

A LEVEL

Examiners' report

HISTORY A

H505

For first teaching in 2015

Y207/01 Summer 2024 series

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Introduction

Our examiners' reports are produced to offer constructive feedback on candidates' performance in the examinations. They provide useful guidance for future candidates.

The reports will include a general commentary on candidates' performance, identify technical aspects examined in the questions and highlight good performance and where performance could be improved. A selection of candidate answers is also provided. The reports will also explain aspects which caused difficulty and why the difficulties arose, whether through a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique, or any other identifiable and explainable reason.

Where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report.

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Paper Y207 series overview

Y207 is one of twenty four units in Paper 2 for the A Level examination for GCE History. This unit tests an extended period of History of about 100 years through a short answer essay question and a traditional essay question. The paper contains two questions, each having two parts, a short answer essay and a traditional essay. Candidates have to answer both parts of one question.

To do well on the short answer essay question, candidates need to consider the significance or importance of both issues, factors, individuals or events mentioned in relation to the question. Having analysed or explained both they must reach a supported judgement as to which is the most important or significant.

To do well on the traditional essay, candidates need to address the issue in the question, using detailed supporting knowledge. To reach the higher levels candidates need to assess the issues they discuss and reach a supported judgement, at least in the conclusion.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> gave equal consideration to the two issues in the short answer essay reached a developed and supported judgement as to which issue was more significant or important linked their knowledge of the issues to the focus of the question discussed at least two issues in depth in the essay question gave supporting detail that was both accurate and relevant to the question set, not just the topic reached a supported judgement about the issue in the question made a series of interim judgements about the issues discussed in relation to the question. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> considered only one of the issues or discussed one in a superficial way produced a judgement that was not supported and was therefore assertion or a judgement that did not follow logically from the response were unable to use their knowledge to address the issue in the question showed a poor understanding of the major issues relevant to the essay were unable to support their response with relevant or accurate material did not focus on the precise wording of the question made unsupported comments about issues which were no more than assertions.

Question 1 (a) (i) and (ii)

1

(a) Which of the following was of greater importance as a cause of the German Reformation?

(i) The sale of indulgences

(ii) The 95 Theses (1517)

Explain your answer with reference to both (i) and (ii).

[10]

While many candidates were able to write about both issues, a number struggled to link their knowledge to how the issues actually acted as a cause of the German Reformation. However, those that were able to link the material often focused on the money-making aspect of the sale of indulgences and that this was to be used to build a new basilica in Rome, raising issues of taxation and German nationalism.

In dealing with the 95 Theses the stronger responses noted that these were initially meant for academic debate and that it was the printing press that spread the message, some were able to then link this to a growing sense of anti-clericalism in Germany. Many argued that it was the latter that led to the start of the Reformation, arguing that the sale of indulgences was not new, but did provide ammunition for Luther's attack on the Church.

Question 1 (b)*

(b)* To what extent do the weaknesses of Charles V's Empire explain the continual wars with France during his reign.

[20]

While many candidates were able to explain a number of reasons for the continual wars with France, they found it more challenging to explain how the weaknesses within Charles' Empire played a role. Those that were able to address the issue considered the development of Lutheranism and how it prevented Charles from securing a comprehensive victory as he often had to prioritise the threat from some German princes, or the problem of obtaining funds, again linking it to the Reformation.

However, candidates were able to discuss other issues, such as personal rivalry that followed from Charles securing election as Emperor, or the question of Charles' need to protect his ancestral lands in Burgundy. There was also discussion of the consequences of the capture of Francis I at Pavia and the personal resentment that provided, encouraging both Francis and Henri II to seek revenge. Some responses were also able to consider financial issues, such as Charles gaining funds from the New World, which allowed him to continue the conflict and pay for mercenary troops. There was also some discussion of military developments that made a decisive victory more challenging, whilst others pointed to the failure of peace treaties to establish a lasting peace. There was much that candidates could write about, but knowledge of issues, such as the League of Cognac and the German League of princes were frequently absent from responses.

Exemplar 1 provides an example of a strong response where there is good explanation and interim as well as an overall judgement and is therefore placed in Level 6.

