Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Tuesday 11 June 2024

Morning (Time: 2 hours 15 minutes)

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History

Advanced

PAPER 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth

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

Source Booklet

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

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Source for use with Section A.

From a statement made by the Archbishop of Toledo establishing a General Council of the Inquisition, 1483.

On the authority of Queen Isabella, I give overall charge of the conduct of the Inquisition in our country to a man who has shown his determination to protect the true faith, Tomás de Torquemada.

Torquemada made clear to Queen Isabella his anger against those born into the Jewish race, who had become Christian by conversion. These *conversos* had been motivated by selfish considerations and must be prosecuted as heretics. They had continued to practise their Jewish rites and had sought to convert others to their evil ways.

The anger of the Christian people against these deceitful *conversos* had ignited violence and unrest in the state. A series of massacres took place in several communities, including our most holy city of Toledo. Torquemada made it clear to Queen Isabella that these traitors were a real threat to our proud Catholic realm.

Torquemada acted to restore peace and order to our communities. He decided that, although the *conversos* were the immediate concern, regulation of the Jewish community as a whole needed to be tightened. He believed that Jews had crucified Christ and that they were a poison inside the state. He ordered that all Jews must wear a distinguishing badge of red cloth on their coats and be confined to their homes in the Jewish area of the city after dark. No Jew could become a doctor or a surgeon.

In 1478, the Holy Father, Pope Sixtus IV, authorised an Inquisition, which would operate under the authority and control of our blessed Queen Isabella. Since 1478, Torquemada has conducted investigations into heretical behaviour in Castile, Aragon, Valencia and Catalonia. Under the Edict of Grace*, those who were investigated were allowed to have time to consider their sins and admit their guilt and that of others. Those who refused to accept their guilt were condemned and dealt with by the state.

Over 2,000 men and women went to the fire. Others were condemned to lifelong imprisonment. They, and their children, were declared unfit to hold any position of responsibility.

Torquemada has shown the qualities of character that our country requires in such desperate times. We are confident that he will carry out his task in a truly Christian way and preserve the unity of our realm.

*Edict of Grace – a promise of mercy to those who confessed to their heresy

Acknowledgements

Source from: Torquemada and the Spanish Inquisition: A History by Rafael Sabatini