

**GCSE (9–1)**  
*Candidate Style Answers*

# ***HISTORY A (EXPLAINING THE MODERN WORLD)***

J410  
For first teaching in 2016

## **J410/12 The English Reformation c.1520-c.1550 with Castles: Form and Function c.1000-1750**

Version 1



# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	3
<b>Question 1</b>	
High banded response	4
Commentary	4
Medium banded reponse	4
Commentary	4
<b>Question 2</b>	
High banded response	5
Commentary	5
Medium banded reponse	6
Commentary	6
<b>Question 3</b>	
High banded response	7
Commentary	7
Medium banded reponse	7
Commentary	7
<b>Question 4</b>	
High banded response	8
Commentary	8
Medium banded reponse	9
Commentary	9

# Introduction

This resource has been produced by a senior member of the GCSE History examining team to offer teachers an insight into how the assessment objectives are applied. It illustrates how the sample assessment questions might be answered and provides some commentary on what factors contribute to overall levels.

As these responses have not been through full moderation, they have not been graded and are instead, banded to give an indication of the level of each response.

Please note that this resource is provided for advice and guidance only and does not in any way constitute an indication of grade boundaries or endorsed answers.

# Question 1

Explain why the Church was so wealthy in the early 1530s.

[10 marks]

## High banded response

The Church was wealthy in 1530 for many reasons. One reason was that people had to pay a tithe of 10% of their money or goods. Because almost every person in England was religious, they obeyed this and gave this to the Church, because to not do would offend God and the most powerful organisation in the country. Having such a large income source made the Church very wealthy.

Another reason was because the Church charged for their services. This included burials, weddings and writing contracts. It also included saying prayers to get dead family members into heaven more quickly. Also if people had sinned, they went on pilgrimages to holy sites, and they had to pay the Church to visit them and be blessed. Because people were so religious, they were happy to pay for these services which were necessary and this was a source of income.

The biggest source of income was from bequests. This was where people left land and money to the Church in return for a prominent burial like in a cathedral or prayers for their soul. The Church began to build up land because of this, and by 1530 some historians think that the Church owned about 1/3 of the land in England.

## Examiner commentary

This answer is structured well and is easy to read. It has a range of separate reasons. Each one is detailed and is clearly linked to the question showing why the reason led to the Church being wealthy.

## Medium banded response

People in Medieval England paid the Church a tithe. This meant that they paid 10% of their money to the Church. So if they were a farmer, they paid 10% of their harvest and if they were a merchant they paid 10% of their money. Also people paid priests to do things like say prayers for dead relatives to help them go to heaven, or to do weddings if someone was getting married. There was no one else who could do these things. So the Church became very wealthy because of the number of people paying them for services and also paying the tithe.

## Examiner commentary

The candidate has a good reason which answers the question and has some good detail with it. To improve, the candidate could write more analytically and less descriptively, and they could also add another reason for the Church's wealth.

## Question 2

Study Sources A-C. 'The Dissolution of the monasteries was a popular measure.' How far do Sources A-C convince you that this statement is correct? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [20 marks]

### High banded response

Source A supports the statement. It shows that things were happening in the monasteries that were not following the Rule of Benedict. For example, at Lichfield two nuns were pregnant, so they were not celibate, and at Pershore, the monks were drunk, which would show that they were not taking Mass seriously. This would support the view that closing the monasteries was popular because generally people were very religious and would not like to hear that members of the Church were abusing their position.

Source B also supports this idea because it says that there was "much sin and disgusting living" in the monasteries. The monks and nuns will be moved to other monasteries and convents where they would be "required to improve their lives." This would support Source A in showing that closing the monasteries would be popular amongst people who were angry at the reports of the lifestyles in the monasteries.

However, these sources do not fully convince me because they are less reliable. Source A was from the report supervised by Cromwell. The inspectors were instructed to find problems, because Cromwell was a Protestant who disapproved of the Catholic Church, and also Cromwell knew that the King wanted an excuse to close them to gain land and money. The inspectors were told to find problems, and often only a short time to visit the monasteries. Therefore, they may have been overly critical. Similarly, the law (Source B) needed to justify the decision, so it needed to criticise the Church, and also it was supported by MPs, who were often Protestant, and wealthy people, who would gain land from the law, so it may be more critical than is true. Also the population did not get a say in laws, so it may not represent the attitudes of people who were not wealthy.