Exemplar 1

1	b	<p>The weaknesses of Charles V's Empire can be seen in his wars with the Ottomans under Suleiman, who threatened Christendom via Eastern expansion as well as through the act of the Barbarossa brothers, who would threaten Charles V on coastal fronts. Another weakness to of Charles V was the growing religious divide within the Holy Roman Empire (HRE). Both these factors in their own way would effectively distract Charles V from Habsburg & Valois wars, which effectively incentivised Francis I & later on Henry II to take advantage in the absence of Charles V reflected in Francis I establishing the League of Cognac. Therefore, to an extent, the Charles V foreign policy issues can explain the continuity of the wars of with France. However it can be argued that personal rivalry & patrimonial claims played a bigger factor into explaining the continuity of the Habsburg - Valois wars, reflected in lands such as Burgund & Artois & Flanders.</p> <p>Charles V's ongoing threats from the Ottomans took up a lot of Charles time & resources, which effectively took away took away from his defences between disputed ^{with Francis I} lands in Burgundy, Artois & Flanders as well as provinces in Italy. Charles V strongly believed in the defence of Christendom from Ottoman expansion, which was first starkly seen in the Siege of Belgrade in 1521, where Suleiman I amounted a sizeable force of 250,000, £. The threat to Christendom was ^{clearly} realised by Charles V as captured Christians were deported to Istanbul. This battle signified clear Ottoman expansion in the East,</p>
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which continued to grow, reflected in the Siege of Rhodes in 1522, where Suleiman I defeated the Knights of Rhodes. Perhaps the greatest threat to Charles V's Empire came in 1529 with Suleiman's attempt to Siege Vienna. Although an impressive victory for Ferdinand I & Charles V, as the out-~~come~~^{marked} 5:1, it still took away from resources & finances, effectively weakening defences that would keep Francis I away from contested land. However I see ^{the} Ottoman threat only a limited reason to the explanation of the continuity in Habsburg-Valois wars. This is because by 1533 the Truce of Constantinople was reached which ended the main threat of Ottoman expansion as Ferdinand I & Zapolgai reached a truce over Hungary, which was the land that divided the 2 Empires, meaning it had geographical significance. Therefore by 1537 the weakness of Charles V Empire: Ottoman expansion, had primarily been distinguished.

Another weakness of Charles V Empire was the growing religious divide in the HRE, which allowed Francis I to exploit Charles V weaknesses further by funneling financial aid to the Schmalkaldic League. ~~The religious tension proved to be of importance to Charles V~~
Charles V felt a great duty to uphold the unity of the HRE, as his grandfather Maximilian I did. Consequently this meant that Charles V under the delegation & actions of Ferdinand I ~~as~~ (his brother) would spend resources & threaten his relation with the Papacy in order

to try & suppress the growth of Lutheranism, which is reflected most starkly in Schmalkaldic War from June 1546 to May 1547, particularly in the Battle of Muhlberg in ~~the~~ 1547, which took up 56,000 Habsburgian troops. However the threat of religious division in the HRE was also a limited explanation to the continuity of the Habsburg - Valois war. This is because the weakness of Charles V's empire didn't hold the same significant to other imperial threats, this is reflected in the fact by 1543 Charles V would visit the HRE for only 3rd time, after inheriting it in 1519. Additionally the threat in HRE only began to significantly take away from Habsburg resources & in 1546, as beforehand Charles V had followed a policy of conciliation & toleration seen in the Peace of Nuremberg in 1532 & the Diet of Speyer in 1526. Therefore this weakness of Charles V's Empire had a limited role into giving an explanation for the continuity of ^{the} Habsburg - Valois wars.

Contrastingly a more significant explanation to the continuity of the Habsburg - Valois wars was the personal rivalry between Francis I & Charles V as well as the patrimonial claims between the disputed land. This is because the lands such as Burgundy, Artois & Flanders held great significance between the two leaders. This is vividly reflected in when Charles V told his son, Phillip II, "We cannot let Burgundy, it is not mine nor yours to give up, it belongs to our ancestors & to our descendants. This gives a clear explanation to

why Burgundian lands were disputed over so much over Charles V's reign. Personal rivalry between Francis I & Charles V also played a key role to the continuity & frequency of the wars, as by 1559 Phillip II was know the ruler & the Habsburg Empire, Unexpectantly in 1559 Phillip II & Henry II reached ~~an~~ Truce of Cateau-Cambresis, which ended a 65 year old territorial war over northern parts of Italy as well as parts of the Burgundian lands. This gives rise to the claim that it was actually personal rivalry between Francis I & Charles that fuelled the continuation of the Habsburg-Valois Wars.

Although weaknesses of Charles V's Empire such as the Ottoman, & Barbary Corsairs & the militarised religious divide in the HRE, meant the distraction of Charles V & his resources, ultimately ~~as~~ substracting from defences in Western Europe, ~~as~~ these weaknesses still weren't the greatest factor into the explanation of why the Habsburg-Valois Wars. Ultimately it was proven to be patrimonial claims & personal rivalry that fuelled the continuity of the war, as the sense pride & duty got the better of Charles V ^{as} ^{& Francis I's} his renouncement of his claims to disputed lands were ultimately all ephemeral.

Assessment for learning



Ensure you able to write a good paragraph about the named factor.

