

A LEVEL

Examiners' report

HISTORY A

H505

For first teaching in 2015

Y107/01 Summer 2018 series

Version 1

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Introduction

Our examiners' reports are produced to offer constructive feedback on candidates' performance in the examinations. They provide useful guidance for future candidates. The reports will include a general commentary on candidates' performance, identify technical aspects examined in the questions and highlight good performance and where performance could be improved. The reports will also explain aspects which caused difficulty and why the difficulties arose, whether through a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique, or any other identifiable and explainable reason.

Where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report. A full copy of the question paper can be downloaded from OCR.

Paper Y107/01 series overview

Y107 is one of thirteen units for the revised A Level examination for GCE History. This unit tests an extended period of History of about fifty years through an Enquiry or source-based option and an essay. The paper is divided into two sections. In Section A candidates have to answer a compulsory source questions based on four written primary sources. The question requires them to use all four sources to assess the validity of a view. In Section B candidates are required to answer one essay question from a choice of two.

To do well on Section A, candidates need to be able to consider both provenance of the sources and apply contextual knowledge to them in order to reach a judgement about the sources in relation to the issue in the question.

To do well on Section B, candidates need to address the issue in the question, using detailed supporting knowledge. In order to reach the higher levels candidates will need to assess the issues they discuss and reach a supported judgement at least in the conclusion.

Overview of candidate performance

Candidates who did well on this paper generally did the following:

- considered the provenance of the source(s) and used relevant contextual knowledge
- linked the contextual knowledge clearly to the source being discussed to show whether the view of the source was valid or not
- reached an overall judgement as to the extent to which the sources supported the view in the question
- in answering the essay question, discussed at least two issues in depth
- gave supporting detail that was both accurate and relevant to the question set, not just the topic
- reached a supported judgement about the issue in the question
- made a series of interim judgements about the issues discussed in relation to the question.

Candidates who did less well on this paper generally did the following:

- did not consider both the provenance and use contextual knowledge to evaluate the sources
- wrote an unbalanced answer in their treatment of the sources, with very little consideration of one of the sources
- reached a judgement based on their knowledge rather than the sources
- showed a poor understanding of the major issues relevant to the essay
- were unable to support their answer with relevant material
- did not focus on the precise wording of the question
- made unsupported comments about issues which were assertions.

Section A overview

Section A is the source element of this paper and the A Level examination, testing AO2. It is therefore important that responses are driven by the sources as this is the only part of the examination where this is tested. There is one compulsory question in this section. The question requires candidates to use all four sources to assess how far they support a view. Candidates are advised to spend slightly longer on Section A as it carries more marks than Section B. Centres should be aware that in answering the question there is no requirement for candidates to group the sources and that any level or mark can be achieved without this. However, candidates do need to consider all four sources and in order to reach the higher levels should assess the provenance of each source and test the validity of the source using contextual knowledge. In order to reach the highest levels there should be clear evidence of a judgement about the sources, based on an assessment of their provenance and the use of contextual knowledge, and the extent to which they support the view.

Question 1

- 1 Using these four sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the view that Mary Tudor's restoration of Catholicism was popular. [30]

There was a good range of answers to the source question. Most candidates displayed a sound understanding of most of the sources in relation to the actual question set and were able to link the information in the source to the question. This was particularly true of Sources A, B and C. Source D was more challenging for the lower ability answers as they were uncertain as to whether it showed support or opposition to the restoration of Catholicism. Source A was seen clearly to offer support for the proposition and nearly all candidates were able to select relevant material from the source to support the view. Similarly, most were able to select material from Source B and use it to explain that the restoration was not popular. Most also identified the more balanced nature of Source C with evidence both for and against the proposition. However, Source D presented the greatest difficulty. Many weaker answers simply stated that it showed there was no support as things were depressed and ruined, with people broken in spirit. However, stronger answers debated whether this showed that people did support the restoration as Protestantism was destroyed or whether because they were broken they accepted Catholicism only because it was enforced and therefore not really popular.

