

**A LEVEL**

**Examiners' report**

# **HISTORY A**

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**H505**

For first teaching in 2015

**Y106/01 Summer 2024 series**

# Contents

Introduction .....

Paper Y106 series overview .....

Section A overview .....

Question 1 .....

Section B overview .....

Question 2\* .....

Question 3\* .....

3

4

5

5

11

11

15

## 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.

A full copy of the question paper and the mark scheme can be downloaded from OCR.

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## Paper Y106 series overview

Y106 is one of thirteen units in Paper 1 for the A Level examination for GCE History. This unit tests an extended period of History of about fifty years through an Enquiries or source-based question and a traditional essay question. The paper is divided into two sections. In Section A, candidates have to answer a compulsory source question based on four written primary sources. The question requires them to use all four sources to assess the validity of a view. In Section B, candidates are required to answer one essay question from a choice of two.

To do well on Section A, candidates need to be able to consider both provenance of the sources and apply contextual knowledge to them in order to reach a judgement about the sources in relation to the issue in the question. The judgement should be based on an evaluation of the reliability of the evidence given, not on the topic or contextual knowledge. To reach Level 6, a judgement should be made at the end of the analysis of each source, with an overall judgement in the conclusion.

To do well on Section B, candidates need to address the issue in the question, using detailed supporting knowledge. In order to reach the higher levels, candidates will need to assess the issues they discuss and reach a supported judgement at least in the conclusion. To reach Level 6 candidates should also make an overall judgement as well as interim judgements when assessing each factor.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>considered the provenance of the source(s) and used relevant contextual knowledge</li> <li>clearly linked the contextual knowledge to the source being discussed to show whether the view of the source was valid or not</li> <li>reached an overall judgement as to the extent to which the sources supported the view in the question</li> <li>discussed at least two issues in depth in the essay question</li> <li>gave supporting detail that was both accurate and relevant to the question set, not just the topic</li> <li>reached a supported judgement about the issue in the question</li> <li>made a series of interim judgements about the issues discussed in relation to the question.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>did not consider both the provenance and use contextual knowledge to evaluate the sources</li> <li>wrote an unbalanced response in their treatment of the sources, with very little consideration of one of the sources</li> <li>reached a judgement based on their knowledge rather than the sources</li> <li>showed a poor understanding of the major issues relevant to the essay</li> <li>were unable to support their response with relevant material</li> <li>did not focus on the precise wording of the question</li> <li>made unsupported comments about issues which were assertions.</li> </ul>

## Section A overview

There is one compulsory question in this section. This question requires candidates to critically assess evidence and reach judgements. The critical evaluation of sources is the central theme in this section with all marks given against AO2.

The Enquiry section in Paper Y106 is focused on the Marian persecutions.

### Question 1

#### Mid Tudor Crises 1547–1558

**1** 'The Marian burnings created opposition to Mary's religious policies.'

Use the **four** sources in their historical context to assess how far they support this view. **[30]**

Most candidates showed a good understanding of the views of the four sources and were able to relate them to the question set. A wide range of contextual knowledge was often applied, ranging from cherry pickers selling their wares at the burnings, suggesting some saw the events as a form of entertainment, while others commented on the numbers who were burned, the strength of Protestantism at Mary's accession, the role of JPs in ensuring the burnings took place. The range of knowledge is reflected in Exemplar 1.

However, it was the issue of provenance that presented the greater challenge for some. Source B and Source D were usually handled well, with reference to Renard's role and links made to both Mary and Philip. There was also an understanding of Foxe and whether he should be viewed as providing a valid account. However, some candidates struggled more with sources A and C. With Source A the key was the date; it was written before the burnings and therefore showed Mary's plans: discussion about its purpose was valid. In discussing Source C some commented on the origin and the role of JPs, while others mentioned the audience in the form of Bishop Bonner and why this might influence the tone.

A range of evaluation can be seen in the exemplar below. However, what takes this response into Level 5 is the judgement about the sources. The response considers whether the sources support the view based on their provenance; while this is limited it is present in the conclusion and is linked back to the actual question. This would need to be developed and an overall view about the four sources reached, in light of their provenance, to go to the top of the level. If Level 6 were to be achieved, there would be judgements about each source, again based on provenance, after each source has been discussed.

