



**General Certificate of Education
June 2011**

A2 History 2041

HIS3B

Unit 3B

The Triumph of Elizabeth:

Britain, 1547–1603

Final

Mark Scheme

Mark schemes are prepared by the Principal Examiner and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation meeting attended by all examiners and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation meeting ensures that the mark scheme covers the candidates' responses to questions and that every examiner understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for the standardisation meeting each examiner analyses a number of candidates' scripts: alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed at the meeting and legislated for. If, after this meeting, examiners encounter unusual answers which have not been discussed at the meeting they are required to refer these to the Principal Examiner.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of candidates' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

Further copies of this Mark Scheme are available to download from the AQA Website: www.aqa.org.uk

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Generic Introduction for A2

The A2 History specification is based on the assessment objectives laid down in QCA's GCE History subject criteria and published in the AQA specification booklet. These cover the skills, knowledge and understanding which are expected of A Level candidates. Most questions address more than one objective since a good historian must be able to combine a range of skills and knowledge. Consequently, the marking scheme which follows is a 'levels of response' scheme and assesses candidates' historical skills in the context of their knowledge and understanding of History.

The levels of response are a graduated recognition of how candidates have demonstrated their abilities in the Assessment Objectives. Candidates who predominantly address AO1(a) by writing narrative or description will perform at Level 1 or low Level 2 if some comment is included. Candidates who provide more explanation – (AO1(b), supported by the relevant selection of material, AO1(a)) – will perform at Level 2 or low Level 3 depending on their synoptic understanding and linkage of ideas. Candidates who provide explanation with evaluation, judgement and an awareness of historical interpretations will be addressing all 3 AOs (AO1(a); AO1(b); AO2(b)) and will have access to the higher mark ranges.

To obtain an award of Level 3 or higher, candidates will need to address the synoptic requirements of A Level. The open-ended essay questions set are, by nature, synoptic and encourage a range of argument. Differentiation between performance at Levels 3, 4, and 5 therefore depends on how a candidate's knowledge and understanding are combined and used to support an argument and the how that argument is communicated.

The mark scheme emphasises features which measure the extent to which a candidate has begun to '*think like a historian*' and show higher order skills. As indicated in the level criteria, candidates will show their historical understanding by:

- The way the requirements of the question are interpreted
- The quality of the arguments and the range/depth/type of material used in support
- The presentation of the answer (including the level of communication skills)
- The awareness and use of differing historical interpretations
- The degree of independent judgement and conceptual understanding shown

It is expected that A2 candidates will perform to the highest level possible for them and the requirements for Level 5, which demands the highest level of expertise have therefore been made deliberately challenging in order to identify the most able candidates.

CRITERIA FOR MARKING GCE HISTORY:**A2 EXAMINATION PAPERS****General Guidance for Examiners (to accompany Level Descriptors)**

Deciding on a level and the award of marks within a level

It is of vital importance that examiners familiarise themselves with the generic mark scheme and apply it consistently, as directed by the Principal Examiner, in order to facilitate comparability across options.

The indicative mark scheme for each paper is designed to illustrate some of the material that candidates might refer to (knowledge) and some of the approaches and ideas they might develop (skills). It is not, however, prescriptive and should only be used to exemplify the generic mark scheme.

When applying the generic mark scheme, examiners will constantly need to exercise judgement to decide which level fits an answer best. Few essays will display all the characteristics of a level, so deciding the most appropriate will always be the first task.

Each level has a range of marks and for an essay which has a strong correlation with the level descriptors the middle mark should be given. However, when an answer has some of the characteristics of the level above or below, or seems stronger or weaker on comparison with many other candidates' responses to the same question, the mark will need to be adjusted up or down.

When deciding on the mark within a level, the following criteria should be considered *in relation to the level descriptors*. Candidates should never be doubly penalised. If a candidate with poor communication skills has been placed in Level 2, he or she should not be moved to the bottom of the level on the basis of the poor quality of written communication. On the other hand, a candidate with similarly poor skills, whose work otherwise matched the criteria for Level 4 should be adjusted downwards within the level.

