

HISTORY A LEVEL

TUDORS

QUESTION BOOKLET



Section A: Interpretations

Question 1

Extract A

There was religious compromise among the elites and apathy, or even indifference, among the mass of the population towards religious change and it is increasingly doubtful whether Protestantism had taken much of a hold in England by 1553. Indeed, it is now popular to suggest that Catholicism had wide popular support among the lower orders in both the towns and the countryside and that, had Mary lived longer, England would probably have remained Roman Catholic. Possibly, there was much less hostility between English Catholics and Protestants than was previously believed. It is true that there were extremists on both sides; however, the vast majority of people were very moderate in their outlook at least initially.

However, 1570 was a turning point with the excommunication of the queen. After that, the Settlement was rigorously enforced and fines for non-attendance were raised. The authorities became less tolerant of dissident Protestants (Puritans) and of recusants (Catholics) and displayed a greater degree of ruthlessness in their pursuit of Jesuits and evangelists.

Adapted from R Turvey and N Heard, *Change and Protest 1536-1588*, 2012

Extract B

A habitual, conventional Catholicism took a whole generation to die out and in some parishes mass was said more or less openly in defiance of the law. Only a small core of men were prepared however to take the more positive step of refusal to attend their protestant parish church, once the generation of Marian priests had died out and maintaining catholic practices had come to involve harbouring illegal, foreign-trained, priests. Elizabeth's reign in fact saw the development of a popular, aggressive anti-Catholicism and which was further fostered by increasingly strained relations with Spain. Even so, pockets of Catholicism survived in what the Puritans called 'the dark corners of the realm'. Even more annoying to the zealots was the continuing indifference of many people to religious matters; the poor, it was complained, seldom went to their church to hear their duties. Not all Elizabethans were obsessed by sin and salvation, although those who were, were disproportionately influential.

Adapted from C S L Davies, *Peace, Print and Protestantism*, 1988

Extract C

There was much in common between the squire, the lawyer, the merchant and the yeoman. They were all men of the new age and they tended to become protestant alike from self-interest and also from conviction. They evolved an essentially middle-class religion. The tendency of Protestant doctrine was to exalt the married state, and to dedicate the business life, in reaction against a medieval doctrine that the true religion was celibacy and monastic separation from the world. These ideas and practices were by no means confined to extremists – they were the practice of Anglican families who loved and fought for the new Prayer Book. Protestantism and reading the bible became a social custom common to all English Protestants. The martyrs recorded in Foxe's book provided a moral basis for the new national religion beginning to emerge out of the chaos. When Elizabeth came to the throne, the bible and Prayer Book formed the intellectual and spiritual foundation of a new social order.

Adapted from G M Trevelyan, *English Social History*, 1946

Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to religious change in the years after 1547. [30 marks]

Question 2.

Extract A

The dynastic threat to the Tudor regime must not be exaggerated. There was no one to cause rival political tensions amongst Henry VII's relations and no obvious focus for political discontent. It is true, the supporters of Simnel and Warbeck dressed their ambitions in dynastic clothes, but the most important revolt in Henry VII's reign, the Cornish Rising of 1497, was not dynastic. On the contrary, it was sparked by the parliamentary grant of that year to finance an invasion of Scotland. The tax revolt erupted in the south west because Cornishmen refused to underwrite a campaign against Scotland for which, they believed, a scutage or land tax levied in the north was the correct source of finance.

Adapted from John Guy, Tudor England, 1990

Extract B

In May 1502 Sir James Tyrell and several other persons were arrested and executed for treason. At the same time Lord William de la Pole, brother of Suffolk, and Lord William Courtenay, son of the earl of Devon, were taken into prison from which they did not emerge until after Henry's death. It must be supposed that this is because Henry expected a far reaching conspiracy. Perhaps Henry's agents were inventing these threats in order to advance their own positions, but it is nevertheless hard to avoid the conclusion that there was a spirit of disaffection among the old families. No doubt the ambitions of the great families were also aroused by the deaths of the king's sons, Edmund on 12 June 1500 and Arthur on 2 April 1502, but even without the disturbing influence of dynastic interests there was wavering support for the King in the ranks of the old nobility.

Adapted from J D Mackie, The Earlier Tudors, 1987

Extract C

Whilst Henry VII used every means at his disposal to reduce the pretensions of mighty subjects, he also did his utmost to build up his own power. The restoration of royal finances was a key element in this. The King recognised that the secret of recovering royal authority lay in making himself richer than his subjects. This was one reason why, unlike Edward IV, he retained possession of the Crown lands. But there was another reason. Land was the basis of local power. By keeping royal estates in hand and administering them through his own household servants, Henry maintained a direct royal presence throughout his kingdom.

