

A-level HISTORY

The Wars of the Roses, 1450–1499

Paper 2B

Specimen 2014

Morning Time allowed: 2 hours 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 **2B**.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- 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:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the two questions in Section B.
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Section AAnswer Question 01.

Source A

From an account by Domenico Mancini of the usurpation of the throne by Richard III. Mancini was an Italian who visited England in 1483–1485 and witnessed the usurpation of Richard III. It is unclear how Mancini acquired such detailed information.

In claiming the throne Richard was motivated not only by ambition but also by lust for power, for he also claimed that he was goaded by the ignoble family of the Queen and the affronts of Edward's relatives by marriage. In 1478 the then Richard Duke of Gloucester was so overcome with grief for his brother's death that he was overheard to say he would one day get his revenge. From then on he very rarely came to court, preferring to keep within his own lands and set out to acquire the loyalty of his people through favours and justice. All were afraid that if Richard then went on to take the throne and governed alone, that those who bore the blame for Clarence's death would suffer death or at least be ejected from their high estate. No sooner had the death of Edward IV become known, when Richard had established the attitude of everyone, and with the help of friends in the capital, Richard and the young King entered London with 500 soldiers. But, after Hastings was removed, all of the attendants that had waited on the King were denied access to him. The King and his brother were withdrawn into the inner apartments of the Tower and day by day began to be seen less, till at length they ceased to appear altogether.

Source B

From 'The Great Chronicle of London'. The Chronicle was written, shortly after the events described, by a London merchant.

The Sunday following the execution of Lord Hastings at Paul's Cross, and in the presence of the Lord Protector and the Duke of Buckingham, it was declared by the brother of the mayor that the children of King Edward were not the rightful inheritors of the Crown, and that King Edward was not the legitimate son of the Duke of York, as the Lord Protector was. By this declaration and many other reports and allegations, he then alleged that the Lord Protector was worthy to be king and no other. The following Tuesday, at the Guildhall and in the presence of a multitude of citizens, the Duke of Buckingham gave a speech in which he talked of the excellency of the lord protector and the rightful claim he had to the Crown. The following Thursday the Lord Protector himself went to the Great Hall at Westminster where he was set in the king's seat and called before him all of the judges of the kingdom and demanded that they should administer his laws justly to which they all agreed. He then went to the Abbey where he prayed at the shrine. Following this a hasty arrangement was made for the new king's coronation.

Source C

From the 'History of the English Kings' written by John Rous, sometime in the early years of the reign of Henry VII. Rous was a churchman who had written very positive accounts of Richard III during his reign.

Richard of Gloucester imprisoned King Edward V, king indeed but not crowned, with his brother Richard, taken from Westminster under promise of safety, so that it was afterwards known to very few by what death they were martyred. Then he ascended to the throne of the dead princes, whose protector he had been, the tyrant King Richard who was in his mother's womb for two years and emerged with teeth and hair down to his shoulder. Like a scorpion he had a stinging tail. He received Edward V blandly, with embraces and kisses, yet within three months he had killed him and also his brother. And Lady Anne, his queen, daughter of the Earl of Warwick, he poisoned. And what was most detestable to God and to all Englishmen, indeed to all nations to whom it became known, he caused others to kill the holy man King Henry VI, or as many think, did so by his own hands. He was small of stature with a short face and unequal shoulders, the right higher and the left lower.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the usurpation of Richard III.

[30 marks]

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

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‘The ambition of Richard Duke of York was the main reason for instability in England in the years 1450 to 1461.’

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0	3
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‘Edward IV’s failure to consolidate his position as king in the years 1461 to 1469 was due to his own mistakes.’

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0	4
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‘The baronial wars of 1483 to 1487 brought about surprisingly little change to the social and economic condition of the people of England.’

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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