Source C challenges the statement. It claims that closing of the monasteries is a bad thing, by saying that "religious services will not be carried out" and that "the poor will not be looked after." It also claims that the monasteries were popular with the people, which means that closing them would not be popular.

It is true that because this was connected to the Pilgrimage of Grace, Robert Aske would have had to claim to have popular support if he hoped to persuade Henry VIII to change his policy. But this must have been a popular opinion since Aske led about 35,000 people, and 40,000 marched in Lincoln on a similar protest, and these marchers were risking fighting professional soldiers so this suggests that Source C is representative of the genuine views of a large number of people.

Overall, Source A and B agree with the statement by showing the problems with the monasteries, and Source C disagrees by saying that the monasteries were popular. Overall, I am more convinced by Source C. This is because Source A was written with a religious and political purpose which makes it not objective, and Source B only represents the views of wealthy people and MPs who were a minority, whereas C represents a huge number of people who were willing to risk their lives for this viewpoint so it is a more convincing interpretation. Therefore, these sources do not convince me that the statement is correct.

### Examiner commentary

The answer uses all three sources, and it has a clear focus on the question. It uses the content as well as the provenance and context to analyse each source. It doesn't just consider whether each source agrees or disagrees, but it actually then uses reasoning to make a judgement which gives an overall answer to the question.

### Medium banded response

Sources A and B both show that the monasteries were full of examples of behaviour that broke the rules for monks. Source A says that monks and nuns were breaking the rules in many locations, like one taking money from piracy and another selling timber that was not his. Source B says that the behaviour was “sinful” and “disgusting” and would offend God and the king. If behaviour was this bad, then people would be angry. They trusted the Church to look after their souls and get them to heaven, so people would most likely be happy to hear that these badly behaved monasteries were closed down.

Source C disagrees. It is from the Pilgrimage of Grace which was a big protest march. The letter complains that the monasteries were “much loved” and that people were worried about what would happen if the monasteries could not do things like carry out services or look after the poor. This march was supported by about 35,000 people so this is obviously the opinion of a lot of people in England.

Source A and B support the statement by suggesting that the monasteries were bad and so people would want them closed, whereas Source C shows that people did not want the monasteries closing.

### Examiner commentary

This answer interprets the content of the sources well. It relates the content to the context, weakly with A and B by an awareness of the religious role of the Church in society, and more specifically with Source C by knowledge of the Pilgrimage.

One gap is that the provenance is not used to support the analysis, other than to recognise that C was from the Pilgrimage of Grace. To improve this answer, it needs to have more contextual evaluation and consideration of provenance, and reach an answer to the question which is more than a summary.

## Question 3

Explain why Conwy Castle fell into disrepair in the period 1400-1600.

[10 marks]

### High banded response

Conwy Castle was built in the 1280s by Edward I. The purpose of the castle was to help the English to keep control of Wales because it was recently conquered and it was not fully stable. After 1376, when Edward V died, no more kings spent money on the castle. However, by the 1400s, control of Wales was no longer the priority. This was because Wales was relatively peaceful, but also the Wars of the Roses had started. These required all of the military resources of the king, and were fought mainly in England, not Wales. So Conwy fell into disrepair because it was no longer an important military location.

Also, the castle stopped having a military purpose. When it was built, it was a military strongpoint for defensive purposes. Over time, this purpose changed. It was used as a prison by Henry VIII and also as a store of supplies. When Henry began his wars in Ireland, the castle became used as a staging post for transporting troops to the coast. As a result of being used more for storage, there was no need to spend money on the castle.

Also, the castle fell into disrepair due to the cost. Castles that size usually cost £500 or more a year to run. It does not sound a lot now but in 1400, £500 was about quarter of a million in modern money. Because the castle was not needed, kings did not want to keep paying so much. This money was spent on repairs and on the staff and soldiers. Because the castle was not a priority anymore, and the new use did not need expensive work, the kings could let the castle fall into disrepair. Henry VIII even reduced the garrison to just 12 archers which was much less expensive but made the castle useless militarily because it was too big for 12 to guard.

