



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

**Tuesday 21 May 2019 – Afternoon**

**A Level History A**

**Y305/01 The Renaissance c.1400–c.1600**

**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 of Florentine politics and society under Savonarola. [30]

### Passage A

The Friar [Savonarola] had the trust of the people and... in his work for the reorganisation of Government, ended up planting the seeds of a government that would work for everyone. He came up with a compromise between the *Grandi* (the more privileged members of the society) and those with less privilege and significantly less wealth behind them. A new constitution was drawn up in which Savonarola was consulted at each and every step...

In essence the Great Council meant that almost anyone could hold government office – it didn't just have to be those with wealth or power. It underlined the fact that the people were fed up of the tyranny of the Medici and the better road would be for the middle classes to work hand in hand with the more privileged...

The change from being ruled by a tyrannical Medici figurehead to a government looked after by the people went smoothly, and this was because of Girolamo Savonarola... It seemed to many as if he could do no wrong... Not only that, but Savonarola inspired the new government into believing that all of its policies would be inspired by divine will... His followers outnumbered his dissenters, yet despite this they did not turn to violence towards the pro-Medician sympathisers that still lived within the walls of Florence. Instead, they all worked towards making sure that Medician policies were [removed] completely.

Adapted from: S. Morris, *Girolamo Savonarola, The Renaissance Preacher*, published in 2017.

### Passage B

Despite the evident popularity of Savonarola's sermons, along with widespread satisfaction that Medici rule had been replaced by a more republican government, Florence was now a divided city. And the focus of this division was undoubtedly Savonarola. The most loyal supporters of the 'little friar' remained the *Frateschi* (the 'Friar's Men')... However, Savonarola's largest support came from those referred to derisively as the *Piagnoni* – a word that covered a spectrum of meanings. Literally, it means 'snivellers', 'grumblers' or 'wailers' – that is the downtrodden who were always snivelling away or complaining, and wailing out their prayers. These were Savonarola's beloved 'simple folk', who despite his pleas for forgiveness and reconciliation still retained a deep-seated hatred for the Medici and their supporters, many of whom had of course fled the city. However, although those who remained behind had for the time being prudently adopted a low profile, they nonetheless represented a considerable force, who... would soon begin plotting for the return of Piero de' Medici... [who] himself still represented a distinct threat to Florence...

However, the main opposition to Savonarola soon emerged from within Florence itself, in the form of the *Arrabbiati* (the 'Enraged Ones'), a wide-spread group who resented Savonarola's interference in the city's secular government... The two main opposing groups in Florence remained the *Arrabbiati* and the *Piagnoni*... Savonarola remained the essential divisive factor.

Adapted from: P. Strathern, *Death in Florence: The Medici, Savonarola and the Battle for the Soul of Man*, published in 2012.

**SECTION B**

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

- 2\*** To what extent did the Renaissance transform literature and learning in the period 1400–1600? **[25]**
- 3\*** ‘The Medici were more important than any other patrons in encouraging the development of the Renaissance throughout the period 1400–1600.’ How far do you agree? **[25]**
- 4\*** ‘Warfare always hindered the development of the Renaissance in the period 1400–1600.’ How far do you agree? **[25]**

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**

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