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Examiners' report

HISTORY A

H505

For first teaching in 2015

Y105/01 Summer 2024 series

Contents

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 Y105 series overview

Y105 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:
- considered the provenance of the source(s) and used relevant contextual knowledge - clearly linked the contextual knowledge to the source being discussed to show whether the view of the source was valid or not - reached an overall judgement as to the extent to which the sources supported the view in 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.	- did not consider both the provenance and use contextual knowledge to evaluate the sources - wrote an unbalanced response in their treatment of the sources, with very little consideration of one of the sources - reached a judgement based on their knowledge rather than the sources - showed a poor understanding of the major issues relevant to the essay - were unable to support their response with relevant material - did not focus on the precise wording of the question - made unsupported comments about issues which were assertions.

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 Y105 is focused on the responsibility of Margaret of Anjou and the failure of government in the years 1456 to 1460.

Question 1

Wars of the Roses 1445–1461

1   'The failure of government in the years from 1456 to 1460 was the responsibility of Margaret of Anjou.'

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

Candidates found sources B and C easier to handle than Source A and particularly Source D. Most responses focused on the argument that Source B showed Margaret was to blame, but then went on to question the provenance of source, using its Yorkist link and used the behaviour of her Northern Host to show that she ruled as she pleased, or considered the financial issues under her 'rule' compared with York.

In discussing Source C, while most candidates explained that it appeared to show the Yorkists were to blame, consideration was given to the heavy punishment given to them at the Parliament of Devils and that the source, despite being from the parliamentary rolls was during a period of Lancastrian dominance and would therefore reflect their views.

In discussing Source A, some argued it showed Margaret's effectiveness while others showed the potential threat in the letter and considered the fact it was written by Margaret herself.

Source D saw the greatest variation in assessment. Some candidates argued it showed Margaret's weakness as she left London and was also robbed, others argued that she was skilful and commented on her intelligence, but very few questioned what was meant by 'all the arts'. The provenance also raised some debate as to it being contemporary, so at a time when the Lancastrians still ruled, but also coming from London, which as the source itself showed was a Yorkist stronghold.

Exemplar 1 shows a response where there is good use of contextual knowledge and provenance to assess the sources, but also a series of underdeveloped judgements at the end of some paragraphs and in the conclusion; if they had been developed it would have reached Level 6.

Exemplar 1

| 1 | | Source A, C and D all suggest Margaret was not responsible for the failure of government 1456-1460, and they blame the Yorkists instead. However, Source B does support the view that Margaret was responsible.

Source A does not support the view that Margaret of Anjou was responsible for the failure of government. It blames the Yorkists, saying "some of you... work to the opposite of my husband's wishes and ours" which suggests that there were nobles disobeying the king and that was the reason for the failure of government. This is mostly accurate, as this was written in 1457, after the wars had started, and so from the first Battle of St Albans the Yorkists were disobeying the King. However, at this point, Margaret had also created her own parliament in the Midlands, which suggests that she wanted to take control of Henry, especially following the second Protectorate, which in reply that she was responsible for the failure of government. Therefore, this source is only partially accurate in its portrayl of Margaret of Anjou, and this is likely because it was written by Margaret herself, so she was probably trying to curry favour by presenting herself as innocent, as she is asking for support in this letter. Therefore, this source is not reliable in showing whether or not Margaret of Anjou was responsible for the failure of government, as she would not blame herself. |

Source B on the other hand strongly suggests that Margaret was responsible for the failure of government, as it describes her ruling "as she liked, gathering riches innumerable" and how she "disinherited rightful heirs and did many wrongs." This is accurate, as at the Parliament of Devils, she did disinherit York's heirs, which was seen as incredibly drastic. However, this source fails to consider the fact that York then disinherited Margaret's son with the Act of Accord, so Margaret was not solely to blame for the animosity between them. However, this source is accurate to highlight the bad reputation of Margaret and her followers, as in 1461, when her army travelled down from the north there were many rumours of pillaging and lawlessness, so they were refused entry into London. This suggests the source is accurate to present Margaret as responsible for the failure of government. However this pro-Yorkist tone was likely influenced by the fact this chronicle was written during Edward IV's first reign, when the chronicler would have been aware that he needed to have a strong claim to the throne and frame the Lancastrians as disruptive because Henry VI was still alive. Also a copy of this chronicle belonged to the Mortimer family, which was Richard Duke of York's mother's family, so they were also likely to be pro-Yorkist. Therefore, this source shows how the Yorkists blamed Margaret of Anjou for

the breakdown of government, but is evidently not even-handed.