Question 2 (a) (i) and (ii)

2

(a) Which of the following had the greater impact on Charles V's relations with the Ottoman Empire?

(i) Problems in the Holy Roman Empire

(ii) Charles V's wars with France

Explain your answer with reference to both (i) and (ii).

[10]

Although most responses were able to deal with both issues in the question, many responses were weaker in dealing with (i) than (ii).

Exemplar 2, however, is an example of a response where both factors were analysed in depth and a developed judgement reached as to which had the greater impact. In discussing the problems within the Empire, responses often started by commenting on the size of the Empire and the financial problems associated with it and the difficulties these created. There was some discussion of the weakness of defences on the eastern border and how this encouraged Ottoman attacks, while some also noted that Charles had other issues to deal with which drew him away and left Ferdinand to deal with the East.

In discussing Charles' wars with France, responses were more detailed. Many were able to argue that war with France prevented Charles from launching his desired crusade against the Turks and that the problem was made worse by Francis I making an alliance in 1535 with the Ottomans, his alliance with Barbarossa and allowing the Turkish fleet to over-winter at Toulon, all of which gave the Ottomans greater opportunity to threaten Charles in the Mediterranean.

Exemplar 2

2)	a	<p>Arguably, one could say that the problems in the Holy Roman Empire, including the German reformation and the political, religious and societal divide caused by it, had a greater impact on Charles V's relations with the Ottoman Empire. This is due to the fact that at times times of great threat from the reformation and protestant German princes including Albert of Hohenzollern (Duke of Brandenburg) as well as Philip of Hesse and Ulrich von Württemberg, the Ottomans would purposefully capitalise on Charles's weakness and divided attention. This is (evident in the Ottomans) particularly evident in some of the Ottomans' earliest campaigns including the conquest of Belgrade, Suleiman's the Magnificent's first may major European campaign which occurred around the time that Charles was under religious pressure from the Pope after Luther's 95 Theses in 1517 and the publication of his three pamphlets: 'On the Babylonish Captivity of the Church', 'Concerning Christian liberty' and 'An Address to the Christian nobility'. Thus, the conquest of Hungary in 1526, further capitalised on the fact that Charles</p>
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had been preoccupied with religious wars, the knights War (1522-23) ^{led} by Von Hulten and Sickingen as well as the peasants War (1523-25) ~~led~~ led by Thentze. Thus the Ottomans exploited Charles' divided attention in the Holy Roman empire, including religious and political conflicts, thus proving a threat and increasing tensions in the ^{relationship}. Nevertheless, arguably Charles' war with France had a greater impact on his relation with the Ottoman empire as again, the jihadist regime capitalized allyng with the emperor's enemies. An example of this is the ~~treaty~~ Treaty of Nice signed in 1533 in which the French and Ottoman forces formed a united front against their common enemy. Indeed, this would have been a serious threat due to the Ottoman naval dominance in the mediterranean, led by Captain Barbossa and the Barbary Corsairs, which with french aid, especially financial could erase Charles' naval routes and destroy the economies of many of his territories including Sicily and Naples. Indeed the effects

		g the treaty of Nice became evident
		in 1535 when the French took
		Nice with the help of the Ottomans,
		worsening relationships with Charles and
		increasing tensions.
		In conclusion, arguably, Charles V's
		war with France and the deep
		dislike between the countries two
		empires, Valois and Habsburg, meant
		that the Ottomans could capitalise
		over Charles' fear of Valois' dominance.
		This ^{lead} leading to a greater impact with
		on the emperor's relation with the Ottomans.

Question 2 (b)*

(b)* 'The condition of the Roman Catholic Church was the main reason for the success of Lutheranism between 1517 and 1529.'

How far do you agree?

[20]

As with 1(b), candidates were more confident in discussing other factors rather than the one named in the question. However, that did not prevent a number of strong responses with judgement shown throughout or at least in the conclusion.

In discussing the condition of the Church, responses did consider the abuses, such as nepotism or the sale of indulgences, and views of the papacy, but found it more challenging to explain how this created anti-clericalism which helped in the success of the reformation.

Responses were stronger when discussing other issues, such as the role of the princes and towns, the printing press or the actions of Luther himself. There was some discussion of the response of the Papacy to Luther's message which was used by many to argue it, and the actions of Frederick the Wise, were the trigger for the success. Responses often linked the actions of Frederick to providing Luther with the opportunity to write his pamphlets, noting in particular his attack on the Peasant's war, which encouraged further princely support. The role of the printing press was often seen as crucial and this was linked to the role of towns and cities in spreading Luther's message. There was also reference to other Lutheran preachers in maintaining the movement. Most responses were able to explain a good range of reasons.

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