There was little difficulty for most to apply contextual knowledge to at least some of the sources. However, what was particularly noticeable was that the evaluation became less strong the further the answer progressed. It was particularly noticeable that there was little use of contextual knowledge to discuss Source D, which was often the last source considered. Contextual knowledge was used well to test the view of Parkyn. Many made mention of the joyous welcome given to Mary or mass being said in various parishes before laws had been repealed. In discussing B many answers did challenge the view using the fact that there is little evidence of people being converted or that there were no revolts other than Wyatts, which most suggested was not about religion. Some very strong answers were aware of the moving of the burnings because of fear of unrest or the profits to be made by Kent cherry sellers and used that to test the validity of the view. In discussing Source C a few strong answers challenged the comment about the building of monasteries, either noting very few were refounded or pointing to the difficulty in getting acts passed until there were guarantees about monastic lands. However, Source D was done less well with very few aware of Mary's appointments at Oxford.

Discussion of provenance varied considerably. There were some simplistic comments, such as they were written at time or were eye-witnesses and are therefore reliable. Such comments would not score well at GCSE and did not score well at A Level. Whilst many commented on the reliability of the authors because of their position and beliefs, the strongest answers often looked at the dates of the sources and the geography of where they were from. Source A was written at the very start of Mary's reign and therefore did not cover the period of the persecutions, whilst also noting it was from Yorkshire, a traditionally Catholic area. Similarly, comments about B and C being from the period of the persecutions was noted and that they offered a London view. The strongest answers often picked up on Renard's relationship with Mary and the factional struggle at court with Gardiner urging restraint. However, there were some who were confused by C and seemed to think that the Papacy was based in Venice or that Venice was Protestant. With Source D most focused on the Protestant nature of the writer, but stronger answers did comment on the date and Jewel's absence from England during Mary's reign.

However, it was a trend that many responses dealt with one element of the contextual knowledge or provenance well, but not the other and this limited the mark credited. Similarly, despite often good contextual knowledge and provenance there was no attempt to judge the overall validity of the source in relation to the popularity of the restoration and this also limited the response. However, Exemplar 1 below provides a good example where all three elements are considered and therefore Level 6 is reached.

Exemplar 1

[F] Source A supports the view that the restoration of Catholicism was popular and posits [EXP] 'The English service was voluntarily laid aside' which is confirmed by the traditional mass [KU] that was set up for Mary on the 23rd August in London, which other churches in England followed suit in. This confirms the voluntary aspect of religious change at the beginning of Mary's reign and the argument that 'all without compulsion of any act or law, but [KU] merely on wish of Queen Mary' is supported by the crowds who greeted Mary as she entered London on the 3rd August. The lack of compulsion her subjects faced in this [KU] early part of her reign is further supported by her speech to citizens of London on the [KU] 17th August 1553 which stated that she hoped others would follow her religion but that this would not be forced. This suggests that there is considerable reliability in the source and in taking the form of a book detailing religious change, would have had the purpose [F] of creating an accurate historical account. However, Parkyn's book only details religious [EXP] changes up to 1554 which means that the source is largely limited to the first few religious changes taking place, and more importantly, is not able to mention the burnings that took place from February 1555 which challenge the view that Mary's restoration of catholicism was popular. Further, Parkyn was a Catholic, meaning that h [F] may have overestimated the support for Mary, this is evident in his omission of the Wyatt's rebellion of January 1554, which may have had religious motivations. While this [EXP] source is useful in understanding the initial support for the restoration, it is unable to comment on the latter half of Mary's restoration, meaning that the source is incomplete in supporting the view. [JH]

[F] Source B challenges the view that the restoration of Catholicism was popular, instead [KU] arguing it was 'cruel enforcement'. This is perhaps evident in the 280 burned at the stake for their protestantism and heresy that shows the extent the religion was forced on [F] the people of England. Since it is written the day after John Rogers, the biblical translator was burnt, it could be argued that the reaction has been dramatised, because it was the [KU] first burning to take place in Mary's reign. Because of this, it is also unable to comment on the later burnings of notable persons such as Cranmer, Latimer and Ridley which confirms that the comments that the source can make on the popularity of the [KU] restoration of Catholicism was limited. The argument that 'onlookers wept, others prayed to God' is supported by sources of Gardiner who feared that the burning of Protestants furthered their cause as it showed the extent of their belief. This further [F] challenges the view that the restoration to Catholicism was popular which is aided further by the 'not convert back to Protestantism' suggesting that the majority of the subjects were dedicated to the Protestant cause. This view is supported by the riots that [KU]

[KU] took place during the initial burnings of 1555 which suggest that they were not supported, although it must be remembered that these were minor and that many areas turned up to the burnings as a form of entertainment. As the Imperial ambassador [P] Renard would have been tasked to record an accurate account of the reaction the burnings. This source is further reliable given that Renard had a close relationship with Mary, advising her often, meaning that his production of an unfavourable account of the restoration of Catholicism would not necessarily be expected. This makes the source [KU] more reliable in documenting the level of popularity that the restoration of Catholicism had received.