Source C does not support the view that Margaret of Anjou was responsible for the failure of government, as it blames the Yorkists "for their traitorous levying of war against your noble person" which suggests the Yorkists were responsible for starting the Wars of the Roses. This is only partially accurate, as the first Battle of St Albans had been started because the Yorkists were afraid of the Lancastrians setting a trap for them when they were summoned to government in 1455, so the blame for the start of the fighting can be shared between the factions. Also this source is from the Parliament of Devils, where Margaret had York's sons disinherited and 27 Yorkist leaders sentenced to death, which was seen as an extreme reaction. This source likely presents Margaret as blameless because it is from Parliament in 1459, and at the this time Margaret had Henry VI so was therefore in control of Parliament, while the Yorkists all fled England that year. Therefore it is not reliable, and only indicates that the Lancastrians did not hold Margaret responsible for the failure of government.

Source D also blames the Yorkists, as it describes how York took "upon himself the rank of king" and it

presents Margaret as a victim, describing how a gentleman "despoiled her and robbed her". This suggests York was overmighty and trying to usurp Henry VI, which implies he was responsible for the failure of government. This is accurate, as before the Act of Accord, York had travelled to London and upon his arrival put his hand on the throne to claim it, but was met with silence. This suggests many nobles disapproved of York claiming the throne, and supports this source's view. However, this and the Act of Accord were in response to Margaret's actions at the Parliament of Devils, so this source is only partially accurate, as while York was acting above his position, Margaret had gone too far at Coventry, so they were both responsible for the failure of government. This source's anti-Yorkist stance may be because the author could have been William Gregory, Lord Mayor of London 1450-51, and he would have likely been a Lancastrian supporter, to be in that position of power while the Lancastrians were in control. Therefore, the author may be trying to blame the Yorkists more than they deserve, and so this source is perhaps not reliable, but shows how the Lancastrians blamed the Yorkists for the failure of government 1456-60.

In conclusion, 3 out of 4 of the sources do not support the view that Margaret of Anjou was responsible for the failure of government, and

> instead blame blame the Yorkists. However, this is likely due to the fact that they were all probably written by Lancastrians, so would be expected to blame the Yorkists. Only Source B suggests Margaret was responsible, and it gives a strong Yorkist viewpoint.

Assessment for learning

It cannot be repeated enough that this is a source paper and therefore responses need to be driven by the sources.

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 Y105, the candidates were asked to consider the effectiveness of two rulers in the Later Medieval period.

Question 2*

England 1461–1509

2* 'Edward IV's management of government during the years from 1471 to 1483 was highly effective.'

How far do you agree? **[20]**

The key point of focus for responses needed to be 'effective', but in some instances responses were more aligned to the issue of success. However, Exemplar 2 provides an example of a very strong response with a high level of judgement both in the conclusion and at places in the main body of the essay.

There were many issues that could be discussed such as, finance, land, foreign policy and faction, but the most common focused on the lack of opposition when compared with Edard's first reign. However, weaker responses often confused the two reigns and wrote about Edward's marriage and the problem of Warwick or his failure to deal with the Lancastrian nobility. Those that did address the main issues often commented that Edward had learned lessons from his first reign and was more ruthless, as seen in his treatment of Clarence, although some did comment that he created a problem with Gloucester and this was not effective when Edward died. The efficient reform of crown finances played a significant role in many responses and the strongest were able to provide strong evidence of the actual sums accrued and link this to his dying solvent and also tie it into his foreign policy.

To provide a balanced response, necessary for the higher levels, not only did some consider the power of Gloucester, but also the collapse of his regime and the continual factional disputes between the Woodvilles and Hastings.

