Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

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 Matthew Hopkins, *The Discovery of Witches*, published 1647. Here he is writing in response to a number of criticisms of his investigative techniques that had been raised with the assize judges in Norfolk. Hopkins is using the common format of a dialogue to address these criticisms.

Criticism 13

How can anyone believe that the Devil and the Witch, joining together, should have such power as the Witches, when they confess to killing a man, child, horse or cow? If we believe they can do what they will, then we deviate from God's power who, for certain, limits the Devil and the Witch, and we cannot believe they have any power at all.

Answer

God suffers the Devil many times to do much hurt. The Devil does play the deluder with these Witches. The Devil persuades them that they are the source of a murder caused by him with their consent, when they had no part in it. The Devil is above 6,000 years old. By reason of his long experience, he must be the best scholar in all knowledge of arts and languages, and so have the best knowledge of what disease is present in a man's body. This subtle Tempter, knowing such a man is prone to some sudden diseases, uses various Witches to cause death.

Criticism 14

All that the witch-finder does is to defraud the country of their money. He rides to towns to have employment and makes promises he cannot fulfil. It may be that he persuades many men that they have so many wizards and so many witches in their town. He encourages them to invite him and he does nothing to justify it.

Answer

You do the witch-finder a great deal of wrong in all of these criticisms.

1. He never went to any town or place, unless they rode, wrote or sent for him, and were (for all he knew) glad of him.

2. He is a man that does reject that he ever detected a witch, or said, 'Thou art a witch' without evidence. It was only after her trial by search, and her own confession, that he detected a witch, as others may judge.

3. Lastly, judge how he defrauds the country, and enriches himself, by considering the 'vast' sum he takes of every town. He demands only 20 shillings a town. He does sometimes ride 20 miles for that and gets no more even though he might stay a week there. This is the sum he takes, and no more, to maintain his three horses if he finds there three or four witches, or even if it is just one.

Acknowledgements

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