

**AS LEVEL**

**Examiners' report**

# **HISTORY A**

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**H105**

For first teaching in 2015

**Y136/01 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 Y136 series overview

Y136 is one of four units for the AS Level examination for GCE History. This unit tests an extended period of history of about fifty years through an Enquiries or source-based option and an essay. The paper is divided into two sections.

In Section A, candidates have to answer two compulsory source questions based on three written primary sources. The first question requires them to use one source to assess its usefulness. The second question requires the use of all three 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 the evaluation of the reliability of the evidence given not on the topic or contextual knowledge.

To do well on Section B, candidates needed 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.

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>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 answering 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> </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

The Enquiry section in this unit contains two questions that require candidates to critically assess evidence and reach judgements.

### Question 1

- 1 Use your knowledge of the social and economic problems in the period to assess how useful Source A is as evidence for the nature of the complaints against landlords. [10]

The question requires candidates to consider the provenance of the source and apply contextual knowledge in order to arrive at a judgement as to how useful the source is as evidence for the nature of the complaints against landlords. The judgement should be based on the provenance of the source. Candidates should explain the source in relation to the issue in the question – what is the view of the source about the nature of complaints – and not just write a general explanation of the source. Weaker responses focus on a more a general explanation, while others consider either the provenance of the source or do apply contextual knowledge.

Stronger responses here pinpointed the issue of enclosure and were able to link this to the Hales Commission and the issue of enclosure in Kett's rebellion. Some responses also commented on the issue of the price rise. Where candidates found it harder was commenting on the provenance of the source and were unable to tie in the authors attitude to the ideas of the 'commonwealth men' and their views on greed. However, they were able to suggest that as a former Chaplain to Somerset he was likely to favour evangelical beliefs, but they did not see the writing as part of a pamphlet designed to try and influence opinion.

Exemplar 1 provides an example of a response where both good contextual knowledge and provenance were used, but does not reach a supported judgement about the utility of the source based on its provenance.

## Exemplar 1

1)	<p>Source is useful to a large extent as evidence of the nature of complaints against landlords given that it sheds light on the landlords who "oppress the king's subjects" <del>this is supported by</del> when "wool so expensive." This is supported by the fact that there was a depression in the wool trade in 1549, causing landlords to raise rent exorbitantly. Landlords passed on the economic hardships of the time as food prices were 50% higher in 1551 than they had been in 1525. This shows that the precarious low-economic state of the country made way for greedy landlords to raise rents and thus fuel the unrest that was prevalent in 1549. Thus, Source A is useful to a large extent given that it accurately depicts the low-economic nature of the complaints against landlords whom benefited from enclosing land and raising rents. However, the utility of the source decreases when considering that Somerset had pursued royal commissions into enclosures under John Hales, all which miserably failed and enticed people into rebellion &amp; tearing down hedges because they thought they had state lands. Thus, the source doesn't depict the governmental policy which further exacerbated the low-economic situation and led to more complaints against landlords.</p> <p>The provenance of the source further adds to utility &amp; as evidence for the nature of complaints against landlords as it was written by Thomas Becon, who</p>
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		<p>who was chaplain to Protector Somerset. Somerset had been the leading figure in trying to stop enclosures and his 5% tax on sheep was passed against stiff opposition. His frustration throughout the summer of 1549 can be felt as he struggled to stop enclosures and his actions further provoked rebellion. As chaplain to Protector Somerset, he would expect the author to give a wholly credible account into the socio-economic nature of the complaints against landlords as he would have played a part in advising Somerset on how to deal with these landlords who 'oppress the king's subjects'. Thus, the provenance enhances the utility of it to a large extent.</p>
		<p>Overall, source A's accurate depiction of the socio-economic nature of complaints against landlords makes it useful to a large extent. This is further bolstered by the provenance which gives a credible account of the actual causes and nature of complaints, being Somerset's chaplain.</p>

### Assessment for learning



Candidates do need to focus on the actual issue in the question and not explain the source in general terms.