## Exemplar 1

1	A	<p>In regards to whether the Marian burnings had created opposition to Mary's religious policies, sources B and D superficially appear to support the view that they did, although source D recognises that some people had disagreed. Sources A and C challenge this view arguing that people saw it as a rightful and just method of punishment against heretics. Overall, Sources B and D, in conjunction are more reliable and accurate in their views.</p> <p>Sources B and D appear to support the view that the Marian Burnings created opposition against Mary's religious policies, although source D <del>is more</del> presents a <sup>more</sup> balanced viewpoint than B. Source B suggests that many people who were present at the scene of the burnings were strongly against the cruelty of such policies and many were against Catholicism itself because of the injustice the saw, for example, the mention of Rogers. This <del>is</del> is a greatly accurate source because John Rogers was, <del>a</del> a Biblical translator and the first Protestant martyr that was burnt and many others had praised the fact that he was a martyr so they had also joined in the sacrifice such that there were 284 burnings in 46 months under Mary and <del>at</del> around 50 were women, which demonstrates the collective decision to retaliate against Mary's opposition. <del>However,</del> The provenance of source B further adds credence <sup>and reliability</sup> to it and what it suggests as it was a report from Simon Renard, the imperial Ambassador who reported the events to Phillip of Spain. This adds more</p>
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	<p>more credence as he was close to Mary's present at the burnings, and <del>Both Sources A and C support this view</del> <del>appears to</del> <del>credence to</del></p> <p>the source, not only because it was written during the time of the burnings in 1555 but because <del>the</del> Simon Renard was <del>the</del> very close and influential to Mary I in her reign, particularly, because she did not trust many of her English courtiers and resorted to Renard for advice so it is more expected that he would be on Mary I's side and agreeing with her policies. This adds to the account's authenticity as the report is a third-personal response with <del>not</del> a lack of influence from Mary I. Source D suggests that many were also distressed and angry at the burnings of "godly" men, however, some were supportive of the Marian burnings because they had viewed those who were burnt as heretics, however, overall there was more remorse for those being burnt than support of this 1555 burning policy. This <del>view is</del> source is <del>of</del> largely accurate because many bishops <del>the</del> were burnt such as Bishop Crammer, Bishop Latimer and Bishop Ridley who were greatly influential, for example, Bishop Latimer made 'Sermons of the Plough' 1548 <del>is</del> encouraging Protestant ideas. <del>Here</del> However, it remains accurate <del>as</del> with this being said because Protestant ideas were deemed as heretical as part of the Heresy laws in 1554. This would support the view that most people were opposing Marian burnings to greater degree although Source D recognises a small degree of support. However the provenance of the source may challenge the reliability of the source because it directly from an Elizabethan Protestant writer, John Foxe, <del>as</del> who was a martyrologist and historian. Although a historian, <del>because and</del> <sup>who attempts to</sup> <del>is</del> neutralise the view of the source by mentioning the</p>
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other views that support Marian burnings, it is arguable that his protestant background and beliefs may have ~~controlled~~ <sup>influenced</sup> the undertone of the source as overall it still shows that there were more opposition than support of Marian burnings. Overall, in conjunction, sources D and B are useful not ~~as~~ just because they were written by authors ~~were~~ were protestant and also close to Mary and supported Mary which share similar views, but because they demonstrate that there ~~were~~ <sup>was</sup> still a degree of support for Marian ~~burnings~~ <sup>religious policies</sup>. However, they both generally support the view that there was more opposition.

Sources A and C appear to largely ~~se~~ challenge the view that there was opposition to Mary's religious policies because of the burnings. Source ~~A~~ <sup>C</sup> ~~argues~~ suggests that many heretics were corrupting the people ~~and~~ and the commoners with ~~g~~ ideas that went against Catholicism so it was much more adequate to burn than imprison them. This <sup>source</sup> is limited in its accuracy because ~~it~~ is not a typical view of the people being burnt, many of those burnings were happening in London and this was because Protestantism was largely popular in London. The provenance of the source further challenges the reliability and accuracy of the source because the Justices of the Peace were <sup>working</sup> in favour of the government, of Mary's commands, so they were ~~g~~ told to enforce Mary's religious policies such as the Heresy laws of 1554 and Mary's initial proclamation of religion in 1553.



