Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced
Paper 2: Depth study
Option 2B.1: Luther and the German Reformation, c1515–1555
Option 2B.2: The Dutch Revolt, c1563–1609

Friday 16 June 2017 – Morning
Sources Booklet

Paper Reference
9HI0/2B

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Sources for use with Section A.

Answer the question in Section A on the option for which you have been prepared.

Option 2B.1: Luther and the German Reformation c1515–1555

Sources for use with Question 1.

Source 1: From *The Magdeburg Confession* written by Lutheran pastors in the city in 1550. It was addressed to Charles V in response to the Augsburg Interim, his decree ordering Lutherans to readopt Catholic beliefs and practices following his victory in the Schmalkaldic War. At the time of the production of the *Confession*, Magdeburg was under siege by Imperial troops but did not fall.

We believe that a government may defend its subjects against a higher authority which attempts to compel the people to deny God's Word. Bear in mind that Christ was considered a rebel, and He has shown us one mark of the true Church, namely that it should not constrain anyone by military force as the Catholic Church does. Obedience to both God and to Caesar* are possible, provided each keeps to their own proper sphere of authority. Your Majesty has gone beyond your sphere and encroached upon the Kingdom of Christ.

We argue that if a higher authority tries to restore Popish idolatry by force and to suppress the pure teaching of the Gospel, then the lower God-fearing authority may defend its subjects in order to preserve the true teaching. Rulers are appointed by God to protect the good and punish the bad but if they start to persecute the good, they are no longer doing God's work. If such an authority makes unjust war upon its subjects, they may resist. If a ruler is so mad as to attack God, then he is the very devil. Then in the name of Scripture, he may be resisted.

* Caesar – a reference to political authority, in this case Charles V

Source 2: From Charles V's speech to the nobility in Brussels in August 1556, abdicating the Imperial Crown. This was his last public act before retiring to a monastery in Spain.

I had no ambition to rule many kingdoms but merely sought the welfare of Germany and the extension of the Christian religion. I was unable to achieve as much as I might have wished. This was because of the troubles raised by the heresies of Luther and the serious wars forced on me by the hostility and envy of neighbouring princes.

Nothing has given me so much pain as parting from you today without leaving behind the peace and quiet which I so much desired. I am no longer able to attend to my affairs without great bodily fatigue. The last time that I went to Germany I had decided to abdicate, but I could not when I saw Germany had fallen into so many terrible disorders. I have always done the best I could and God has helped me. I return to Him boundless thanks for having supported me in my greatest trials.

I urge you to be obedient towards justice, firm in observance of the laws and do not refuse to grant to authority the support it needs. Above all, beware of infection from the heresies of neighbouring lands. Destroy at once these infections for fear they may spread and overthrow you, lest you fall into the direst calamities.

Option 2B.2: The Dutch Revolt, c1563–1609

Sources for use with Question 2.

Source 3: From the Edict of the States-General of the Netherlands agreed in July 1581, known as the Act of Abjuration.

After the death of the Emperor Charles V, who is remembered with respect, King Philip of Spain forgot the services which we had rendered his father and himself, and put his trust in members of the Council of Spain who were at his side. These persons envied the wealth and power of our provinces because they could not be made governors of them or acquire high office in them as they could in other parts of his empire. They repeatedly advised the king that it would be better for his reputation if he conquered us. Then he might rule our provinces absolutely (that is, tyrannise us at his will) instead of governing us according to the conditions, and under such restrictions, that he had sworn on oath to maintain when he became king. Ever since, on their advice, the king has been trying to deprive us of our ancient freedom and bring us into slavery under Spanish rule.

Therefore, despairing of all means of reconciliation and left without any other remedies and help, we have been forced to abandon the king of Spain and to pursue such means as we think likely to secure our rights, privileges and liberties.

Source 4: From Francis Coornhert, *A Short Instruction by One Who Has in His Heart the Prosperity of These Netherlands*, published 1586. Coornhert was the Town Clerk of Amsterdam in the province of Holland and is addressing the councillors of the city.

We must consider whether there are reasons which allow us to oppose and resist a king if he wants to deprive the provinces and their subjects of their rights and privileges and reduce them to everlasting slavery and bondage, all contrary to the oath he has sworn at his coronation. The vital point here is that, before taking possession of his power, a king swears to preserve the privileges and rights of the provinces and their inhabitants. And after a king has taken possession of his power, he does not govern absolutely or alone but he has co-rulers who have also taken the oath and govern with him. These are, for instance, the States of the provinces, the provincial courts and councils, magistrates and judges.

If these co-rulers discover that the king is exceeding his power and that, as a result, the provinces and his subjects are oppressed or their privileges and rights violated, they must act strongly to prevent this and stand up against it. It is not sufficient for them to govern righteously themselves. They must also prevent evil plans, abuses, bad government or tyranny and defend the interests of their fatherland. If they do not do this, they are as guilty as the king and should be considered law-breakers, tyrants and traitors.

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