Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced
Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations
Option 1B: England, 1509–1603: authority, nation and religion

Friday 9 June 2017 – Morning
Extracts Booklet

Paper Reference
9HI0/1B

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From Ronald G Asch, 'A Difficult Legacy: Elizabeth's Bequest to the Early Stuarts', in Christa Jansohn, *Queen Elizabeth I: Past and Present*, published 2004.

Ambitious courtiers recognised that access to grants such as customs and licenses were essential to achieve the wealth and the status they needed to exert influence at court. This led to the struggle for the control of the crown's patronage becoming fiercer and deadlier than in the past. The court factions which confronted each other in the 1590s were the Cecilians and the Earl of Essex's followers. However, Elizabeth was, with the exception of the Essex revolt in 1601, still largely able to contain such faction fights; the circle of those who had access to her may have become more exclusive and less representative during her last years but nevertheless political stability was not seriously undermined. Those who rejected this narrow-based regime were by and large content to hope for the new reign and to voice their discontent in secret. Even during her last years Elizabeth was able to appeal to parliamentary and popular support for her policies. However, she could also harshly punish those who tried to offer her advice which she had not asked for.

Extract 2: From Robert Ashton, *Reformation and Revolution 1558–1660*, published 1985.

Elizabeth in fact found it more and more difficult to maintain a balance between the leaders of court factional groups. The ageing Burghley, in the last years of his life, had concentrated a great deal of power in his own hands. He was desperately anxious that he would be succeeded as leading minister and advisor by his meticulously trained and supremely able younger son Robert. Essex's demands and his alarming popularity both inside and outside the court certainly made Elizabeth feel it necessary to put more real power into Cecilian hands than she might have judged desirable in more normal circumstances. Equally certainly, to Essex the Cecils appeared to have their hands on all the crucial levers controlling the distribution of office, power and perks, and it became increasingly clear to him that their grip could be loosened only by force.

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