Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Tuesday 13 June 2023

Morning (Time: 2 hours 15 minutes)

Paper reference **9HI0/31**

History

Advanced

PAPER 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth

Option 31: Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485–1603

Source Booklet

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

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Source for use with Section A.

From letters written by Francois van der Delft to Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor, in June, July and August 1549. Van der Delft was the Emperor's ambassador at the court of King Edward VI. Here he is reporting on events in England before and during Kett's rebellion, which started in Norfolk on 8 July 1549.

June The peasants, who have risen in various places in England to pull down enclosures, are still not contented. Secretly, I have been informed that the Lord Protector told the Royal Council that the peasants' demands were fair and just. He said that the poor should retain their access to the common land because this had always been public property. He said that the rich should not seize it and add it to their possessions.

July The revolt of the peasants has increased and spread to Norfolk. The rebels are complaining about the destruction of the people's rights by the nobles. They are destroying the enclosures and fish-ponds constructed by the noblemen. The rebels say that they have been forced to live on bread and water, having nowhere to graze their animals. The nobles used to rent out land, which gave the peasants the means of earning their livelihood. Now the nobles keep all the land for themselves. Some nobles own flocks of 30,000 sheep, others own larger flocks.

There are over 8,000 rebels in Norfolk and their cause has many sympathisers. They commit no violence against any person and profess themselves willing to obey the King and his laws. It is feared that unless the peasants' grievances are quickly satisfied, the townspeople will rise in revolt. They are also complaining about the high price of food. The Royal Council is in great confusion. Things are in a very bad way here.

August The Royal Council is meeting often to discuss how to deal with the evil rebellion of the peasants, which is growing daily. The rebels in Norfolk are demanding that all food should be sold at reasonable prices. They demand also that their land should be leased to them at the price it was during King Henry VII's reign. The rebellion is at a critical point. The peasants were victorious in an encounter they had with the King's army led by the Marquis of Northampton. The Marquis entered Norwich, where there was a great gathering of rebels, but was forced to retreat with all his men. He was unable to escape without losing several gentlemen killed, and eleven pieces of artillery. The rebels are holding out obstinately. They now hold a large number of gentlemen as prisoners. They intend to put these prisoners at the front of their ranks when they fight again.

Acknowledgement

Spain: June 1549', in Calendar of State Papers, Spain, Volume 9, 1547-1549, ed. Martin A S Hume and Royall Tyler (London, 1912)