Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Wednesday 24 May 2023

Morning (Time: 2 hours 15 minutes)

Paper reference **9HI0/1B**

History

Advanced

PAPER 1: Breadth study with interpretations

Option 1B: England, 1509–1603: authority, nation and religion

Extracts Booklet

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From Helen Castor, *Elizabeth I: A Study in Insecurity*, published 2019.

With every year that passed for Elizabeth, the question of the succession became more urgent, but Elizabeth refused either to speak about the issue herself, or allow any of her subjects to discuss it publicly. When the MP, Peter Wentworth, raised the question of the succession for the second time in 1593, he was sent to the Tower, where he remained imprisoned for the last four years of his life. Wentworth was only saying what many were thinking, including the man he believed should be named Elizabeth's heir: James VI of Scotland. By the 1590s, James was in secret correspondence with those at Elizabeth's Court he believed could help his cause, first among them the queen's hot-headed favourite, Essex.

Succession was not the only matter of state in which Essex believed he had a right to involve himself. He thought that he should naturally become simultaneously the queen's principal military commander and her foremost minister of state. Tensions already existed within government over fears that the kingdom might be attacked from without or subverted from within by factional division around the increasingly infirm queen. These tensions burst into the open after the death, in August 1598, of William Cecil.

Extract 2: From Penry Williams, *The Later Tudors: England 1547–1603*, published 1995.

There were many influential men at court, who helped provide the stability of the political world. Men such as Lord Howard of Effingham, Sir Francis Knollys and Thomas Sackville, and others who rose to power during Elizabeth's latter years, balanced the forces set up by Essex, Raleigh and the Cecils. Above all, there was Elizabeth, dominating the political scene. Men and women were made and unmade by her will; no decision could be taken without her consent.

The problem of Elizabeth's successor was perhaps the most long-running issue of the reign. In retrospect, the succession of James seems a foregone conclusion. Yet no one could feel certain about this at the time. On Christmas Day 1600, Essex wrote James a long, unbalanced letter attacking Robert Cecil and his 'reigning faction', accusing them of favouring the Infanta Isabella. James was cautious in his response, and Essex was soon dead.

The Essex rising should be simply seen as the desperate attempt of an unbalanced and disappointed royal favourite. His followers might just, but only just, have succeeded in gaining access to Elizabeth. They could hardly have achieved more than that; and once they hesitated, they were doomed.

Acknowledgements:

Source 1 from: Elizabeth I: A study in Insecurity By Helen Castor © Penguin, 2019

Source 2 from: The Later Tudors: England 1547–1603 By Penry Williams © Oxford University Press, 1998