		<p>which stated that <del>the</del> <sup>any</sup> "man" who was to oppose her religious policies would be "severely punished" when the justices of the peace had to enforce. This means that the source was not typical of the <sup>common</sup> people's views and cannot demonstrate that because of the burnings there were more opposition to Mary's religious policies as they were expected to comply and follow/enforce her policies. Source A also challenges the view that there were opposition to her policies because of the burnings when it suggests that there was more justice made against heretics <del>as</del> when Mary was to establish the burnings and this allowed her policies to be effective in establishing justice. This source is accurate to a <del>some</del> extent because the heresy laws <del>in</del> 1554 was able to remove corruption and opposition to Mary's rulership <del>and</del> which were seen as the enemies, for example, the Wyatt Rebellion in 1554 with 100 being executed <del>with</del> because Mary I claimed that they were against her religious policies, she was able to <del>the</del> make a strong speech in 1554 April, convincing the people of London that these "enemies against" catholicism had to be attacked. 480 convictions were made and the Wyatt rebellion lacked support from the East suggesting that people were compliant with the religious policies that Mary had established. However, the provenance of Source A <del>may</del> can challenge the reliability of the source. This is due to the fact that it is the voice of Mary I, justifying the <del>practic</del> <sup>before the burnings</sup> procedure of the burnings and it was written in 1554 <del>late</del>. This challenges its reliability because she would have wanted her policies to be approved and supported <sup>which is not useful nor</sup> typical in demonstrating the people's views towards the religious policies.</p>
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		Overall, Sources D and B are useful in supporting the view that there was more opposition to Mary's religious policies because of the burnings that were unpopular <del>etc</del> , although to some degree they demonstrate that some may <del>et</del> have been in support of the burnings of heretics. Yet, in conjunction, they <del>challenge</del> <sup>support</sup> the view. Sources A and C, although limited in reliability, both challenge this view because it was seen as a rightful, supported and just way of punishing heretics and oppositions from these corrupt enemies. <del>But</del> However, <del>Sources A and C</del> Sources B and D are much more reliable <del>in</del> and useful in demonstrating people's <sup>opinions and</sup> <del>opp</del> opposition to Mary I's religious policies particularly because of the burnings.
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### Misconception



Candidates need to be aware of areas in England where Protestantism was stronger, i.e. the South East and East Anglia, not the North.

### Assessment for learning



Focus on the view of the sources about the issue in the question and not just what they say in general.

## Section B overview

Candidates are required to answer one essay from a choice of two. Each question is taken from a different Key Topic and requires candidates to weigh up the importance of a range of factors or issues.

In Paper Y106, the candidates were asked to analyse two different aspects of the reigns of the Early Tudors, in this instance early foreign policy and the work of a chief minister.

### Question 2\*

#### England 1485–1547

**2\*** How successful were Henry VII's treaties with other European countries?

**[20]**

This was the more popular question and many responses were able to discuss a range of treaties. Responses usually approached the question in one of two ways: some went through treaty by treaty, while others took a thematic approach and considered issues such as recognition, dynastic security and finance/trade. Either approach was acceptable - what mattered was the quality of analysis and judgements made.

In Exemplar 2 the response adopts a thematic approach and reaches a judgement about the issues discussed in the conclusion. Some of the strongest responses also made the point that it appeared Henry was more successful in the early part of his reign, but the latter years, particularly after the death of his wife and search for a second wife, were less successful.

Weaker responses often focused on a very narrow range of treaties, notably Medina del Campo and Etaples, or were unable to name them so simply referenced the states with which they were made. The most common weakness was in discussing trade treaties with Burgundy as responses were often confused about both the terms and application.

## Exemplar 2

2)	Henry VII was relatively successful in establishing treaties with other European countries. This can be measured with respects to how successful Henry VII was in achieving favourable terms of trade, preventing war and lastly achieving dynastic security via foreign recognition.
	Henry VII was successful in ensuring Dynastic Security and foreign recognition most notably in 1496/89 <del>done by the</del> in the Medina del campo treaty as this ensured a marriage of his son Arthur to Spain's Catherine of Aragon accompanied by a dowry of 400,000 crowns. This was a major success for Henry as this not only ensured a wife for the future King of England but it also meant that Henry VII was internationally recognised following the battle of Bosworth, hence enhancing his legitimacy as a ruler to Europe proving to be very successful. However in terms of success maintaining success Henry was limited in this over time, as when he got older he was left out of the league of Cambrai and only included in the league of Venice to avoid a treaty with France suggesting that his European presence

was diminished as focus was mostly eastwards towards Italy. Overall Henry VII was very successful with respects to European recognition and dynastic security in ~~the~~ his early reign, but England's position as a European power faded when focus shifted towards Italy near the end of his reign.

