

# AS HISTORY

## Spain in the Age of Discovery, 1469–1556

Paper 1B

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Specimen 2014

Morning

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

### Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is **1B**.
- Answer **two** questions.  
In **Section A** answer Question 01.  
In **Section B** answer **either** 02 **or** 03.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

### Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
    - 50 minutes on Section A
    - 40 minutes on Section B.
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**Section A**Answer Question 01.

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**Extract A**

Under Ferdinand and Isabella, Spain became united, first through marriage and then through conquest. Isabella and Ferdinand strengthened their position as monarchs through the systematic suppression of aristocratic power and reorganised the royal council, making it larger, stronger and more professional. The religious situation in the Iberian peninsula provided Isabella and Ferdinand with unique opportunities for further expansion of royal power and the Inquisition became a branch of royal government; the first institution common to both Castile and Aragon. In 1492, Spanish armies conquered Granada, while a few weeks later Columbus, with Queen Isabella as his strongest supporter, left Spain and found the Americas.

Adapted from Merry E Wiesner-Hanks, *Early Modern Europe, 1450–1789*, 2006

**Extract B**

The reigns of the 'Catholic Monarchs' (a title granted to Ferdinand and Isabella by the Pope in 1496) coincided with important innovations that justify admiration, but not the belief that these monarchs created a new state. They certainly did not unite Spain, nor did they add substantially to royal power, nor did they reform the Church. Isabella, moreover, played little part in the formation of the Spanish empire. She helped finance Columbus, but when she died in 1504, Herman Cortès had only just landed in America and the queen's testament did not even mention the existence of the New World.

Adapted from Henry Kamen, *Golden Age Spain*, 1988

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With reference to these extracts and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two extracts provides the more convincing interpretation of royal power in Spain under Ferdinand and Isabella?

[25 marks]

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**Section B**

Answer **either** Question 02 Question 03.

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**EITHER**

**0 2**

‘Expansion in the New World had strengthened Spain by 1556.’

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

**OR**

**0 3**

‘Charles I successfully upheld royal authority in Spain.’

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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**There are no questions printed on this page**

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