Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Thursday 12 June 2025

Morning (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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From Francisco Núñez Muley, *A Memorandum for the President of the Royal Audiencia of Granada*, published 1567. Muley, a Morisco nobleman, wrote this in response to the new laws issued at the beginning of 1567. The president of the Royal Audiencia was the chief legal representative of the king of Spain.

In 1492, Ferdinand and Isabella, the much-respected Catholic Monarchs, gained control of Granada but agreed to respect the rights of the Muslim community in Spain. In 1499, Archbishop Cisneros, who was concerned that the majority of the population of Granada were of Muslim stock, introduced a less tolerant policy and many freedoms were threatened. Later, this persecution increased with King Charles who ordered the banning of Arabic (the native language of the Muslims) and denied our people the right to wear traditional costumes. Charles suspended these regulations, but now his son Philip has issued a series of decrees known as the *Pragmatica*, which threaten our way of life.
King Philip II stated that he cannot rely on the loyalty of the Morisco people and the Archbishop of Granada has declared that the Moriscos are disloyal to the Catholic Church. I beg your lordships to read this memorandum, and to look with merciful eyes on the natives of this kingdom. They are loyal servants of His Majesty.

Day by day our situation worsens, and it is clear that the authors of the *Pragmatica* do not understand its implications. Morisco properties have been seized, women harassed and abused, and men jailed and fined for minor offences. Our people are no longer able to speak their native language, to sing and dance and even to wear the fashions their families had passed on for generations.

One of the decrees states that we must leave the doors to our homes open on Fridays and Sundays. This is an intrusion into our lives and also leaves our people vulnerable to thieves. Our people do not close their doors in order to challenge the Roman Catholic faith.

This has come at a time when the livelihood of our people is also threatened. For generations families have worked in the silk trade but now their income is threatened by the importation of cheap products from other parts of Spain.

The authorities have begun to expel our people. Many of them have taken to the hills and will be prepared to fight to maintain their rights. They are making preparations to resist and are storing weapons, flour and other provisions in the caves. There is no desire amongst our people for conflict, and we know His Majesty faces many other challenges in Spain at this time. However we are reaching the point where we must either submit or rebel.

Acknowledgement:

Source from: *Early Modern Spain: A Documentary History*, Jon Cowans © University of Pennsylvania Press, May 2003