~~For that~~ Henry VII was also very successful in establishing favourable trade via many treaties such as Medina del Campo ~~to~~ 1489 granting favourable terms for English merchants, as well as the Navigation Act ~~further adding to the~~ and Magnus Intercursus granting ~~the~~ merchants free trade. This was beneficial as it not only stimulated European relations, but also enabled Henry to raise finances via customs duties ~~and~~ hence allowing for increased financial stability throughout his reign. However trade was not always successful as ~~the~~ under the treaty of Windsor the implementation of Magnus Intercursus failed as terms were so in favour of England. ~~and Henry had~~ ~~that~~ Henry had also found it very difficult to negotiate favourable terms with the Hanseatic League. This meant that English merchants weren't able to benefit from Baltic trade, and failure in

achieving trade in the new world was a major loss as this limited England's global influence. For the most part Henry VII was ~~very~~ successful in trading treaties with Europe however success was limited in achieving ~~the~~ trade in the Baltic and New world.

Henry's last aim when forming European treaties was preventing war which was ~~at~~ sometimes achieved but ~~it~~ had some failures. The Breton crisis in the early years of his rule meant Henry was in a dilemma of supporting France or Brittany in which he raised money & sent 600 troops to Brittany via the treaty of Redon. However once France took Brittany Henry wanted to maintain credibility meaning that an invasion of France occurred hence the ~~Breton crisis~~, the treaty of Redon failed in ~~achieving peace with~~ prevailing war with other European countries.

However financial success was gained following the French invasion as the treaty of Etaples ensured a French pension and ended support for pretenders proving to have elements of success. It's important to understand that Henry was able to successfully prevent a war with Scotland meaning that there

		were only border raids. overall Henry's success in preventing wars via treaties was limited, <del>however</del> however other benefits <del>to</del> such as the French pension 5K per year came from his efforts.
		In conclusion Henry was very successful in achieving terms of trade & dynastic security/recognition via European treaties, however with respects to preventing war treaties were limited in their success, but still ensured other financial benefits to Henry VII.

### Question 3\*

3\* How successful were Wolsey's domestic policies?

[20]

Although less popular than Question 2, many candidates who attempted this question were able to consider a good range of issues. However, weaker responses did not know when Wolsey fell and therefore believed he was responsible for the Break with Rome and even the Dissolution of the Monasteries, or candidates wrote about foreign policy.

Many responses considered issues such as legal reforms and finance, with others choosing from social policies, church or administrative reform. The distinguishing feature, as shown in Exemplar 3, is the depth of knowledge, for example about the number of cases the courts dealt with, the number of enclosure cases that Wolsey took to court, or the amounts raised by taxes. The strongest responses, as seen in the exemplar, made a judgement about how successful each measure was before making an overall judgement about his success or failure.



## Exemplar 3

3	B	<p>             Wolsey's domestic policies, <del>to be</del> understood as successful, must <del>be</del> meet the criteria of being able to achieve most of his domestic policy aims: to <del>establish</del> preserve his high positions and maintaining his prestige, to reform ecclesiastical features of the church and to increase and strengthen the Crown's finances so that he could please Henry VIII. The most success is seen in his judicial <del>politic</del> reforms in achieving most of the aims, the <del>the</del> next successful <del>the</del> domestic policies is seen in his financial reforms and the least is his ecclesiastical and church reforms.           </p> <p>             Wolsey's judicial reforms <del>as one</del> is the most successful domestic policy because of his successful ability to restore justice, maintain his strong position (as this policy made him popular amongst the commoners) and removed <del>an</del> over-mighty gentry, this kept him in good relations <del>to</del> with King Henry. This is significantly demonstrated when he established the Court of Star Chambers where the poor could access legal aid for their cases <del>for</del>, for example against enclosure, the Court of Chancery which heard cases about inheritance and wills, and the Court of Requests which helped the poor make legal cases against the nobility. This demonstrates that his foreign policies were successful because he was able to <del>to</del> make the judicial reforms more effective and accessible and this is evident when <del>the</del> there were 120 cases per year under Henry VIII compared to 12 cases under Henry VII which is <del>the</del> a drastic change <del>and</del>. Despite the           </p>
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~~or~~ arguments that claimed Wolsey did this to get rid of nobles he personally had a vendetta against; <sup>that challenged his position</sup> for example Sir Amos Paulet, this overlooks the fact that Wolsey used to be a Royal Almoner under Henry V<sup>II</sup>. This meant that ~~he~~ he had obligations to help the poor and this is also reflected in his successful judicial reforms hearing over 264 cases against nobles and reaching 188 verdicts against enclosure. Therefore, judicial reforms were Wolsey's most successful domestic policies because it made him popular amongst the populace maintaining his high position and prestige and this helped him ~~become~~ stay ~~to~~ close to the king's ear ~~and~~ as it demonstrated that he was an effective ~~member~~ <sup>member</sup>.

