



AS HISTORY

UNIT 2

DEPTH STUDY 1

**THE MID TUDOR CRISIS IN WALES AND ENGLAND
c.1529-1570**

**PART 1: PROBLEMS, THREATS AND CHALLENGES
c.1529-1554**

SPECIMEN PAPER

1 hour 45 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **both** the questions on the paper.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

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

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

The sources and quotations used in this unit may have been amended or adapted from the stated published work in order to make the wording more accessible.

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PART 1: PROBLEMS, THREATS AND CHALLENGES c.1529-1554

Answer **both** the questions on the paper.

QUESTION 1

Study the sources below and answer the question that follows.

Source A

Please inform His Majesty that Wales and the border counties of England were never in better order. Throughout Wales in every respect, justice is embraced as in England and except for three or four petty coiners, no treason is now heard of. Since last Christmas I hear of no stealing, riots, murders or manslaughters. I may assure you that Wales is in such order and quiet as may be found in the best counties of England. The Welsh are pacified and are unlikely ever to resort to that state of lawlessness and disorder to which they were once so addicted.

[Bishop Rowland Lee, Lord President of Wales, writing in a report to the King's Chief Minister, Thomas Cromwell (1538)]

Source B

The household servants of Walter Herbert came into the lordship of Magor in South Wales and entered the house of a wealthy man, Philip Crome, and in a forcible manner took the daughter of one Giles Fawr. With force and violence she was set on horseback and bound fast with a towel to one of the servants. She cried all the way as she was carried into the county of Glamorgan and there with force Walter Herbert did ravish her.

[Sir William Morgan, Lord of the manor of Magor, giving evidence against Walter Herbert in the Court of Star Chamber in London (1538)]

Source C

We understand a great fair is to be held within the town of Ludlow and that while many of Her Majesty's subjects will come to buy and sell, other evil disposed persons will come to pick pockets and steal. We, the Vice-President and the Council of Wales and the Marches, do warn and call upon the bailiffs of the town to look well to their duties and prevent any law-breaking. The sheriff of Ludlow is charged to offer any assistance that may be required by the bailiffs. We will take reports of any law-breaking very seriously and will look to the justices to dispense any punishment that will deter any wrong-doing at future fairs and similar gatherings.

[An official Order issued by the Council of Wales and the Marches, to the bailiffs of the town of Ludlow (1549)]

With reference to the sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the extent of lawlessness in Wales in the 1530s and 1540s. [30]

QUESTION 2

Study the extracts below and answer the question that follows.

Interpretation 1

To suggest that greed alone motivated Henry's closure of the monasteries is too simplistic. Henry had once been a passionate supporter of the monastic tradition and went himself on pilgrimage to Hailes Abbey. However, the evidence of lies and corruption uncovered by Cromwell's agents convinced him that the monasteries were beyond reform and that dissolution was the only possible solution. Therefore, it may be argued that religious conviction rather than monetary gain lay at the heart of his monastic policy. The First Act for the Dissolution of the Smaller Monasteries in 1536 demonstrates that reform was contemplated but abandoned in the face of Cromwell's persuasive 'book of evidence'. The financial gains were welcomed by the Crown but were merely a by-product of Henry's religious zeal.

[Geoffrey Baskerville, an academic historian and specialist in Tudor religious history, writing in his specialist text book, *English Monks and the Suppression of the Monasteries* (1937)]

Interpretation 2

The most dramatic change of Henry VIII's Reformation was undoubtedly the dissolution of the monasteries, an enterprise in which the reform of the church was a cover for naked greed. Cloaked by religious motivation, dissolution was a simple device for increasing royal revenue. The prime motivator in this enterprise was the King's faithful servant, Thomas Cromwell. If the King wrestled with his conscience over the issue of monastic dissolution Cromwell did not. The King's chief adviser had embraced the Protestant theology emanating from the continent and to him the monastery was no longer a vital part of the religious life. In truth, Cromwell believed that the monastery had become an anachronism in this brave new world of religious reformation. Even more importantly it could refill the King's empty coffers.

[Richard Rex, an academic historian and specialist in Tudor history, writing in his specialist text book, *Henry VIII and the English Reformation* (1993)]

Historians have made different interpretations about the motives for the dissolution of the monasteries. Analyse, evaluate and use the two extracts above and your understanding of the historical debate to answer the following question:

How valid is the view that the main reason for the dissolution of the monasteries was the royal desire for wealth? [30]