Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Tuesday 13 June 2023

Morning (Time: 2 hours 15 minutes)

Paper reference **9HI0/33**

History

Advanced

PAPER 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth

Option 33: The witch craze in Britain, Europe and North America, c1580–c1750

Source Booklet

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

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Source for use with Section A.

From Cotton Mather, *The Wonders of the Invisible World: being an account of the trials of several witches lately executed in New England*, published 1693.

The New Englanders are a people of God settled in those territories which once belonged to the Devil. The Devil was exceedingly disturbed when he saw people settle here and accomplish the promise made to our blessed Jesus, that Jesus should have the earth for His possession. The Devil is now making one more attack upon us; an attack more dangerous and more surprising than any that we have encountered so far. This is an attack so dangerous, that if we survive it, we shall soon enjoy days of glory. The Devil has wanted his demons to persecute us, as the people of God in England have been persecuted. He has drawn forth his demons to make an attack upon us. There is a horrible plot of witchcraft against New England, which if it were not quickly discovered, would destroy the faith of all its inhabitants.

An army of devils has broken into the first of our English settlements. The houses of good people there are filled with the miserable shrieks of their children and servants as they are tormented by invisible hands. After this, a terrible plague of evil angels, has made its progress into some other places, where other persons have been harmed in the same manner. After they became infested with these demons, our poor distressed neighbours were able to identify those who took the shapes of the demons. Although there is a great and accurate suspicion that the demons might take the shapes of innocent people in their spectral manifestations, many of the persons accused, when examined, have been convicted of a very damnable witchcraft. More than twenty-one have confessed that they have signed a book, which the Devil showed them. He has engaged in his hellish design of bewitching and ruining our land.

These confessions have shown that the Devil has made a dangerous group of witches in our land. With the help of witches, he has continuously increased the size of this group. These witches have persuaded their spirits to do all sorts of mischiefs to our neighbours. At these witch meetings, the witches have proceeded to consult on the methods of rooting out the Christian religion from this country. It will be a miracle if the Devil is not in disguise in order to prevent his discovery.

Acknowledgement:

Source from: The Wonders of the Invisible World by Cotton Mather