Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced

Paper 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth

Option 30: Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399–1509

Tuesday 19 June 2018 – Morning

Source Booklet

Paper Reference

9HI0/30

Do not return this booklet with the question paper.

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Source for use with Section A.

From Polydore Vergil, *Anglica Historia*, published c1513. Henry VII commissioned Vergil to write the *Anglica Historia*, and Vergil spoke with those who were at Bosworth to write his account of the battle.

When the battle raged, Richard learnt first from spies that Henry was some way off with a few armed men as his retinue. Then, as Henry drew near, Richard recognised him more certainly from his standards. Inflamed with anger, he spurred his horse and rode against him. Henry now saw Richard come upon him, and since all hope of safety lay in fighting, he eagerly offered himself for the contest. In the first charge Richard killed several men, including the standard-bearer William Brandon, and made a path for himself through the mass of steel.

Nevertheless, Henry held out against the attack longer than his troops had thought likely, as they had almost despaired of victory. Then, behold, William Stanley came with support of 3,000 men. At this point, with his men taking to their heels, Richard was killed fighting in the thickest part of his enemies. Meanwhile, the Earl of Oxford* put to flight the remainder of the enemy troops, a great number of whom were killed in the rout. Many more, who supported Richard out of fear and not of their own will, deliberately held off from the battle and departed unharmed, as men who desired not the safety but rather the destruction of Richard, whom they detested. About 1,000 men were killed, including from the nobility. There was a huge number of captives, for when Richard was killed, all men threw down their weapons, and freely submitted themselves to Henry's obedience.

Immediately after gaining victory, Henry gave thanks to Almighty God with many prayers. Then filled with unbelievable happiness, he took himself to the nearest hill, where he congratulated the soldiers and ordered them to care for the wounded and to bury the killed. He then gave eternal thanks to his captains, promising he would remember their good service. In the meantime, the soldiers saluted him as King with a great shout, applauding him with most willing hearts. Seeing this, Thomas Stanley immediately placed Richard's crown on Henry's head, as though he had become King by command of the people, acclaimed in the ancestral manner.

*Earl of Oxford – one of Henry VII's leading commanders

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