcastically of 'that golden knight of ours', and suggested that Drake had fabricated or copied from a Spanish source a map of the islands south of the Strait of Magellan which he showed to Fenton as the fruit of his own discoveries. The 1585–86 voyage, planned essentially as a raid on Panama, was cut short; over 750 men died, mostly from fever, and the financial returns were poor. At Cadiz, Drake's vice-admiral, William Borough, saw his leader's tactics as foolhardiness, and the Spanish were able to celebrate the action as a victory for themselves, since Drake had been denied access to the town itself. Both the 1589 and 1595 voyages were failures, with enormous loss of life; in both, the initially clear strategic aims were relegated by the temptation of profit. In 1589 Drake was widely blamed for lingering with the fleet at Cascais while Sir John Norris besieged Lisbon; he and Norris had already enraged the Queen by omitting to attack Santander, where the Armada survivors were refitting. Drake's final voyage was a sad affair throughout. The crews were ravaged by fever; Hawkins died at the beginning of the fruitless attack on Puerto Rico, and after the total defeat of the English column marching from Nombre de Dios to take Panama the demoralised Drake contracted the disease, described as the bloody flux, and died off Porto Bello ('as I think through grief', wrote Sir Thomas Baskerville).

Adapted from: C.E. Hamshere, *Drakes Voyage Around the World*, published in 1967

**Section B**

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

- 2\*** 'The Navigation Acts of the 1660s were the most significant turning point in Britain's relations with her empire in the period 1558–1783.' How far do you agree with this statement?  
**[25]**
- 3\*** How far do you agree that the impact of British rule on her colonies remained essentially the same in the period 1558–1783?  
**[25]**
- 4\*** 'North America was the main cause of imperial rivalry between Britain and the European powers of Spain and France.' To what extent do you agree with this view of the period 1558–1783?  
**[25]**

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