[P] Source C makes further claims that the view the restoration of Catholicism was unpopular in the argument that 'most pretend to reject protestantism and on first

[KU] opportunity would return to it'. This is evident in the arrest and burning of Cranmer in which he recanted and swore to be Catholic. At his burning on the 21st March 1556 Cranmer was able to recant this and reclaim his dedication to the Protestant faith, evidence that Catholicism was not popular among the people confirming restoration was not popular. The knowledge that 'in order not to be deceived, ordered that Cardinal Pole should have everything referred to him' suggests an intimate knowledge of goings on of court confirming the reliability of the letter. Unlike sources A and B, Michiel has been able to experience much of the religious changes that took place as well as the majority of the burnings which does suggest that the source is useful in looking at the reaction to the restoration of Catholicism as a whole. As this letter is unlikely to ever be read by those in England, it is likely that Michiel was able to argue his true opinions on the restoration which does add a further air of reliability. The further view that 'conspiracies and plots are formed against her daily' seems to be dubious given that the only prominent rebellion in Mary's reign was Wyatt's rebellion of 1554. This limits the reliability of the source as it seems to make reference to small scale grievances and [KU] emphasis their role too much. The reliability of Source C is further limited in its claim that 'Monasteries are being built, churches are full' as although the commission set up in January 1555 to refound some religious houses and monasteries had begun work in 1557, the number of houses that were built and refounded was very limited. Although [KU] Michiel may have aimed to write a matter of fact account as to the religious developments taking place at court, the views offered are hard to confirm with available evidence meaning that there is some limit to the reliability of the source.

[P] Source D further challenges the view that the Catholic restoration under Mary was [P] popular. Written in 1559, the writer is able to write his true feelings on the restoration given Mary's death was 17th November 1558. Source D argues that Mary's restoration of Catholicism caused 'desolation' of universities and this can perhaps be credited with [KU] Pole's appointment as Chancellor of Cambridge University, which provided a strong link between education and the church. There is further support of this argument in the effects of the War of Words which included censorship laws that stopped free discussion of religion meaning that the Source is convincing in asserting 'scarcely two individuals who think with us'. This confirms that the restoration to Catholicism was not popular as it [KU] prevented discussion of religion and expression. However, there is perhaps some limit to the argument that 'desolation could be effected in such a short time' given that 19,000 copies of the Second Book of Common Prayer were smuggled into England during the reign of Mary I, and considering that the impact of the War on Words is difficult to determine. As a Protestant, it can be argued that although having witnessed the reign [P] of Mary, Jewel makes unfavourable conclusions that have been dramatised and are not in line with beliefs of the majority. This is evident in its failure to mention the role [KU] of Pole in education and his 'Top-down strategy' which led to more education of clergymen as well as new religious texts which did create room for discussion which may have increased the popularity of the restoration of Catholicism. Further, as Jewel was in exile [P] during Mary's reign it can be argued that there is further limitation in his account, as he fails to be in a position of secure knowledge of the events on England. As it is likely that he may have left England in the protestant exodus of January 1554.

Overall, the view that Mary's restoration of Catholicism was popular is unconvincing when considering the likes of Source B, C and D. While source A does support this view convincingly, there are limitations as it focuses on the first half of Mary's reign, and can not account for views on further religious changes or reactions to the burnings. Source B and C are both from ambassadors and therefore seem more reliable in their assertions of the unpopularity of Catholicism although there are some limitations to their

assertions. Source D while largely limited in its assertions does posit that the return to Catholicism was damaging, although this was the least convincing of all four sources.