Henry VII was not as ruthless, consistent or as continuously successful as this brief account implies. He faced major rebellions, especially in 1497, and was never entirely secure on the throne. His preferred approach to the control of the provinces by divide and rule created crises and tensions in some parts of the kingdom and stored up trouble for his successor in others. But by ceaseless vigilance and unrelenting pressure on all his subjects, great and small, Henry made himself respected, feared and obeyed.

Adapted from A J Pollard, The Wars of the Roses, 2001

Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the threats to Henry VII's position in the years 1485 to 1509.

Question 3

Extract A

Elizabeth possessed great qualifications in government. She had a very masculine attribute – a forceful imperious personality. She used this ruthlessly to subordinate both Court and Council to her will. Elizabeth displayed two other qualities. The first was

self-mastery which enabled her, at crucial moments, to put political goals ahead of personal preferences. The great testing time for this quality came in 1560–61 when she turned away from marriage with Dudley. But that mastery was not always complete. In her relations with Mary Stuart, for instance, personal biases alternated uncertainly with political calculation, and her ministers had always to reckon with the influence of these half-buried but intensely felt instinctive reactions. Secondly there was the keen political judgement which the professionals of her court came to appreciate. This professional admiration which the Queen commanded in the highest political circles stood her in good stead when her control of policy was seriously challenged in 1569.

Adapted from Wallace MacCaffrey, *The Shaping of the Elizabethan Regime*, 1969

Extract B

The direct personal interest which the Queen took in all aspects of administration and her ability to pick good ministers and delegate authority to them in routine matters were admirable qualities. However much she may have relied on ministers for advice and ideas, she alone made the final decisions. In the last analysis, credit for the triumphs of the period must therefore go to Elizabeth. There can be no doubt indeed that it was largely due to the personal and constant vigilance of the Queen that England escaped financial disaster. Fortunately, Elizabeth had admirable sense in money matters. This was evident during the last years of her reign when Elizabeth was conducting naval operations against Spain and fighting expensive wars in France and Ireland. In view of the enormous demands upon her purse it is astonishing that she managed to stay solvent. She was able to achieve this only because she cut ordinary expenditure to the bone.

Adapted from AGR Smith, *The Government of Elizabethan England*, 1967

Extract C

The politics of Elizabethan England were dominated by events which did not happen. The most pressing question of diplomacy and high politics – the Queen's marriage – was eventually resolved by inaction, when it finally became clear that she would not marry at all. Elizabeth's foreign policy was not quite so static, but its themes were consistent. She was poor, she knew it and she had no interest in crusades or military glory. She spent most of her reign resisting cries for intervention to defend her fellow Protestants, beleaguered in Scotland, France and the Netherlands and when she did succumb she did so to the minimal extent possible. Whether we call this stability, prevarication or paralysis, it was how Elizabeth liked to govern. On those rare occasions when real action was taken it was usually preceded by months of royal deliberation and obstruction. The political world of Elizabethan England was one of frustration at the Queen's apparent refusal to act.

Adapted from Alec Ryrie, *The Age of Reformation*, 2009

Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to Elizabeth I's style of government.

Question 4

Extract A

We may at once define the fundamental issue of these decades; that of the continuity, security and power of the Tudor Monarchy. The theme of ensuring security is constant; whether this takes the form of Henry VIII's frantic quests to stabilise the succession to the throne following the birth of Edward in 1537, or of Edward VI, a sickly boy destined never to achieve adulthood, or, finally, of Mary, 'the Spanish Tudor', the most tragic of them all. Throughout these years the security of the monarchy was directly reflected in their religious policies and international relations. The security and power of the Crown were affected by these issues and by financial and economic problems. The monarchs were beset by the perpetual fear that any one or combination of these issues, might give rise to civil strife. It is this integral relationship between the different factors, which gives the crisis a certain unity. It was a crisis of both the dynasty and society.

Adapted from W Jones, *The Mid-Tudor Crisis*, 1973

Extract B

Historians have become rather too fond of inventing crises and are in danger of devaluing the word. There was no general crisis of authority in the mid-Tudor years. Nor was there any economic or social crisis which was peculiar to this period. Serious inflation dates from about 1545 and was largely the result of Henry's policy of debasement, but was short-lived. Social and agrarian problems certainly existed and had been building up for half a century. In terms of national security there was a bad scare in 1539, but no real threat of an invasion. The rebellions were spectacular but relatively harmless. The effect of the changes on the Church, on the other hand, seems to present a more convincing argument. Exposed to dramatic change by the creation of a Royal Supremacy from 1533; it was forced through a protestant revolution between 1547 and 1549 only to be forcibly re-catholicised by Mary. But such a period of protracted and fundamental change can hardly be called a 'crisis'.