## Question 2

- 2 Using these three sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the view that price inflation was the main cause of unrest in 1549. [20]

The three sources offered different views as to the cause of inflation and most responses were able to identify these. Source A, written before the unrest, could be used to argue that both enclosure and price inflation were causes; Source B clearly suggests greed was a cause, and Source C again suggests enclosure and greed.

Exemplar 2 provides a good example of where both contextual knowledge and provenance were used to a good level, but no judgement based on the provenance of the sources was reached. Most responses were able to provide some contextual knowledge to support the sources, reference was made again to Hales and Kett's rebellion, but others were able to comment on the distribution of wealth within Norwich, the cries of 'Kill the Gentleman' in the Western rebellion, action taken against gentry and the pulling down of enclosures, while others were able to display knowledge of the scale of the price rise in the 1540s.

It was the provenance that proved to be the more demanding element, with very few seeing the link between all the writings and how this might explain the views. Some did note that they were all written by protestant clergy, but then did not develop this and link it to the ideas of the 'commonwealth writers', which would help to explain the views in the sources. There was some comment about the dates of Sources A and C, one before the unrest and one after.

### Exemplar 2

2)	Source A supports the view to a large extent given that <del>it was</del> it suggests "wool so expensive" which and thus price inflation must have been the main cause of unrest in 1549. Evidence to support this is that a depression in the <del>trade</del> the wool trade had led to landlords excessively raising rent. The population also grew from 2.3 million to 3 million between 1501 - 1551, leading to food shortages and higher prices. This shows that England was facing an
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economic crisis, with the position of the monarchy not doing much to alleviate the situation. Thus, the content of source A undoubtedly supports the view as it's accurate depiction of such socio-economic conditions that lead to price inflation further adds weight to the argument that it was price inflation which led to ~~inflation~~ unrest in 1549. The provenance of the same also further bolsters its weight given that it was written by a chaplain to Protector Somerset. In the summer of 1549, Somerset had introduced three royal commissions under John Malynes to investigate enclosures, which had led to common land used for farming being taken away. This meant that because the author, would be a credible source to obtain knowledge of how frustrated and defeated Somerset felt by the failure of his enclosures. This means he would want to publicly condemn such causes ~~which~~ as he had to advise Somerset on how to deal with them. Thus, the accurate content of source A coupled with the credible ~~and~~ provenance means it supports the view to a large extent.

Source B undermines the view given that it was it suggests "greed is the cause for rebellion" and thus it cannot be price inflation that led to unrest in 1549. This is supported by the fact that the ~~western~~ <sup>Peasants'</sup> Rebellion of 1549 was sparked by enclosure as William Caxton obtained a royal

warrant to enclose a large piece of land. In response, 2,000 of his rabbits were killed. The commons tore down hedges ~~as they~~ the hedges of John Flowerden. This shows that the extensive enclosures implemented by such greedy landlords led to unrest and rebellion as people's rights to join were taken away. Thus, some B's valid content means it undermines the view to a large extent and further bolsters the argument that it was greediness of landlords and not price inflation that caused unrest. However, the preponderance of the source limits the weight of its argument given that it was written by a leading protestant, Latimer. As such, we would expect him to exaggerate the role of greediness in causing unrest as he did not think Somerset's religious policies were radical enough and thus spited him by claiming the "men of power", such as Somerset, are to blame for unrest. This view is given further credence as Latimer thought it was idolatrous to ~~let~~ kneel to receive eucharist and thus Somerset's religious policies were not satisfactory. Due to his agenda, he cannot be trusted to give a reliable reflection of the real causes of unrest in 1549, limiting the weight we can ascribe to the source. Therefore, whilst the valid content of the source undermines the view to a large extent, its unreliable preponderance means it does so with little weight.

