



A-LEVEL HISTORY

7042/2E: The English Revolution, 1625-1660
Report on the Examination

7042
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General

Students needed more appropriate levels of content knowledge that befits a depth study. More able students stood out by their ability to deploy a range of precise context accurately. A rather mechanistic approach served some students well when dealing with the primary sources, but those students who were able to link elements like provenance and tone as part of comment tended to have a more sophisticated analysis of the value of the sources.

Question 01

Some students were able to deploy contextual knowledge of the Petition of Right well. There were some excellent comments on the tone and purpose of the Petition as illustrating the essential conservatism of the bulk of MPs. While there were some generalisations with regard to source B as a private letter to a friend, the most effective answers linked provenance to the content and tone. The best answers grasped C as a deliberately constructed justification by Charles trying to implicate a few MPs in his appeal to the moderate majority and to the wider public.

Question 02

This answer was either done very well, or very poorly. The less effective answers were fundamentally due to a lack of knowledge of Wentworth's policies and approach in Ireland. Some wrote in general about Personal Rule policies in England. The most effective answers structured their analysis of Wentworth around the themes of authority, finance, Parliament and religion.

Question 03

This was the most popular answer and there were excellent sections on the impact of Scottish support. Most then balanced this by the weakness and failures of the royalists, although some did this in too general a way. The New Model featured in most good responses but some failed to be specific with regard to its impact. A lot of the most effective answers isolated the control of London and resources as the ultimate reason for Parliament's eventual victory, listing all the advantages it gave Parliament. Few were able to isolate religion as an ultimate driving force for men like Pym or key officers in the New Model making the most of the resources they increasingly marshalled.

Question 04

Many failed to focus on the key period, Cromwell's time as Lord Protector, and instead went outside this without making valid links to the specific question, specifically addressing 1649 to 1653. The most effective answers appreciated the issues raised by the military nature of Cromwell's rule, whether it was taxation, a lack of legitimacy or the impact of the Major-Generals and the perception of the army as a reason for religious and political radicalism. This was balanced against other reasons for the failure of settlement, such as Cromwell himself or the divisions in the Cromwellian alliance. Cromwell's relations with his Parliaments featured in many answers. Some took a chronological approach and ably illustrated their answer through key events across the period. Examples include the republican opposition in the first Protectorate Parliament, the Biddle Case, the Western Design, Penruddock's rising, the Major-Generals, the decimation tax, the Nayler Crisis and the Kingship Crisis.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.