Section B overview

In Section B candidates are required to answer one question from a choice of two. Given that most candidates are likely to spend longer on Section A than B it is not expected that they will be able to cover all the issues raised by the question. Candidates can score well by considering two or three issues in depth and reaching a supported judgement. However, it is important to ensure that the issues selected allow a justifiable judgement to be reached. The majority of candidates chose to answer Question 3, but both questions produced a wide range of responses.

Question 2*

2* To what extent did the religious settlement of 1558–1559 achieve Elizabeth's aims?

[20]

Although this question was less popular than Question 3, there was still a good range of answers. Candidates adopted a range of approaches to the question and both proved successful provided that they identified Elizabeth's aims and then used their knowledge to address the extent to which she achieved her aims. A number of responses looked at just the short term aims of Elizabeth in terms of achieving religious stability after the reigns of Edward and Mary and the potential threat from overseas. However, there were other responses which looked at settlement in the longer term and considered whether it allowed her aims to be achieved throughout her reign. Either approach was acceptable provided that the argument was linked back to the settlement and was not simply an answer that looked at whether her religious policy was a success.

Lower ability responses showed a very limited knowledge and understanding of the details of the settlement, often failing to go beyond naming the major acts of 1558-9. This often led to a general discussion of whether there was religious stability during her reign. However, stronger answers used knowledge of some of the early struggles she had with the Acts to argue that ultimately she did achieve her aim of conformity amongst the majority of the population. These answers argued that she would never have been able to win over all, but that she was more successful than her predecessors, shown by the lack of religious unrest for much of her reign. Some argued that the absence of religious wars, unlike much of mainland Europe was a clear indication that she had achieved her aims, whilst others noted the permanency of the settlement to show that she had achieved her aims. Responses often mentioned the challenges to the settlement in parliament but noted again her success in defeating them and therefore achieving her goal of providing religious stability. A range of examples from the Vestarian controversy and Cope's Bill and Book were used to support the view that a moderate settlement, which had been her goal, was sustained. Similarly, some used the example of the Armada to show how she had won over most moderate Catholics by her policy.

Some responses considered the threat of foreign intervention in 1558 given Elizabeth's position in the eyes of Catholic powers. Many argued that again the settlement was a success. These answers often used the example of Philip persuading the Pope not to excommunicate her as sign of success with the settlement and that it was not until after the rebellion of the Northern Earls that any lead was given to English Catholics by the Papacy. Comments were also made about Elizabeth achieving her own goals by retaining church music and the crucifix in her chapel to assuage foreign visitors.

Exemplar 2 shows a discussion of range of issues but where further development of judgement is needed to reach the very top level.

Exemplar 2

2		<p>The religious settlement of 1558-1559 met Elizabeth's aims to a large extent. This is due to the fact she was successful in both establishing stability and her own authority after the hectic reigns of both Mary Tudor and Edward VI.</p>
	V	
	F	<p>On the one hand, Elizabeth was able to establish her authority through the 1558 Act of Supremacy. This Act named her the 'Supreme Governor' of the Church and thus added on centralizing power into her hands. This in turn gave way to her passing of the 1558 Act of Uniformity, which successfully dealt with the conflict between Catholic and Protestant religious beliefs.</p>
	EXP	<p>The Act involved the removing of the notorious Black Rubric, which was brought in under Edward VI's Protestant reforms. It Its removal would have</p>
	EXP	<p>appeared the Catholics as they believed in the presence of Jesus in the bread and wine, and that when they were knelt they were kneeling to him. Further to this, the Catholics were appeased through the removal of any offensive references to the Pope in the Book of Common Prayer. This served the dual purpose of aiding Elizabeth's attempts to "establish a relationship with Rome, so she would cement her legitimacy and claim to the throne" (as the daughter of Boleyn, she was at the heart of the break from Rome).</p>
	EXP	
	EXP	
	EXP	
	EXP	
	EXP	