Exemplar 2

2

I agree with this statement only to a small extent because while Edward IV was successful in keeping the throne and preventing major unrest, once he died it was clear how tenuous his control over the nobility was. His death showed that his personality was the main reason why he was successful in mangaging government, and not his policies.

Edward IV was effective in dealing with opposition during his second reign, as he He used a skillful combination of punishment and forgiveness, and learned from his mistakes. He had Henry VI killed immediately, as Henry's continued survival in 1461-70 was a major reason why Edward lost the throne, and he had Clarence executed in 1478 for his betrayl. This shows how he was effective in removing major threats. Edward also continued his policy of reconciliation, issuing 30 pardons, which helped him gain more support. His effectiveness in keeping control was clear when he easily defeated the Earl of Oxford

in 1473, and how that was the last major Lancastrian revolt during his reign. Edward also made laws against retaining, so nobles needed a license, but this was not as effective, as he did not enforce these laws and instead relied on the nobles' common interests to not challenge him. This risk, and the fact that Henry Tudor was still alive, suggests that Edward IV was not as effective in maintaining control as it might seem, as he failed to completely remove all threats to his dynasty.

Edward IV's government policies were mostly effective, showing that he was a strong king and capable of managing government. He pioneered a 'New Monarchy', hiring men of talent and skill and using financial policies such as the Chamber system and the land revenue experiment to improve finances. This was successful, as he inherited over £350,000 in debt and died solvent, which shows he was successful in managing government finances. Edward's interest in justice and law and order was also clear, as he had toured areas of the North and Midlands where there had been revolts in his first reign, and often sat in on Parliament, suggesting he was capable at managing government. However, his management of law and order was not completely effective, as towards the end of

his reign there was several incidents of local lawlessness and bloodshed, and the Stanley's feud continued. Therefore, Edward IV was not fully successful in managing England.

Edward IV's death and Edward V's usurpation clearly shows that Edward IV's management of government was not highly effective. Richard III was able to take the throne because many nobles disliked the Woodvilles and felt threatened by them. This shows that Edward IV had given the Woodvilles too much power, by arranging advantageous marriages for Elizabeth Woodville's siblings and children. This had also been a cause of Edward IV's usurpation in 1470, which suggests he had not learned from his mistakes. Richard III also succeeded in deposing Edward IV's son because he had been given so much power. After Richard's success in Scotland, where he captured Berwick, he was given a lot of power in the North, and so was able to take the throne in 1483. This shows that Edward had let Richard become 'overmighty' and suggests his management of government and patronage was not effective. Therefore, since Richard was able to take the throne without any significant opposition, this shows that Edward had been ineffective in his management of government, because once he died, the

factionalism within government was evident and Edward's son lost the throne.

Edward's financial policy was also only partially successful. While Richard did manage to capture Berwick in the war against Scotland, he failed to take to Edinburgh, so this was only a minor success. Edward's treaty with France (Treaty of Piquigny) secured him a yearly payment of 50,000 marks and 75,000 at that moment, as well as a proposed marriage for his daughter. However the Treaty of Arras between France and Burgundy meant he soon lost that money and the marriage. Edward did have some success, however, in trade, as he tackled piracy and improved customs to so he was receiving £35,000 a year. Therefore, Edward did have limited success to in his management of foreign policy.

In conclusion, Edward IV's management of government during the years 1471-1483 was only slightly effective. He managed to secure his place on the throne but ultimately failed to strengthen his dynasty, as he created factionalism in the court and gave Richard far too much power. Also, Henry Tudor survived, and he would end the Yorkist line, so Edward also failed to eliminate all threats

to his dynasty. Edward IV had some success with domestic and foreign policy, but this was limited. The fact that he did not stop nobles from having large retinues shows that he relied more on his personalities personality and shared interest with the nobles than concrete policy, and this meant that when he died surprisingly early, Richard III was able to seize the throne. The main benefit for Edward IV's government was the fact that there was no major unrest during his 2nd reign, and this was moved due to the nobles not wanting any more war than Edward's management.

Misconception

?   Please be aware of the different policies pursued by Edward in his two reigns; this was particularly evident over foreign policy and his treatment of the Lancastrians.

Question 3*

3* 'Yorkist opposition to Henry VII was crushed very efficiently in the years after Bosworth.'