While Wolsey's domestic policies had seen the most success in his judicial reforms, his financial reforms were, to a great extent, successful because it strengthened the royal Crown's finances. This is demonstrated when he had introduced a general Proscription in 1522 and this allowed him to make a successful evaluation of people's incomes to tax which raised him well over £300,000. This is a similar success to his introduction ~~of~~ of Subsidy Act in 1523 where Wolsey was able to successfully replace the outdated fifteenths and tenths system, raising around £170,000 in 3 years compared to the outdated system which only raised around £90,000. This demonstrates that his ~~for~~ domestic policies were greatly successful through his financial reforms as it yielded great income and strengthened ~~the~~ the crown. Despite these

successes, there is ~~greater~~ evidence against the ~~success~~ ~~the~~ degree of success in terms of his financial reforms. For example, his establishment of the Eltham Ordinances in ~~the~~ 1526 greatly isolated the gentry ~~as~~ although it tried to reduce the expenditure of the Royal Household because it had reduced the number of members from 12 to 6. Additionally, the Amicable Grant in 1525 that was meant to help raise money for war had created riots in Essex and East Anglia with people refusing to provide this money. Ultimately, despite his previous successes, he had to force tax the Church for £230,000 so his financial reforms were not enough. This demonstrates a lack of success in his domestic policies in terms of financial reforms because, compared to the judicial reforms, in 1529 nobles campaigned against Wolsey which threatened his prestige and positions, and his failure in the Amicable Grant to fund Henry's war in 1525 had angered the king. Therefore ~~the~~ there were limited successes in terms of financial reforms.

Another less successful domestic policy that was less successful than financial ~~to~~ reforms and especially less successful than judicial reforms, were Wolsey's ecclesiastical and church reforms. Although Wolsey had made visitations to 60 monasteries ~~and~~ in 1519 and met with ~~large~~ observant Carmelites and Franciscans to discuss ~~the~~ the religious issues posed by the 95-theses by Martin Luther in 1517, he did not achieve much of his aims nor any success. This is largely because he was the primal example of the failures in the

church that needed reforms. For example, he ~~was~~ was shown to take part in pluralism in holding various titles to enhanced his income and prestige: He was Papal Legate in 1518, Archbishop of Winchester 1529, Bishop of Durham 1523, Archbishop of York 1514 and many more. He broke the vow of chastity by having 2 illegitimate children in ~~1510~~ 1510 and 1512. Although his dissolution of ~~clau~~<sup>20</sup> monasteries in 1520s allowed him to fund the Cardinal College to teach primarily Christian theology, this did not reform much of the ecclesiastical problems faced in the church. As a result, this made him unpopular amongst the people and also the gentry as he was seen as attempting to enhance his prestige and ~~disrupt~~ disrupt the Great Chain of Being. Therefore, compared to the financial reforms and the judicial reforms, Wolsey's ecclesiastical and church reforms made him unpopular and challenged his positions because he was disliked and corrupt and this was something used against him which Henry VIII would be easily persuaded. Therefore it was the least successful domestic <sup>policy</sup> reform.

In conclusion, ~~the~~ Wolsey's ~~ref~~ domestic policies were largely successful in terms of his judicial reforms bringing him popularity and good status in front of Henry (so he achieved most of his aims). His financial reforms, although limited, strengthened the Crown. Lastly, his ecclesiastical reforms did not achieve most of his aims so it was the least successful domestic policy -

### Misconception



Eltham Ordinances were designed to reform the Court not the Privy Council.

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