Some C also undermines the view in given that it suggests "greed" is to be blamed for rebellions and enclosures "or

common." This is supported by the fact that the first rebellion was caused due to enclosures and the rebels specifically had a vendetta towards the greedy gentlemen who enclosed land. Similarly, in the Western rebellion, the rebels at Bodmin were called "kill the Greedy Gentlemen!" This shows that the rebels themselves recognised and blamed the greed of such landlords on exacerbating the economic ill of the country. Thus, the accurate content of the source adds weight to the argument that the greed of men caused unrest. The provenance of the source also further adds weight as it was written by a Commonwealth writer. As such, we would expect him to objectively depict for the real causes of such unrest as these writers aimed were to speak up for the wellbeing of society. This can be seen as he does not shy away from calling these landlords "men of greed." Thus, this greatly augments the weight of the argument that greed was the cause of rebellion. Therefore, the accurate content of the source undermines the view to a large extent, and its reliable provenance means that it does so with significant weight.

Overall, sources B and C undermine the view whilst source A supports the view. Thus, it must be argued that the source undermines the view that the price inflation caused unrest in 1549 to a large extent, and rather demonstrate that it was the greed of men who was to blame.

**Assessment for learning**

Candidates do need to consider the dates of the sources and how this might influence views.

## Section B overview

Two essays are set, each from a different key topic. Here the candidates are asked to consider two different elements of the government of Henry VIII. The questions set require candidates to analyse causes and consequences of major historical issues.

### Question 3\*

**3\*** Assess the impact of Henry VIII's personality on the government of England in the period to 1529. **[20]**

This was the more popular question, but some responses drifted away from the focus of the government of England to 1529 and wrote about other issues, most notably Wolsey's contribution to government and foreign policy.

The stronger responses focused on issues such as Henry's desire to be a Renaissance prince and how this detracted from his involvement in the day to day government of the country, hence his reliance on Wolsey. This was then developed to argue that his main interest was foreign policy - this was linked to his desire to emulate his hero, Henry V. There was also some discussion of how Henry wanted to distance himself from his father and this was reflected in both the execution of Empson and Dudley as well as his relationship with his nobility.

Responses also considered his desire to establish a Renaissance court which was comparable with those in Europe and some did draw the example of the Field of Cloth of Gold to support the argument for his personality and opulence. As a result of this, Wolsey did take on a more central role in the administration of the state, but this led some into a discussion of Wolsey's policies, who was responsible for the direction of policy and even foreign policy. The question requires a focus on the government of England and in the period up to 1529, material beyond these parameters will be at best tangential and more likely, irrelevant.

## Question 4\*

- 4\* 'The Pilgrimage of Grace was the most serious challenge to Henry VIII's religious policies in the 1530s and 1540s.'

How far do you agree?

[20]

Although this was less popular than Question 3, there were many strong responses as seen in Exemplar 3, where there is good explanation, knowledge and some developed judgement about the seriousness of the challenge to Henry's religious policies.

There was a range of issues that candidates could, and did, discuss. Most responses showed a good understanding of the threat posed by the Pilgrimage and usually commented on the sheer scale of the rising and its geographical coverage, comparing it to the problem Henry had in raising a force to confront it. There was some comment about the grievances expressed in the articles and about the action of restoring monasteries in some areas.

However, as a counter there were comments about the willingness of Aske to negotiate and the deference showed by the Pilgrims towards royal authority, while others suggested the ability of Henry to crush the Bigod rising suggested it was not a threat. The threat of the Pilgrimage was then compared with other challenges, such as More and Fisher, although in discussing them it would have been helpful to have seen more discussion of their reputation and the impact of their deaths on Henry's standing. There were also comments about the threat of a crusade against Henry, particularly in light of Charles being the nephew of Catherine. Weaker responses struggled to write in detail about the Pilgrimage and also often showed a confused sense of chronology.

Exemplar 3 shows a response that reached Level 5 as there is some judgement, most notably in the conclusion.



