Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Thursday 12 June 2025

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 the minutes of the trial of Johannes Junius, Mayor of Bamberg, 1628.

On 28 June 1628, Junius, Mayor of Bamberg, was examined, without torture, on the charge of witchcraft. He was fifty-five years old. He was asked how, and in what fashion, he had fallen into that sin. He said he was wholly innocent, knew nothing of the crime and had never in his life renounced God. He said that he was wronged before God and the world, and would challenge any human being to prove that he had been seen at a witch-sabbath.

Junius was confronted by the Bishop's Vice Chancellor, Doctor Haan, who told him to his face that he saw him, a year and a half ago, at a witch-gathering in the Council meeting room where they ate and drank. The accused denied this. He was confronted by another who told Junius that he saw him on the moor at a witch-dance. Junius was then told that his accomplices had confessed against him, and he was given time for thought.

On 30 June 1628, Junius was again, without torture, encouraged to confess, but again confessed nothing. He was then put to torture and, first, the thumb screws were applied. He said that he had never denied God. Leg screws were then applied, and Junius confessed nothing and said he knew nothing about it. He was then stripped and examined. On his right side was found a blueish mark, which was pricked. Junius felt no pain and no blood flowed out.

On 5 July, Junius was, without torture but with urgent persuasions, strongly encouraged to confess and at last he began to do so:

Junius said that whenever he wished to ride to a witch-sabbath, a black dog had come upon his bed, who said to him that he must go with him. Junius then seated himself upon the dog, and the dog raised himself in the Devil's name and journeyed there. About two years ago, he journeyed on the dog to the Council meeting room. At a table were the Chancellor, another Mayor, Doctor Haan and many others.

On 6 August 1628, this confession was read to Junius. He confirmed his confession and was willing to stake his life on it. Afterwards, he voluntarily confirmed the same to the court.

Acknowledgements:

Source from: https://history.hanover.edu/texts/bamberg.html