Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Tuesday 19 May 2020

Afternoon (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

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From G. J. Meyer, *The Tudors*, published 2010.

A Parliament summoned in 1601 was asked to vote a quadruple subsidy. The news that a Spanish force had landed in Ireland made it impossible for members to refuse. They did, however, mount an unprecedented challenge to Elizabeth's view of her prerogatives. They demanded an end to the monopolies that she had long been either selling to the highest bidder or giving to those she wished to enrich at no direct cost to herself. These monopolies were a burden on the public and had a distorting effect on the economy and, when Parliament first complained of them in 1597, the Queen had promised corrective action but done nothing. This time the Commons was determined, and when the Queen resisted, it began work on a bill that would have taken the matter out of her hands and possibly precipitated a crisis. Faced with this defiance, Elizabeth delivered a speech in which she claimed to be surprised to learn that the monopolies had caused so much unhappiness. She committed herself to their elimination.

This has often been represented as a victory for the Queen, an ultimate demonstration of her political skill. Such a verdict is mystifying. She avoided a showdown by surrendering, and abandoned a cherished prerogative at the insistence of Parliament.

Extract 2: From Michael A. R. Graves, *Elizabethan Parliaments 1559–1601*, published 1987.

The parliamentary episode over monopolies must be seen in its right perspective. Parliaments were occasions for the monarch to take counsel. Elizabeth, who due to the financial pressures of war had increasingly relied on monopolies to reward servants, had not heeded such counsel in 1597, and paid the price in 1601. But that was no more than the normal give-and-take of the parliamentary process. Disagreements and differences of opinion rarely escalated into constitutional conflicts. Elizabeth was an astute and increasingly experienced politician, who knew that parliaments were the appropriate occasions to air grievances and to resolve some of the points of dispute between varied and often conflicting interests. Disagreements were normally brought to a satisfactory conclusion or kept within bounds by an essential harmony between Crown and governing class, or by skilful management.

There was another potentially disruptive parliamentary force. In the three preceding reigns, factions in Court and Council had carried their conflicts into parliaments. However, in Elizabeth's time, such conflicts were fought out at the Council board and in the Court, and only rarely in Parliament, even during the bitter faction-fights of the 1590s.

Acknowledgements
Extract 1 from: G. J. Meyer, 'The Tudors', Delacorte Press (penguin Random House), New York 2010
Extract 2 from: 'Elizabethan Parliaments 1559–1601', Michael A. R. Graves, Longman, 1987

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