Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced
Paper 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth
Option 32: The Golden Age of Spain, 1474–1598

Tuesday 19 June 2018 – Morning
Source Booklet

Paper Reference
9HI0/32

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From a letter sent by the leaders of the Comuneros Revolt to Charles I, October 1520. The rebels had just gained control of one of the principal cities in Castile. Charles I was in Germany having recently been elected Holy Roman Emperor.

Your Majesty has reduced this realm to the poverty in which it now stands, and your followers have enriched themselves excessively. Foreign rule is stripping our country of its wealth. It is of this realm that your majesty is a true sovereign and to which you have a sacred responsibility, yet you have bought with our wealth the Empire in order to enhance your own pride.

Our King must live in Castile and devote himself to the well-being of our state. He should bring in no Flemings or natives of any other country to fill the posts in his household. In every matter he should conform to the customs established by our revered Catholic Sovereigns, Ferdinand and Isabella, who did great service to God in founding our state.

You have imposed additional taxes on our citizens and we have suffered the shocking attack on Medina del Campo*. We have the duty to maintain government in the true Castilian tradition but our customs have been treated with contempt by the heavy-handed actions of the regent you appointed, Adrian of Utrecht.

We earnestly request that our monarch should be present in Castile. The kingdom can't be regarded as an instrument of collecting money while its interests are ignored in favour of other ambitions.

Your Majesty must return and take a Spanish bride, limit royal gifts and forbid the transfer of Spanish property to foreign nobles. You must remove all foreigners from positions of authority and forbid the use of any foreign troops in our state. They have ravaged our country and will further diminish the respect with which you are held.

All royal advisers must be native Spaniards. They must have good reputations and be subject to the approval of the Cortes. In particular, any financial rewards must be under the power of the Cortes.

The Cortes must have the right to nominate and approve all town magistrates. The Cortes must meet at least three times a year whether called by the monarch or not. The Cortes will serve God, King and the Public Good. All judges must be approved by a majority of the Cortes and have the required training in our law before taking office.

*Medina del Campo – a city which had been attacked with great force by an army loyal to the King

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