



GCE AS/A LEVEL

2100U10-1



S25-2100U10-1

MONDAY, 19 MAY 2025 – AFTERNOON

HISTORY – AS unit 2

DEPTH STUDY 1

The mid-Tudor crisis in Wales and England c.1529–1570

Part 1: Problems, threats and challenges c.1529–1553

1 hour 45 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Do not use gel pen or correction fluid.

Answer **both** questions.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided, following the instructions on the front of the answer booklet.

Use both sides of the paper. Write only within the white areas of the booklet.

Write the question number in the two boxes in the left-hand margin at the start of each answer,

for example

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Leave at least two line spaces between each answer.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question.

You are advised to spend approximately 50 minutes on each question.

The sources used in this examination paper may have been amended, adapted or abridged from the stated published work in order to make the wording more accessible.

The sources may include words that are no longer in common use and are now regarded as derogatory terminology. Their inclusion reflects the time and place of the original version of these sources.

Answer **both** questions.

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the significance of Rhys ap Gruffudd's insurrection to the Crown's control of Wales in the 1530s. [30]

Source A Eustace Chapuys, Imperial ambassador to England, writing in a confidential diplomatic dispatch to Charles V on the morning of Rhys ap Gruffudd's execution (1531)

The cause of Rhys ap Gruffudd's condemnation is, as far as I have been informed, that he would not confess that one of his own servants had advised him to revenge the wrongs he complained of by entering into a conspiracy and subsequently taking flight to Scotland. There he could easily, owing to his influence over the Welsh and to the general discontent caused by the divorce, have persuaded the King [James V of Scotland] to make the conquest of this kingdom. And although the said Rhys had not accepted the offers made to him, nor entered into the conspiracy, yet as he would not confess who it was who advised him, he was condemned to death. ... [This was despite] the many apologies he made. There is a rumour about town that had it not been for the King's lady, who hated Rhys because he and his wife had spoken insultingly of her, he would have been pardoned and escaped his miserable fate.

Source B Martin de Cornoca, Imperial consul in Venice, writing in a report to the court of Charles V (1534)

There is now living in these parts a great English personage, named Reynaldo Polo [Reginald Pole], of the blood royal, of the illustrious House of Clarence. He is the son of the Countess of Salisbury, and through her, of the noblest blood in the kingdom. His father, Sir Richard, was a worthy knight of Wales, a near relative of the late King, and greatly esteemed in his country. Polo is related to most of the great families and is connected by an unbreakable friendship with all the Queen's [Katherine of Aragon's] friends. The whole of Wales is devoted to his house, for his sake and the sake of his relations.

On account of their love for the Princess [Mary] and the death of Don Ris [Rhys ap Gruffudd], who was beheaded three years ago, the whole province is alienated from the King. It would be a pious and famous deed to help such a man as Polo in preserving a kingdom oppressed by a harlot [a woman of low morals] and her friends, and in reinstating Queen Katherine and Princess Mary. I do not know Polo's mind about all this, but I think he would be willing to see the delivery of his country from tyranny.

Source C Thomas Cromwell, the King's Chief Minister, writing in a letter to Bishop Rowland Lee, Lord President of Wales (December 1537)

In spite of the King's pardon, given a year ago, to a company of persons in this realm calling themselves Gipcyans (Gypsies) who committed a most shameful and detestable murder, they have not left the kingdom as instructed. Since the time given for them to leave the kingdom has expired, the King's officers may lawfully apprehend and hang them without any further examination or trial. His grace, the King, has heard that these Gipcyans or Egipcyans, as they sometimes call themselves, do daily spoil, rob and deceive his poor subjects. His Grace has also heard that some of his officers have permitted them to linger and loiter in parts of the realm enabling them to exercise their felonies and treasons which have gone unpunished. Therefore, I command you to diligently search for them, be they men or women, and to take them without delay to the nearest port and deport them on the first ship with a fair wind to any place beyond the seas. You must ensure that you inform all the justices of the peace in that country where you reside, together with the adjoining shires, of His Majesty's commandment.

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Historians have made different interpretations about **the threats posed by the major rebellions in this period**. Analyse and evaluate the two interpretations together with your understanding of the historical debate to answer the following question:

How valid is the view that it was the Western Rebellion that posed the most significant threat to Edward VI and his government? [30]

Interpretation 1 Frances Rose-Troup, in this extract from her book *The Western Rebellion of 1549* (1913), presents an interpretation that suggests the Western Rebellion was a serious threat to Edward VI and his government.

The rebellion was a very real threat to the King and his government. Indeed, the Western Rebellion was no insignificant affair. But when we come to consider the consequences which would have ensued if the rebels had advanced to London – that the success of the rebels would have wholly prevented the Reformation is more than can be claimed. However, there is little doubt that it would have given the progress of the Reformation a serious, though momentary, check.

Interpretation 2 Mark Stoye, in this extract from his article 'Fullye Bente to Fighte Oute the Matter' in *The English Historical Review* (2014), presents an interpretation that suggests that the Western Rebellion did not pose a significant threat to Edward VI.

On balance, there is reason to believe that the Western rebels did not pose a significant threat to the young King. There is no evidence to show that the Cornishmen intended to march on London, as their grandfathers had done in 1497. It seems very likely that had the Cornishmen come up to Exeter even faster than they eventually did – taken the battle to Russell sooner, when his forces were far weaker – the outcome might have been very different. As it was, the luckless 'rebellers' were shortly to be swept away in a hail of shot, having put up the stoutest of all challenges to the Edwardian Reformation.

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