Criteria for deciding marks within a level:

- Depth and precision in the use of factual information
- Depth and originality in the development of an argument
- The extent of the synoptic links
- The quality of written communication (grammar, spelling, punctuation and legibility; an appropriate form and style of writing; clear and coherent organisation of ideas, including the use of specialist vocabulary)
- The way the answer is brought together in the conclusion

June 2011

A2 Unit 3: The State and the People: Change and Continuity

HIS3B: The Triumph of Elizabeth: England, 1547–1603

Question 1

- 01** 'The rebellions which occurred during the reigns of Edward VI and Mary I were mainly political in origin.'
Assess the validity of this view. (45 marks)

Target: AO1(a), AO1(b), AO2(b)

Generic Mark Scheme for essays at A2

- Nothing written worthy of credit. **0**
- L1:** Answers will display a limited understanding of the demands of the question. They may **either** contain some descriptive material which is only loosely linked to the focus of the question **or** they may address only a part of the question. Alternatively, they may contain some explicit comment but will make few, if any, synoptic links and will have limited accurate and relevant historical support. There will be little, if any, awareness of differing historical interpretations. The response will be limited in development and skills of written communication will be weak. **1-6**
- L2:** Answers will show some understanding of the demands of the question. They will **either** be primarily descriptive with few explicit links to the question **or** they may contain explicit comment but show limited relevant factual support. They will display limited understanding of differing historical interpretations. Historical debate may be described rather than used to illustrate an argument and any synoptic links will be undeveloped. Answers will be coherent but weakly expressed and/or poorly structured. **7-15**
- L3:** Answers will show an understanding of the demands of the question. They will provide some assessment, backed by relevant and appropriately selected evidence, which may, however, lack depth. There will be some synoptic links made between the ideas, arguments and information included although these may not be highly developed. There will be some understanding of varying historical interpretations. Answers will be clearly expressed and show reasonable organisation in the presentation of material. **16-25**
- L4:** Answers will show a good understanding of the demands of the question. They will be mostly analytical in approach and will show some ability to link ideas/arguments and information and offer some judgement. Answers will show an understanding of different ways of interpreting material and may refer to historical debate. Answers will be well-organised and display good skills of written communication. **26-37**
- L5:** Answers will show a very good understanding of the demands of the question. The ideas, arguments and information included will be wide-ranging, carefully chosen and closely interwoven to produce a sustained and convincing answer with a high level of synopticity. Conceptual depth, independent judgement and a mature historical understanding, informed by a well-developed understanding of historical interpretations and debate, will be displayed. Answers will be well-structured and fluently written. **38-45**

Indicative content

Note: This content is not prescriptive and candidates are not obliged to refer to the material contained in this mark scheme. Any legitimate answer will be assessed on its merits according to the generic levels scheme.

Candidates will need to identify and evaluate the extent of political causation of rebellions in 1549 and 1554 and balance this against the religious, economic and social motives for rebellion.

Candidates may refer to some of the following material in support of the claim that the rebellions were primarily political:

- local political antagonisms seem to have been at the root of the East Anglian rebellions
- it is difficult to separate out the western rebels' religious motives from their political distaste for the regime
- Wyatt's Rebellion seems to have been primarily focused on the desire to prevent Queen Mary from marrying Philip of Spain.

Nevertheless, there are a number of other factors to consider:

- the western rebels were primarily motivated by their resentment at the scale of the attack on popular religious practices
- the demands of the western rebels, whilst mostly religious, are also couched in a language which seems to indicate a significant level of class antagonism
- both the western and East Anglian rebels had significant social and economic motives
- it has recently been argued that conservative religious sentiments were present amongst the East Anglian rebels
- the overtly political motivation of Wyatt and many of his fellow rebels was reinforced by the popular Protestantism of some of his followers.

In conclusion, candidates may differentiate between motivation for the various rebellions.

Question 2

- 02** How serious a threat to Elizabeth I's position were Catholic missionary priests and Jesuits? (45 marks)

Target: AO1(a), AO1(b), AO2(b)

Generic Mark Scheme for essays at A2

- Nothing written worthy of credit. **0**
- L1:** Answers will display a limited understanding of the demands of the question. They may **either** contain some descriptive material which is only loosely linked to the focus of the question **or** they may address only a part of the question. Alternatively, they may contain some explicit comment but will make few, if any, synoptic links and will have limited accurate and relevant historical support. There will be little, if any, awareness of differing historical interpretations. The response will be limited in development and skills of written communication will be weak. **1-6**
- L2:** Answers will show some understanding of the demands of the question. They will **either** be primarily descriptive with few explicit links to the question **or** they may contain explicit comment but show limited relevant factual support. They will display limited understanding of differing historical interpretations. Historical debate may be described rather than used to illustrate an argument and any synoptic links will be undeveloped. Answers will be coherent but weakly expressed and/or poorly structured. **7-15**
- L3:** Answers will show an understanding of the demands of the question. They will provide some assessment, backed by relevant and appropriately selected evidence, which may, however, lack depth. There will be some synoptic links made between the ideas, arguments and information included although these may not be highly developed. There will be some understanding of varying historical interpretations. Answers will be clearly expressed and show reasonable organisation in the presentation of material. **16-25**
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Indicative content

Note: This content is not prescriptive and candidates are not obliged to refer to the material contained in this mark scheme. Any legitimate answer will be assessed on its merits according to the generic levels scheme.

