
AS

HISTORY

The English Revolution, 1625-1660

7041/2E The origins of the English Civil War, 1625-1642

Report on the Examination

7041

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General Comments

There was evidence of students being more confident in approaching the sources with regard to provenance and tone. An increased number of students were making more use of the attribution linked to the content to make sound evaluative comments. With regard to the essays there were strong answers to both and one wasn't answered predominantly more than the other. Stronger responses always focused on the specific wording of the question rather than a general response to the period. Stronger responses were also marked by clear introductions.

Question 1

The best responses to this question focused specifically on the sources for explaining 'divisions within the Political Nation by 1642' rather than the causes of civil war. There was good clear comment on the provenance from the information given, specifically Ludlow's later position and later construction of his memoirs in comparison to Knyvett writing a private letter at the time on what he saw in Parliament at a specific point. The strongest responses also linked their judgement from content to specific context. For example, with regard to Knyvett many commented on the issue of the Militia and others ably brought in the concept of Constitutional Royalism.

Question 2

Stronger responses to this question were able to link the core factors of the period as part of the deterioration in relations, notably Charles himself, Buckingham, religion, finance, foreign policy and parliamentary radicalism. The best were able to illustrate this as a reactive process between Crown and Parliament. Many students needed to be clearer in dealing with the issue of Divine Right and linking it to Charles's personality and the importance of this in a time of Personal Monarchy. Similarly the illustration of parliamentary radicalism and the degree of 'conflict' could have been dealt with by some more precisely.

Question 3

The strongest responses to this question were able to deploy a range of examples of Charles' financial policies in the framework of his position in 1629 through to 1640. This was then developed by making a judgement in a broader context of his political position with regard to the Political Nation seeing financial success linked to growing underlying discontent. Many ably referenced the Scottish Rebellion and appreciated that Charles initiated Hampden's Case in the Court of Exchequer only because of this rebellion. In line with this many were able to make judgements about Charles' success to 1637 and then 1637 to 1640 and the need to recall Parliament. Some also brought in a wider consideration of the structural constraints of the finance system that Charles managed.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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