How far do you agree?   **[20]**

The focus of the question was on Yorkist opposition and not the general treatment of opposition, such as the nobility per se. It was surprising how many confused Warbeck and Simnel, or omitted one in their response as it might have been expected that they would play a central role in responses across all levels.

Many responses considered both the dating of Henry's rule and his marriage to Elizabeth of York as being effective in winning over some Yorkist support, but others argued that the number of challenges at the start of his reign suggested he was not efficient in dealing with all. It was probably to be expected he would be challenged, but for a Pretender to be able to take him to battle and come close to victory, despite parading the real Earl should have suggested he was not efficient. Similarly, there were discussions about Warbeck and whether he was dealt with efficiently given the time taken to capture him. Responses considered that he was not, as the problem was not settled until the fortuitous events of 1506 and even then, the de la Pole menace remained.

Responses also considered how efficient Henry was in dealing with foreign powers who harboured the Pretenders, pointing to the clauses in most treaties, and also considered the problem of Margaret of Burgundy. There was plenty for candidates to discuss and as Exemplar 3 shows, the stronger responses were able to consider a range of issues. It is also useful in showing that Level 5 can be reached by some interim judgements at the end of paragraphs, here it was the lack of an overall judgement that prevented the response from reaching Level 6

Exemplar 3

3

In order for Henry VII to have efficiently crushed Yorkist opposition in the years after Bosworth, he would have needed to ensure that he had control over the nobility, so that they did not have the power to overthrow him. He would have also had to ensure that he tackled threats from Yorkist pretenders with and any foreign Yorkist support, without losing his position as king. Overall, Henry VII managed to

Henry VII was able to take control over his nobility, ensuring that there were no over-mighty subjects, or anyone in the position to join up with Yorkist sympathisers in England in an attempt to overthrow him. This is seen from early in his reign when Lovell and the Staffords, Yorkist supporters, were stirring up trouble in the north. Henry VII was able to quash the rebellion within a month; executing Lovell and Humphrey Stafford, demonstrating his ability to defeat Yorkist nobility easily and efficiently. Additionally, his Act of Resumption passed in 1483 reclaimed land given out by Richard III, which allowed Henry VII to remove the power and influence that any remaining Yorkist nobility had – demonstrating how efficiently he was able to tackle Yorkist opposition, as he ensured that they had no influence.

However, Henry VII's approach to Yorkist pretenders proved to be less efficient, although successful overall. While Henry VII was only bothered by Lambert Simnel for a year in 1486, the Pretender was able to secure support from foreign powers, such as Margaret of Burgundy, who supplied 2000 mercenaries for an attack against Henry VII. Additionally,

Simnel was able to bring the King out to the battlefield at the Battle of Stoke, which proved to be a victory for Henry VII. However, it indicates that his approach to dealing with Yorkist pretenders was not so efficient, as he was forced to take up arms. Similarly, Perkin Warbeck proved to be an issue for nearly a decade, further highlighting the inefficiency of Henry VII's ability to crush Yorkist opposition. While Warbeck never brought Henry VII out to the battlefield, he was the propagator of a lot of unrest within the country, even contributing the Cornish Rebellion of 1497. Thus, Henry VII was successful at dealing with Yorkist pretenders, as both Warbeck and Simnel were caught, but not efficient.

Henry VII's ability to deal with Yorkist opposition from abroad proved to be efficient and successful, as he was never drawn into war. Following the Burgundian support for Warbeck, Henry VII introduced a trade embargo in 1493 which lasted 3 years and severely impacted Burgundian merchand, leading to the creation of the Magnus Intercursus trade agreement in 1596. Thus, Henry VII was able to effectively stop Burgundian support for Yorkist rebels within England, without engaging in dangerous, costly warfare. Similarly, the Treaty of Etaples signed in 1492 with France ensured that they would no longer support Pretenders within England. Thus, Therefore, Henry VII's ability to crush Yorkist foreign opposition was efficient as he was able to prevent foreign support for Yorkist without being drawn into war

Misconception

(?)   Please be aware of the difference between Simnel and Warbeck, with the latter never bringing Henry to battle.

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