Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Thursday 23 May 2024

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 A. L. Rowse, *The England of Elizabeth*, published 1953.

Again and again, we find Elizabeth and her government doing its best to protect the poor. In the levy on the counties for arms and armour in 1592 the Queen desired the poor to be spared and the burden laid on those best able to bear it. However, the estates of the wealthy were rated for tax as being far lower than their true value, and it was impossible for the commissioners who assessed what tax people should pay to raise the assessment of one of their own class. In view of this, criticism of the Queen's financial administration is wholly unjust. The Queen had sold significant crown lands to help ease the financial burden, and kept household spending to a bare minimum. She did her best for the common soldier, but without proper and accurate accounts she was helpless: money simply disappeared.

There was a culminating crisis in the years 1594–97. The Parliament of 1597 devoted much of its time to the whole question of Poor Relief. Elizabeth's Privy Council saw that this system was put into effect, and in every county one could observe the efforts made. Altogether the spirit in which this tremendous problem was tackled, and a solution worked out that lasted, was a remarkable achievement in the administration of the realm.

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

The latter stages of Elizabeth's reign was a time of economic crisis, dislocation and hardship, financial bankruptcy, political disintegration, declining political morality and increasing corruption. It was an age in which things turned horribly sour.

Nowhere is this crisis and desperation more apparent than in the economic conditions of the mid-to-late 1590s, which provided the background to crucial policy measures. The most notable measures were the stiffening of the poor law in 1597–98 and 1601, including the hasty reintroduction of previous anti-enclosure legislation that had unwisely been abandoned in 1593. The fear of widespread starvation and, above all, the threat which this presented to public order were too great to be ignored. There can be no doubt that the period was a terrible time for those on the edge of poverty everywhere in England.

Of course, it was the poorest who bore the heaviest burden of the depression. Nevertheless, the combination of economic depression and heavier taxation to meet the wartime need of the government also pressed heavily on taxpayers.

Acknowledgements

Extract 1 from: The England of Elizabeth by A L Rowse © The Reprint Society, 1953.

Extract 2 from: Reformation and Revolution, 1558–1660 by Robert Ashton © HarperCollins, February 1984.