



GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION
HISTORY A (SCHOOLS HISTORY PROJECT)

A952/22

Developments in Crime and Punishment in Britain, 1200–1945

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet

OCR Supplied Materials:

- 8 page Answer Booklet

Other Materials Required:

None

Tuesday 26 January 2010
Afternoon

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name clearly in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided on the answer booklet.
- Use black ink.
- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what to do before starting your answer.
- Study the Background Information and the sources carefully. You are advised to spend at least ten minutes doing this.
- Answer **all** the questions.
- Write the numbers of the questions you have answered in the box on the front of the answer booklet.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **50**.
- This document consists of **10** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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FOLD OUT THIS PAGE

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully. You are advised to spend at least ten minutes doing this.

In answering the questions, you will need to use your knowledge of the topic to interpret and evaluate the sources. When you are asked to use specific sources you must do so, but you may also use any of the other sources if they are relevant.

Answer ALL the questions.

1 Study Source A.

What can you learn from this source about people's beliefs in the seventeenth century? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer. **[6]**

2 Study Sources B and C.

Why do you think Hopkins wrote the letter (Source C)? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. **[8]**

3 Study Source D.

How useful is this source as evidence about the work of Matthew Hopkins? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer. **[9]**

4 Study Sources E and F.

How similar are these two sources as evidence about Matthew Hopkins? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. **[9]**

5 Study Source G.

Are you surprised by Hopkins' answers to these questions? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer. **[8]**

6 Study **all** the sources.

'People agreed with the work of the Witchfinder-General.'

How far do the sources on this paper support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. Remember to identify the sources you use. **[10]**

Developments in Crime and Punishment in Britain, 1200–1945

How far did people agree with the work of the ‘Witchfinder-General’?

Background Information

It was not unusual for people in the seventeenth century to be accused of being witches, though generally the number executed for witchcraft was small. However, for a short time in the 1640s, a witch craze broke out in East Anglia, caused by the activities of Matthew Hopkins, the self-appointed ‘Witchfinder-General’. Between 1645 and 1647 Hopkins traveled around the Eastern counties seeking out witches, often being paid large fees by local magistrates for the work. Perhaps as many as three hundred men and women were executed as a result of Hopkins’ enquiries. His methods of investigating suspected witches included torture. Unsurprisingly, many confessed. Eventually, worries about Hopkins’ methods began to surface, and his work came to a rapid end.

How far did people agree with the work of the ‘Witchfinder-General’?

SOURCE A

In the 1640s, the sincere belief in harmful witchcraft was universal. These people who were making accusations might have been hysterical, or they might have been evil. But the beliefs were part of the way people viewed the world. It was actually much more natural for ordinary villagers in the seventeenth century to assume that there were people who could use harmful magic to damage their livestock, or to kill them or their children. Hopkins himself was not so much afraid of witches as disgusted by the bond he thought they formed with Satan. Evidence of this bond is what he thought he’d discovered from Elizabeth Clark, and from that he was spurred on to uncover the network of witches he believed existed at Manningtree in Essex. Within three months there were 36 women in the jail cells of Colchester and Chelmsford.

From an interview conducted with an historian for a recent TV programme about Matthew Hopkins.

SOURCE B

Every old woman with a wrinkled face, a furrowed brow, a hairy lip, a squint eye, a squeaking voice or scolding tongue, having a ragged coat on her back, a skull-cap on her head, a spindle in her hand and a dog or cat by her side, is not only suspect but is pronounced a witch.

From a pamphlet written in 1646 by John Gaule, vicar of Great Staughton in Huntingdonshire. It criticised the work of Matthew Hopkins.

SOURCE C

I have this day received a letter to come to a town called Great Staughton to search for evil people called witches (though I hear your vicar is much against us through ignorance). I intend to come (God willing) the sooner to hear his extraordinary judgement in favour of such people. I have known a vicar in Suffolk preach against our work of discovering witches, and be forced to go back on it. I intend to give your town a visit suddenly. I am going to Kimbolton this week, and ten to one I shall come to your town first. I would certainly like to know if you are willing to give us a good welcome as we have had in other places I have been. If not, I will ignore your county and go instead to such places where I can work without controls, with thanks and with due payment.

From a letter written by Matthew Hopkins to one of John Gaule's parishioners in Great Staughton, 1646.

SOURCE D



An illustration from Hopkins' pamphlet, 'The Discovery of Witches', written in 1647. It shows him interrogating two witches with their familiars, whose names are also shown. Familiars were evil spirits in animal form.

SOURCE E

But how is it that devils should choose to work with silly women that do not know their right hands from their left? This is the great mystery. Devils will only get involved with old, poor women, judged by what we hear from the trials at Bury. Many of the women are condemned, and some executed, as more will be. Life is precious and we should be very careful before we take it away.

A newspaper comment from September 1645 on witch trials that had been held by Hopkins in Bury St Edmunds.

SOURCE F

Has not this present Parliament
An ambassador to the Devil sent,
With full powers to negotiate about
Finding revolting witches out?
And has he not, within a year,
Hanged sixty of 'em in one shire?
Some only for not being drowned,
And some for sitting above ground
Whole days and nights, upon their breeches,
And feeling pain, were hanged as witches.

From a seventeenth-century poem about Matthew Hopkins.

SOURCE G

Question: Why must they be tortured and kept from sleep two or three nights, to distract them and make them say anything?

Answer: If they are kept awake they are more active to call their imps in open view to help them, which has often happened. Never or seldom has any witch complained during questioning of tiredness, but only after they got back to jail and put their heads together, or after the judges and magistrates banned us from using this method.

Question: Besides the unreasonable watching, they have been continuously walked, till their feet are blistered, and so forced through cruelty to confess.

Answer: If the people watching them offered to let them lie down, and they did so, then immediately the witch's familiars would come into the room, scaring the watchers, and heartening the witch. And sometimes, contrary to instructions, the watchers, being rustic people, have misused and abused the witches, but it could never be proved that I had a hand in it or consented to it.

From 'The Discovery of Witches', a pamphlet written by Matthew Hopkins in 1647. He wrote it to answer questions people were asking about his work.

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