Candidates will need to consider what exactly is meant by 'Elizabeth I's position'. The question can refer both to Elizabeth's position as Supreme Governor of the Church of England and to her wider role and security as Queen.

The Catholic mission to England began in 1574 and continued through the rest of the reign. Candidates, therefore, are able to refer to material drawn from across the whole period, though it is reasonable to expect that many candidates will concentrate on specific periods when the perceived threat was at its most evident. Historiographical approaches are not required, though the relevant use of material drawn from authors such as Haigh could well help candidates to score highly. Material on plots against Elizabeth should be treated as irrelevant *unless a specific link has been established* with missionary priests and Jesuits.

In support of the argument that the threat was serious candidates might refer to the following:

- the scale and influence of missionary involvement
- the influence of the missionary movement amongst members of the nobility and gentry
- the continued ability of the missionary movement to attract good recruits
- the links between some priests and the Spanish (some candidates might wish to pursue a counterfactual case – what if the Armada had landed?), the war against Spain reinforcing the link in the minds of many between Catholicism and potential treason
- the impact of martyrdom in stiffening the religious beliefs of the faithful
- the regime's perception that the missionary movement was a threat, as demonstrated by the penal laws.

On the other hand:

- it has been argued that the missionary movement lacked strategic focus and consequently enjoyed far less success than it might otherwise have achieved
- the missionary movement was unable to prevent the decline of popular Catholicism
- most influential Catholics retained at least a modicum of loyalty towards the regime
- divisions within the missionary movement arguably compromised its effectiveness.

Question 3

- 03** To what extent was Elizabeth I well served by her ministers throughout her reign?
(45 marks)

Target: AO1(a), AO1(b), AO2(b)

Generic Mark Scheme for essays at A2

- Nothing written worthy of credit. **0**
- L1:** Answers will display a limited understanding of the demands of the question. They may **either** contain some descriptive material which is only loosely linked to the focus of the question **or** they may address only a part of the question. Alternatively, they may contain some explicit comment but will make few, if any, synoptic links and will have limited accurate and relevant historical support. There will be little, if any, awareness of differing historical interpretations. The response will be limited in development and skills of written communication will be weak. **1-6**
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Indicative content

Note: This content is not prescriptive and candidates are not obliged to refer to the material contained in this mark scheme. Any legitimate answer will be assessed on its merits according to the generic levels scheme.

Candidates will need to evaluate the role and effectiveness of Elizabethan ministers. The specification requires explicit study of Burghley, Leicester, Essex and Robert Cecil, though candidates are free to discuss other relevant ministers in addition.

Candidates may refer to some of the following material in support of the proposition that Elizabeth was well served by ministers:

- her relationship with William Cecil/Lord Burghley was pivotal to much of the success of the reign
- though less centrally involved in administration, Leicester also enjoyed success
- the Crown governed with the aid of a compact and well-organised Privy Council
- until the later stages of the reign ministers proved adept in the handling of Parliament
- the extent to which ministers fulfilled Elizabeth's purposes.

Nevertheless, there are a number of other factors to consider, especially in respect of the latter stages of the reign.

- coherence in government was detrimentally affected by the deaths of a number of long-serving councillors in the late 1580s and 1590s
- the factional rivalry between Robert Cecil and the Earl of Essex had a significant effect on the quality of government in the 1590s
- the innate conservatism of the Queen and Burghley ensured that necessary reforms were not implemented. This was especially important in respect of the maintenance of Crown revenues
- the extent to which ministers failed to fulfil Elizabeth's purposes.

In conclusion, candidates may support or reject the proposition, or they might adopt a more nuanced approach which stresses varying levels of ministerial success.

Converting marks into UMS marks

Convert raw marks into marks on the Uniform Mark Scale (UMS) by using the link below.

UMS conversion calculator: www.aqa.org.uk/umsconversion