	and this would reduce income for her leg. treasury later in her reign). Equally, Elizabeth put in place measures to appease the Protestants and she achieved this through allowing all churches to have a copy of the Bible in English and retaining the majority of the Protestant reforms to the church services. In addition
EXP	to this, Elizabeth retained the Marian exiles as Bishops, ensuring their loyalty to her the by subjecting them to the Oath of Supremacy. This would ensure that they did not later question Elizabeth's role as ^{governor} head of the church, which was traditionally held by the
EXP	Further to this, she retained the
	act that allowed clergy to get married, as it stood under Edward VI, but the clergy would only get married once they had gained permission from higher authorities in the church.
F	Despite all of these ^{religious settlements} reforms ^{aiding} Elizabeth in achieving her aims of a stable religion and a supreme authority in England, it is
AN	important to note that these reforms were 'settlements' and thus there were things that Elizabeth had to sacrifice. For example, in
EXP	the Act of Supremacy, she settled for the title of 'Supreme Governor' in place of 'Supreme Head of the Church' in a bid to appease Catholic bishops who did not agree with anyone bar the Pope being the head of the

EXP Church, let alone a Roman (not consistent with biblical teachings on the role of women). Furthermore, Elizabeth was only able to get the Act of Supremacy passed by the removal of two bishops, and even then it was passed through the House of Lords by just three votes, suggesting that despite holding the title of 'supreme governor' she was yet to gain the ~~most~~ authority that came with this title over her parliament. In addition to this, ~~the~~ the Act of Uniformity ~~1558~~ was

EXP met with outcries from both Protestant and Catholics: her attempt to appeal to both of them ultimately meant that no one was completely satisfied with the religious settlement that Elizabeth established.

This being said, on the whole Elizabeth was still able to meet her aim of establishing religious stability and her own ~~act~~ authority through the religious settlement of 1558 and 1559. Despite not being able to fully satisfy both Catholic and Protestant beliefs, her success at establishing religious stability is evident in the fact that her religious settlement did not ~~cause~~ cause any serious backlash; it was successfully established. Moreover, her position as 'supreme governor' of the Church truly did allow her total autonomy in ~~the~~ how the church was to run. This is reflected in the fact that Elizabeth was able to reflect her own religious inclinations in her

		regions: despite being from a slightly more Protestant background, she retained the of displaying of crosses in churches as she liked the look of them. As well as this, due to her
		personal dislike of long sermons, she introduced a sermon book to keep them limited in length, as radical Protestant sermons were known to go on for
	JU	ages. This ultimately shows how she Elizabeth used her religious settlement to establish ultimate authority within the church and her
		reign as a whole; the settlement was as per her personal beliefs.

Question 3*

3* 'Elizabeth's power was seriously threatened in the period from 1588 to 1603.' How far do you agree? [20]

Most candidates were able to discuss a good range of issues and use their knowledge of events such as the Armada and Ireland to address the question of Elizabeth's power. There was a wide range of issues that candidates could discuss, including Ireland, Spain, Essex, social issues, finance and the royal prerogative but it was not expected that to reach even the top level all of these would be considered. What mattered was the quality of analysis and judgement. Even at the lower ability range candidates were usually able to write about what happened in Ireland or with the Armada and provide some explanation as to whether they threatened her power. However, there were a few answers that did not read the question carefully and wrote about events from before 1588 without making their comments relevant to the actual question set. This was particularly the case with responses which spent a great deal of time discussing Mary Queen of Scots.

Most responses considered the Armada and Tyrone's rebellion, usually seeing one of those as the greatest threat. The strongest response discussed each issue and reached a judgement about the issue rather than explaining why each issue was and then why it was not a threat. This latter approach makes interim judgements that much more difficult. There were some very encouraging balanced discussions of these two events which considered how great the military threat was of the Armada and whether an Irish rebellion, despite lasting so long was a threat to her power. Very strong responses contrasted Tyrone with Essex and discussed whether a rebellion in London was a greater threat to Elizabeth's power than one in Ireland.

Discussions about developments in parliament were handled well by the higher ability responses. Lower ability responses were often confused over what monopolies were and their significance. There were also number who did not pick up on the Golden speech and use that to show how, despite the battles of previous years, Elizabeth was still able to control MPs. There were some strong answers that noted the changing composition of both her Privy Council and parliament and argued that this was a threat to her power, given the new type of Oxbridge educated MP. However, some did balance this against her general ability obtain subsidies and her prerogative powers of summoning, proroguing and dissolving parliament.