## Exemplar 3

4	<p>I <del>fully</del> many agree that the Pilgrimage of Grace was the most serious challenge to Henry VIII's religious policies as it was one of the most serious rebellions that occurred in the 1530s to 1540s due to religious change. The opposition from the monks and individuals who opposed the religious change was also seen as a great challenge to Henry. This can be seen by looking at how long it lasted, how long it lasted, how great the long it lasted a challenge and how long Henry was able to remove them.</p> <p>After the dissolution of the Monasteries <del>the</del> and the Act of <del>the</del> <sup>order</sup> this sparked great unrest within the Catholic community. The Pilgrimage of Grace was seen as the most serious challenge to Henry's religious change due to its scale and nature of the rebellion. At its height, the rebellion had almost 400,000 people who all fled to Pontefract Castle and were opposed to the Protestant religious change made by the King. They attempted to march to London but were stopped by Henry's troops. This shows how long Henry <del>was</del> <sup>was</sup> the opposition was large scale and posed a great threat as Henry had to harness his army pressing him with a challenge as the result did not disperse immediately. The rebellion lasted for a few months with Henry struggling to suppress them and <del>the</del> <sup>the</sup> Henry posed a challenge as a long period of time as he couldn't remove them. The Pilgrimage of Grace was the most serious challenge to Henry. Yet Henry was able to make a deal with the leaders and <del>the</del> <sup>the</sup> some of the demands were met by Henry's government saying that he could easily remove the threat and place the rebels. However, this does not take away from the fact that Henry did <del>not</del> <sup>not</sup> struggle to ever negotiate with the angry men and he did not make many changes to his</p>
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religious power to please Henry. Therefore overall, the Pilgrimage of Grace posed a great threat to the Kings religious power as Henry ~~was~~ asked a long time before Henry could dispose of them <sup>due to the time scale of the</sup> to do so yet compared to the opposition for the individuals the Pilgrimage was seen as a great threat due to the widespread support that it had ~~emerged~~ and how it was seen for Henry to remove it as a challenge.

The north can be seen as a threat. The north seen as a challenge to a partial extent as Henry ~~was~~ They were <sup>split into</sup> different types with the Franciscan monks <sup>donating</sup> Henry ~~opposed~~ to the government and the monastic changes which sparked them to challenge Henry and his religious power. In addition the Yorkshire monks <sup>used as</sup> ~~also~~ <sup>opposed</sup> to the ~~protest~~ <sup>protest</sup> opposed to the government and did not agree with Henry's religious changes. This ~~shows~~ <sup>was</sup> with new messages being discussed and the members of the new prayer book were changed. Complaining causing Henry <sup>Henry</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> become angry posing a challenge to Henry. This shows how Henry challenged the changes and created a new culture. Henry posed a threat to Henry as they did not support his war ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~side~~ <sup>side</sup> by the changes made. Yet, Henry was able to remove and ~~execute~~ <sup>execute</sup> some of the Yorkshire monks and eventually forced them to ~~leave~~ <sup>leave</sup> sever the oath of Secular Bishops. Next Henry used ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> deal with his monks and did not pose a great challenge as he could remove them swiftly and they ~~did not~~ <sup>did not</sup> ~~influence~~ <sup>influence</sup> Henry ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~change~~ <sup>change</sup> the north. Yet, the north did influence due to not support the religious change by sometimes withholding from entering a monastic property suggesting that Henry struggled to remove the opposition due to its scale and most types of monks were ~~opposed~~ <sup>opposed</sup> to his changes and have a few seasons they posed a serious challenge to a





To Cardinal, I mostly agree. That the Pilgrimage of Grace was the most serious threat posed to King Henry VIII's religious policies as it was the most widespread with at least 10,000 people taking part. Henry VIII was keen to ensure the Church of England was firmly established. The challenge from the North did mean Henry VIII had to get his religious reforms implemented in the Church and yet he was able to ensure the rebels were loyal to him and obeyed him so it was only a challenge to a part of the Church. In addition, the individuals posed the ~~most~~ <sup>smallest</sup> challenge to Henry as he was quickly able to restore them even if his revenues were slightly diminished. Nevertheless, the Pilgrimage of Grace was the most serious threat to Henry VIII's religious policies as it was the last rebellion that his reign spent much time and money against his religious policies.

Could he also feel guilty of Rome being one of religious policies.

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