



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

AS Level History A

Y241 The Rise and Decline of the Mughal Empire in India

1526–1739

Wednesday 25 May 2016 – Afternoon

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes



You must have:

- the 12-page Answer Booklet
(OCR12 sent with general stationery)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Answer either question 1 or question 2 in Section A, and question 3 in Section B.
- Write your answer to each question on the Answer Booklet.
- Do **not** write in the barcodes.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **50**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- Quality of extended responses will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document consists of **4** pages.

Section A

Answer **ONE** question.

- 1*** 'Religion was the main reason for stability during the rule of Akbar the Great.' How far do you agree? **[30]**
- 2*** 'The greatest achievement of Shah Jahan was to establish control of the Deccan.' How far do you agree? **[30]**

3

Section B

3 Read the interpretation and then answer the question that follows:

'The Mughals failed because they made little, if any, effort to drag India out of the Middle Ages. They did nothing to cure the endemic [widespread] weaknesses of Indian society and added fresh economic burdens through the profligacy [wastefulness] of the courts and the cost of their military campaigns.'

Philip Ziegler, from a review of *Mughal Throne*, 2003

Evaluate the strengths and limitations of this interpretation, making reference to other interpretations that you have studied. **[20]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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