Overall, these reasons are tied together because the castle fell into disrepair as it was no longer a priority or used militarily, especially with the cost which was high.

### Examiner commentary

This answer has a range of reasons, and these are detailed with examples of knowledge. These are very clearly linked to the question, by explaining how it led to the disrepair.

### Medium banded response

Conwy Castle fell into disrepair from 1400-1600 because it was not important to the kings anymore. When they had built it, it was a very useful place because they were fighting the Welsh and making sure that they kept control of the area. But after 1400, the kings had other priorities so even though they carried on using the castle, it was no longer a priority. They had other things like the War of the Roses to think about instead. So they stopped spending money on developing the castle, and they cut back the number of soldiers until there was only a small number guarding the castle. Instead, Henry VIII used it more as a prison and a store for military goods.

### Examiner commentary

This is a solid medium band answer. It reaches this band because it goes beyond description and links to the question, but it does not have the range of reasons or depth of detail so will not reach the high band.

## Question 4

Study Sources D and E. Which of the sources is more useful to a historian studying the first hundred years of Conwy Castle (from the 1280s to the 1380s)? **[10 marks]**

### High banded response

Both of the sources are quite useful for a historian.

Source D is useful because it shows the location of the castle, which is at the mouth of the River Conwy. This was unusual because castles were normally on hills, but it shows that controlling the coast and the river was a priority for Edward I to help him control the area during his conquest of Wales. We can also see the features of development in the castle with the keep, then the walls and the defensive towers. However, the whole castle is built in an elaborate style which shows us that even from the start, investing in this building was a priority for Edward I. The very up to date design features show that this was designed to be strong and defend in the case of a local uprising. This was a real danger during the conquest of Wales.

However, there are some limitations. From the picture, it is hard to date when the features were built and added, so it is hard to focus on the first 100 years specifically. Also, the building is now a ruin, so it is limited in showing how the castle was in the actual time period. And the photograph itself contains modern features which were not there at the time, like the train line, as well as having a narrow field of view which makes it hard to see surrounding physical features.

Source E is quite useful. It shows the amount of money spent on the castle. More specifically it shows that £5819 was spent in just 18 months from 1283-84, followed by £7000 in the next 8 years. This shows that Edward I was willing to make an enormous investment in the castle at the start, which shows what a priority project it was for him. Also, it shows that the spending tailed off after 1292, suggesting that the castle became less important once Wales was conquered, because £500 over a 5-year period from 1296-130 is a lot less than many castles cost. It supports that the castle saw less use and was less important.

The limitations of the source are that it only shows the first 50 years, not the first 100 years. So it is less useful for looking at the period to 1380. Also, it does not breakdown the cost, so even though most of the money probably went on physically building the castle, we cannot be more specific about how the money was spent.

Overall, source D is more useful because it contains more information which we can infer about the design, usage, location and importance of the castle. Source E also shows the priority of the castle and the speed of building but has far more limitations in terms of missing information.

### Examiner commentary

The answer makes very good judgements from the source by applying contextual knowledge to specific details in the source. It also identifies limitations, by considering the content and the provenance, and this is used to reach a supported judgement about which source is more useful.

### Medium banded response

Source D is useful because it shows the shape and design of the castle, and how it was built in a modern design with towers and other defensive features. It also shows how it was located near a river, which was to control the river. However, it does not show what it looked like at the time, because this is a modern photo when it is a ruin.

Source E is useful because it shows how much money was spent. It shows that £5819 was spent on building the castle in 1283-84, which would be worth millions of pounds nowadays. This shows that it was an important project and that it was a very valuable building to the English king. But it does not show how the money was spent, and the dates of the information is limited by only covering some of the period.

Overall, Source D is more useful because it shows more information than Source E.

### Examiner commentary

This candidate has used key features of the source and linked it to what the source is useful for. It has also made basic judgements on limitations of the source. To improve this answer, it needs to have more depth to the inferences and more analysis of limitations. This will allow a more substantiated judgement.



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