Some of the most interesting discussion was found when answers considered her image and age and the extent to which this threatened her power. In particular, some did pick up on negotiations with James, suggesting that even if outwardly loyal some were already preparing for a future without her.

There were many very good answers, as can be seen in Exemplar 3, which weighed up a range of issues to reach a balanced conclusion. However, most were able to explain some issues even if the answer was just a list of challenges.

Exemplar 3

3	<p>In the later years of her reign Elizabeth certainly faced some difficulties and some did threaten her power. The Essex rebellion in 1601 and her attempt parliament's attempt to infringe her prerogative certainly threatened her power but was never serious. Additionally, poverty in England threatened her image but not her power therefore, her power was not seriously threatened.</p>
	<p>The Essex rebellion in 1601 was a revolt led by Robert Devereux who aimed to take possession of the Queen and force her to expel.</p>
	<p>The Essex rebellion in 1601 did threaten Elizabeth's power but it was not serious. Robert Devereux, who had become bitter after being put under house arrest due to his early return from Ireland, aimed to ^{take hold of} capture parliament and force the Queen to remove her councillors whom Essex opposed such as Robert Devereux, Robert Cecil. This was a threat to the Queen's power as it was her duty to appoint and dismiss ministers. Therefore, this threat was not at all serious as it The threat was serious to an extent as many councillors joined Essex such as Westminster Mildmay, Mowbray that it could be a serious threat. Moreover, Essex showed</p>

		the play Richard III to show his similarities to
		Bolton who ended up ^{deposed} deposing the monarch.
	EXP	This shows that he intended to overthrow the Queen.
		However, this was not a serious threat as Essex,
		despite being 'England's darling' did
		not manage to raise much support. Moreover,
		it is so probable that the rising was caused by
		friction between Essex and Cecil who had been
		promoted made Secretary of State in 1596
		and Essex was jealous, therefore, not a
	AN	threat to the Queen at all. Additionally,
		Elizabeth only executed six members of the
		court making that it was not perceived as
	AN	a serious threat to the Queen at all. Elizabeth's
		power at all.
		Another threat to the Queen's power was in parliament.
	F	This was also not a serious threat as the Queen
		always to the Queen's power as she was able to use
		her prerogative to stifle and any debates she
		wished. Peter and Paul Wentworth threatened her
		power at in 1591 and later as they
		demanding the Queen allow free speech in
		parliament. This threatened her power as it
	EXP	would allow parliament to discuss issues such as
		Queen's marriage and religious settlements
		which were the Queen's prerogative. If this had
		been allowed, authority of Queen may have been
		undermined as she would be forced to have to

		<p>listen to their advice. Parliament also threatened her power regarding issues of monopolies in 1601. Use Monopolies was the Queen's way of paying off her councillors instead of money which she did not have. This made prices go up as there was no competition. Parliament demanded that the Queen remove some monopolies and she obliged and removed 12 including Negro and starch. Next, her power was threatened as she was forced to agree to demands of parliament but despite her own circumstances, none of these were a serious threat to her power as Peter and Paul failed to gain support of House of Commons after they claimed to parliament was run by ^{the} Queen through 'rumors and messages'. This sign of disrespect angered House of Commons who amended both. Therefore, not serious as they did serious threat as they did not have support of House of Commons.</p>
	F	
	AN	<p>Additionally, Queen gave golden speech which raised her popularity in 1601 and the issue of monopolies was dropped showing again that it was not ^a serious at all threat ^{to her power} at all as her prerogative able to</p>
	AN	
	F	<p>Finally, poverty in England also threatened her power as it led to riots and a decline of her image but once again, this was not serious. Poverty had increased in England as</p>

		In conclusion, Elizabeth's power was threatened by rebellions including Essex rebellion and rebellion in Oxford but these were handled quickly and lack of executions show that they were not a serious threat to her power.
JU		Also Also, Parliament threatened her power by attempting to undermine her prerogative but she was but her power ^{power} remained intact due to loyalty from home g commas as ^{as} well as her great oracy, meant that it was never a serious trre threat. Additional but Poverty also had threatened her power ^{power} as shown by the need to pass many acts benefiting the poor but even though this didn't help her image, her it was never a truly serious threat to her power. Therefore, Elizabeth's power was almost her never seriously threatened in the period 1588 to 1603.
JU		

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