



Cambridge Pre-U

HISTORY

9769/53

Paper 5c Special Subject: The Reign of Henry VIII, 1509–1547

For examination from 2020

SPECIMEN PAPER

2 hours



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions in total:
 - Section A: answer Question 1.
 - Section B: answer **one** question.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.
- You will be marked on analysis and critical evaluation in your answers. You should also show an awareness of links and comparisons between different countries and different periods, where appropriate.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This specimen paper has been updated for assessments from 2020. The specimen questions and mark schemes remain the same. The layout and wording of the front covers have been updated to reflect the new Cambridge International branding and to make instructions clearer for candidates.

Section A

Nominated topic: The accession of Henry and the Wolsey years to 1529

- 1 Study all the following documents and answer the questions which follow. In evaluating and commenting on the documents it is essential to set them alongside, and to make use of, your own contextual knowledge.

- A** *A member of Wolsey's household gives an account of the Cardinal's wide-ranging activities and responsibilities.*

He would most commonly stay awhile at a bar made for him a little beneath the Chancery and there commune sometime with the judges and sometime with other persons. And that done he would repair into the Chancery, and sit there until eleven of the clock, hearing suitors and determining of divers matters. And from thence he would divers times go into the Star Chamber, where he spared neither high nor low, but judged every estate according to their merits and deserts.

Thus in great honour, triumph, and glory he reigned a long season, ruling all thing within this realm appertaining unto the King by his wisdom, and also all other weighty matters of foreign regions with whom the King and this realm had any occasion to intermeddle. All ambassadors of foreign potentates were always despatched by his discretion, to whom they had always access for their despatch.

George Cavendish, *The Life and Death of Cardinal Wolsey*, written 1556–1558.

- B** *The Venetian ambassador reports on the conduct of affairs in England.*

The Cardinal of York rules both the King and the entire kingdom. On my first arrival in England he used to say to me, 'His Majesty will do so and so'. Subsequently, by degrees, he forgot himself and began saying, 'We shall do so and so'. At this present he has reached such a pitch that he says, 'I shall do so and so'.

He is about 46 years old, very handsome, learned, extremely eloquent, of vast ability, and indefatigable. He alone transacts as much business as that which occupies all the magistracies, offices and councils of Venice, both civil and criminal; and all state affairs are likewise managed by him. He is thoughtful and has the reputation of being extremely just: he favours the people exceedingly, and especially the poor; hearing their suits and seeking to dispatch them instantly.

Tomasso Giustiniani, *Letter*, 1519.

- C** *The papal legate in England assesses Wolsey's position on the matter of the divorce proceedings between Henry VIII and Queen Catherine.*

As far as I can make out the Cardinal is actually not in favour of the affair, but your lordship can be sure that he would not dare to admit this openly, nor can he help to prevent it; on the contrary he has to hide his feelings and pretend to be eagerly pursuing what the King desires. I talk freely with the Cardinal, since I know his opinion is as I have described it. In the end he shrugs his shoulders, and says there is nothing he can say except that the only course open is somehow to satisfy the King whatever the consequences, since in time some remedy will be found.

Cardinal Lorenzo Campeggio, writing on 9 January 1529.

- D** *Wolsey's biographer reports the Cardinal's deathbed conversation with Sir William Kingston, Constable of the Tower, who had been sent to escort the Cardinal to London in November 1530.*

'Well, well, Master Kingston', quod he, 'I see the matter against me how it is framed. But if I had served God as diligently as I have done the King, he would not have given me over in my grey hairs. Howbeit, this is the just reward that I must receive for my worldly diligence and pains that I have had to do him service, only to satisfy his vain pleasures, not regarding my godly duty. Wherefore I pray you with all my heart to have me most humbly commended unto his royal majesty, beseeching in my behalf to call to his most gracious remembrance all matters proceeding between him and me and the progress of the same. And most chiefly in the weighty matter yet depending (meaning the matter newly begun between him and good Queen Catherine) – then shall his conscience declare whether I have offended him or no.'

George Cavendish, The Life and Death of Cardinal Wolsey, written 1556–1558.

- E** *A modern historian analyses the relationship between Henry VIII and Wolsey.*

Wolsey was accused of being a 'one-man council', and of monopolising access to the king. What Wolsey did do was to manage the council on the king's behalf. Henry intervened from time to time as he felt inclined – and sometimes showed surprising knowledge of the issues – but by and large he let the cardinal get on with it. Wolsey decided who did what, reserving for his own attention issues such as foreign policy, and the need to raise additional funds. He often used his own servants, when he should have used the king's, and this was an issue that left him vulnerable to criticism. Wolsey is even alleged on one occasion to have used the revealing phrase 'I and the king' but he was never as all powerful as his detractors chose to believe, and after 1525 the king's confidence in him became increasingly uncertain. What he also did for Henry, and with the latter's full approval, was to increase the authority of central government.

David Loades, Henry VIII, 2007.

- (a)** How far does Document B corroborate the account of Wolsey's work habits as presented in Document A? [10]
- (b)** How convincing is the evidence provided by this set of documents for the view that the relationship between Henry VIII and Wolsey was that of master and servant? In making your evaluation you should refer to contextual knowledge as well as to all the documents in this set (A–E). [20]

Section B

Answer **one** of the following questions. Where appropriate, your essay should make use of any relevant documents you have studied as well as contextual knowledge.

- 2 How significant was the role of Thomas Cromwell in carrying out the Breach with Rome? [30]
- 3 How are the religious policies of the last decade of Henry VIII's reign best explained? [30]
- 4 To what extent was the Pilgrimage of Grace driven by political rather than religious considerations? [30]

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