



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

## AS Level History A

**Y241** The Rise and Decline of the Mughal Empire in India  
1526–1739

**Wednesday 25 May 2016 – Afternoon**

**Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes**



**You must have:**

- the 12-page Answer Booklet  
(OCR12 sent with general stationery)

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Answer either question 1 or question 2 in Section A, and question 3 in Section B.
- Write your answer to each question on the Answer Booklet.
- Do **not** write in the barcodes.

### INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **50**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [ ].
- Quality of extended responses will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (\*).
- This document consists of **4** pages.

**Section A**

Answer **ONE** question.

- 1\*** 'Religion was the main reason for stability during the rule of Akbar the Great.' How far do you agree? **[30]**
- 2\*** 'The greatest achievement of Shah Jahan was to establish control of the Deccan.' How far do you agree? **[30]**

**Section B**

- 3 Read the interpretation and then answer the question that follows:

'The Mughals failed because they made little, if any, effort to drag India out of the Middle Ages. They did nothing to cure the endemic [widespread] weaknesses of Indian society and added fresh economic burdens through the profligacy [wastefulness] of the courts and the cost of their military campaigns.'

Philip Ziegler, from a review of *Mughal Throne*, 2003

Evaluate the strengths and limitations of this interpretation, making reference to other interpretations that you have studied. **[20]**

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**

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