Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Time 2 hours 15 minutes

Paper reference **9HI0/32**

History

Advanced

PAPER 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth

Option 32: The Golden Age of Spain, 1474–1598

Source Booklet

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Source for use with Section A.

From a sermon given by Alonso de Hojeda, November 1478. Hojeda was Prior of the Dominican convent in Seville and a leading member of the Inquisition. He had warned Queen Isabella about the threat of false converts during her visit to Seville earlier in 1478.

We, the clergy of Seville, are deeply concerned about the spread of hateful ideas amongst the *conversos* in our community, who are practising their Jewish faith secretly behind locked doors. These New Christians are mocking the Holy Church. They disrespect the sacraments and have an evil influence in our society. The *conversos* are to be found in many high-profile jobs in the community. They are beginning to outnumber the pure-blooded Spanish people in positions of influence.

The *conversos* are heavy drinkers and gluttons who eat garbage made from onions and garlic fried in oil. Jews come to preach to them in their houses secretly. They never make their confessions truthfully. Many people have reported hearing these people denying the Divinity of Christ and attacking our Holy Faith.

The *conversos* never work in the fields but only in the towns where they can sit and make money. They contribute nothing to the community. However, many have, through their thieving and money lending, built up great wealth and own vast estates. They are *marranos** who are spreading their poison.

Therefore, a code has been drawn up for the conduct of an Inquisition. In any community where there are concerns about the behaviour of the *conversos*, all the people will be summoned to the main church. A sermon will be read out, making clear the importance of Christian Faith. After this, inquisitors will order all faithful Christians to come forward and swear an oath that they will support the work of the Inquisition in eliminating the poison in our community.

Any who have fallen into the sin of heresy by observing Jewish rites should come forward and confess their sins. A term of grace, of thirty or forty days, will be granted to them. They must submit their confessions, and other statements, in writing. If they show sincere penitence and confess all their sins, and disclose the sins of others they have been associated with, they will be treated with charity.

After passing sentence, which will often include the confiscation of their land, the inquisitor will say to the penitent:

'My dear son, be patient and do not despair; if we observe in you signs of remorse, we will welcome you back into the True Faith; but beware of falling back into sin; should you do so, you will be punished as an impenitent heretic.'

The punishment in those circumstances is, of course, the fire.

**marranos* – a term of abuse for the New Christians

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Acknowledgements

Source from: Torquemada and the Spanish Inquisition By Rafael Sabatini, 1913