

Section A

Nominated topic: Politics, the Court and Government, 1536–1547

- 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 make use of, your own contextual knowledge.

- A** *Robert Aske, the leader of the Pilgrimage of Grace, sets out the rebels' demands and his opposition to Cromwell in a series of articles presented to the Duke of Norfolk.*

The first demand, regarding our faith, is to have the heresies of Luther, Wycliffe, Hus and other Anabaptist heresies in our land annulled and destroyed.

The second demand is to have the supreme headship of the church in spiritual matters restored to the Pope as it used to be.

Also, we demand to have the Lord Cromwell, the Lord Chancellor Audley and Sir Richard Rich severely punished. They have undermined the good laws of the country and maintained the false religion of heretics.

Adapted from the *Pontefract Articles*, 1536.

- B** *The Privy Council outlines the King's religious policy and justifies Cromwell's imprisonment.*

This shall be to advise you that the King's majesty has worked for a long time and has also worked in a most Godly way to establish order in matters of religion. He has worked to advance God's glory neither tending to the right hand of reform or the left hand of tradition. He has worked to restrain those who refused to accept the truth. Those who were obstinate have been duly corrected and punished. The Lord Privy Seal [Cromwell] has gone clearly against the King's most Godly intentions. He has secretly advanced one of the extremes and left the true and virtuous path that the King has set out. He has also shown himself determined to maintain his outrageous behaviour and has planned to continue it. For that most detestable reason, he has been imprisoned in the Tower of London.

Circular letter, 10 June 1540.

- C** *Henry's ambassador to Charles V writes to the Duke of Norfolk about Cromwell's impact on opinion in Europe.*

Your Grace shall understand that while Thomas Cromwell ruled, there were many bad things said about our country abroad. Some said that the mass was abolished in England. Some said that we no longer respected holy days or saints, as we had none of their images in our churches. Some said that all holiness and religion was banished out of England. When they heard me deny these things and seeing how I and my household lived an honest life, then the rumours died down. However I hope that such beliefs about the bad state of our country die with the person who caused them. Cromwell is a traitor and a heretic. I write this to your lordship so that you may understand just how badly Cromwell has served the king and how he has disregarded the king's honour and his own honesty.

Richard Pace, Letter, July 1540.

D *Cromwell makes a final plea for mercy.*

Most merciful King, it pleased you to send unto me the Lord Chancellor, the Duke of Norfolk and the Lord Admiral, to tell me to say what I knew about the marriage between your Highness and the Queen [Anne of Cleves]. I declared to them the particulars as near as I then could recall. They commanded me to write to your Highness the truth, as much as I knew in that matter; which now I do.

I shall during my life, and while I am here, pray to Almighty God, that he of his most abundant goodness will help, aid and comfort you. I am a most woeful prisoner, ready to take death, when it shall please your Majesty; and yet my frail flesh leads me continually to call to your Grace for mercy and pardon for mine offences. Your Highness's most heavy and most miserable prisoner and poor slave.

Cromwell, Letter to Henry VIII, 30 June 1540.

E *A modern historian analyses Cromwell's fall.*

No one else could work so hard, and no one else could make England conform to the royal will. But however crucial Cromwell may have been to Henry's needs, he was always essentially an object of contempt. In May 1538, Henry described him to the French ambassador as 'a good household manager. But not fit to meddle in the affairs of kings'. Above all, there remained grubbiness about Cromwell that was not confined to his social origins. Henry suffered from delusions that he acted in a moral way, and at such times, his right-hand man seemed less than appealing. Cromwell had ultimately proved to be too cold-blooded and, in glimpsing this uncomfortable truth, Henry seems to have decided that by purging Cromwell he might cleanse himself.

Determined to squeeze out the last drop of usefulness, Henry sent him questions concerning the marriage which would confirm that he had entered into it unwillingly. Cromwell supplied all the details and threw himself on the king's mercy. The King had proven accessible to gusts of influence and in a fit of ill-temper had rid himself of his ablest and most loyal adviser.

John Matusiak, *Henry VIII*, 2013.

- (a) To what extent does Document C corroborate the evidence in Document B about the religious reforms of Henry VIII? [10]
- (b) How convincing is the evidence provided by this set of documents for the view that religious concerns brought about the fall of Cromwell? 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 What best explains why Henry VIII was not able to secure a divorce from Catherine of Aragon?
[30]
- 3 'The most significant consequences of the dissolution of the monasteries were secular rather than religious.' Discuss.
[30]
- 4 What best explains why internal opposition to the Henrician Reformation was not more effective?
[30]

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