



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Tuesday 21 May 2019 – Afternoon

A Level History A

Y309/01 The Ascendancy of the Ottoman Empire 1453–1606

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes



You must have:

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

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Answer Question 1 in Section A and any **two** questions in Section B.
- Write your answers in the Answer Booklet. The question number(s) must be clearly shown.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **80**.
- 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

Read the two passages and then answer Question 1.

- 1 Evaluate the interpretations in **both** of the two passages and explain which you think is more convincing as an explanation of the nature and extent of the Ottoman threat to Habsburg territories after the Battle of Mohacs in 1526. [30]

Passage A

One event of 1526 tilted the balance once again against the Emperor [Charles V]. The armies of Suleiman the Magnificent destroyed the Hungarian forces on the plains of Mohacs. The young King Lewis, last of the Jagiellon kings of Bohemia and Hungary, died in battle; the victorious Turks occupied all Hungary and steadied themselves for the next move into central Europe. The danger was very pressing, even if for the moment Suleiman had to draw back into the Balkans. However, Suleiman's usual problems – overextended lines of communication and trouble at the other end of his empire, in Asia Minor and on the Persian border – compelled him, for the present, to postpone the end of Christendom.

Nevertheless, Charles now found the east another call on his time and resources. There was the general threat, for which he tried in vain to mobilise men and money; there was also the problem of the succession to Lewis. However, once again, marriage connections opened wonderful prospects to the Habsburgs, and Charles' brother Ferdinand was able to claim both Bohemia and Hungary. The Bohemian nobility accepted him; but in Hungary, the native aristocracy preferred one of their own kind. In this they had the support of the Sultan who, for the moment, was content to rule Hungary indirectly through a puppet king, as long as the powerful Habsburgs did not try to establish themselves across his line of advance. Thus the next few years saw Ferdinand involved in a struggle and even when he expelled his rival he only drove him into Turkish arms.

Adapted from: G. Elton, *Reformation Europe, 1517–1559*, published in 1963.

Passage B

Mohacs, a defeat of a 'European power', aroused interest and fear in the west, not only as King Lewis had married the sister of Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor, but also because Lewis was childless. This gave Charles V's brother, Ferdinand, a claim to the throne of Hungary. Now the Ottomans were to have a more formidable foe in the Emperor and his family than the weaker Hungarians had proved.

Suleiman moved west to try to take Vienna, which forced the Habsburgs into rapid action. This attempt was driven back in 1529. The capture of Vienna was to remain an ambition for both Suleiman and his successors for some time to come. Suleiman was able to leave Hungary divided between the Habsburgs and his own supporter, Zapolyai, while he turned his attention elsewhere. He had made major advances and expanded his Empire into more of the Balkan region and he had served notice on the Western European powers that he was a force to be reckoned with. The Turkish threat was to be a major factor in the thinking of Charles V, and a major influence on his policies and those of his son, Philip II of Spain. Suleiman left a weakened and divided Hungary behind, which was no threat to him and could be brushed aside when he had the resources to do it.

Adapted from: D. Murphy, M. Tillbrook and P. Walsh-Atkins, *Europe 1450–1661*, published in 2000.

SECTION B

Answer **TWO** of the following three questions.

- 2*** 'Weak and divided opponents were the main reason why the Ottomans were able to expand their empire throughout the period 1453–1606.' How far do you agree? **[25]**
- 3*** 'Ottoman rule brought more benefits than losses to the societies it controlled.' How far do you agree with this view of the period from 1453 to 1606? **[25]**
- 4*** 'The Battle of Lepanto was the most important turning point in the development of the Ottoman threat to Europe.' How far do you agree with this view of the period from 1453 to 1606? **[25]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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