Adapted from D Loades, *The Mid-Tudor Crisis*, 1992

Extract C

There is obviously something to be said for the view that the years 1536 to 1558 were a period of crisis for the people of England. These years saw unprecedented rapid changes in the economy and in religion, arguably the two areas which affected most intimately the lives of ordinary Englishmen. Historians are now emphasising the profound psychological shocks which these upheavals must have meant for hundreds of thousands of men and women who had been accustomed to much less volatile conditions. It is doubtful, on the other hand, if the Tudor State was ever in quite such serious difficulties as the word 'crisis' implies. It was occupied successively by a sick and rapidly aging bully, a boy who was too young to rule and a woman with limited political abilities. In these circumstances what is significant and remarkable is not the weakness of government but its relative strength.

Adapted from AGR Smith, *The Emergence of a Nation State*, 1997

Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the crises faced by the Tudors in the years 1533 to 1558.

Extract A

Henry VII was a strong and independent king, ready to assert the powers of the English Crown. The centre of Henry VII's government was the King himself, assisted by those with whom he chose to surround himself – that is, his Council. This included great nobles, great prelates and great administrators. Generally speaking, Henry's councillors were office holders, but many of the offices were minor. Naturally, there were grades and distinctions among them, even, up to a point, signs of differences of responsibilities. The one qualification which embraced them all was that the King had chosen them; they were his men and did his will. It should be made plain, once and for all that there was never more than one Council in existence at the centre; there was only one body to which men called councillors could belong. The Council's function was three-fold. It existed to advise the King in matters of policy, to administer the realm and to adjudicate on cases brought before it in petition. Adapted from G R Elton, *England Under the Tudors*, 1977

Extract B

Little or nothing of much significance occurred in parliament in the reign of Henry VII. Throughout the twenty-three years and eight months of the reign, parliament sat for about seventy-two weeks in all. In 1504 Henry expressly stated that he was not minded to summon another parliament for a long time unless there was a 'great and urgent cause'. Few of the statutes that emerged from Henry VII's parliaments can be regarded as of major importance; many were little more than administrative developments, and some were trivial or short-term measures. However, for certain purposes, Henry VII could not do without parliament. First and foremost, he could not do without the financial grants agreed by parliament, and each of his seven parliaments made some kind of financial contribution. He also needed parliamentary assent to numerous acts of attainder and of restitution for those previously attainted. Henry needed parliamentary support for the substantial acts which enabled him to restore crown lands bringing him both land and power. Adapted from S B Chrimes, *Henry VII*, 1972

Extract C

The need in Henry VII's reign was less for new legislation than for the means to enforce existing law. Henry's most significant contribution to government was his shift towards direct reliance on lesser gentry as Justices of the Peace. The role of Justices of the Peace in local government was crucial to maintain law and order. Henry VII needed to appoint reliable men with local knowledge, legal expertise and sufficient social standing to command authority. Henry sought to weaken the ties which traditionally linked the local interests of the nobility and gentry and which resulted in the corruption of justice. To increase the Crown's control of law and order he appointed Justices of the Peace who were middling gentry, including professional lawyers and even men who did not have property in a shire. By the end of his reign, Henry had not fully established his authority in the localities, however, Justices of the Peace had superseded the sheriff and the feudal lord as the Crown's administrative agents.

Adapted from J Guy, *Tudor England*, 1988

Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to Henry VII's methods of government.



Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to Elizabeth I's rule in England.

30 marks

EXTRACT A

Elizabeth brought real dramatic talent to the role of Virgin Queen and freed herself from some of the restrictions of her sex. But the production in which she starred ran for 45 years: she had no understudy and she had to appear in every show; it was a constant strain. Her performances were not flawless; she disliked her part in her early years when she hoped to marry Dudley; she was bored with it in 1579 when she thought of marrying Alençon, and she could not quite carry it off in her last decade. She lost confidence in the interpretation of the part in 1585 and allowed her leading man to persuade her into a more aggressive version for foreign audiences. But hers was an award-winning performance. The metaphor of drama is an appropriate one for Elizabeth's reign, for her power was an illusion. She projected an image of herself which brought stability and prestige to her country.

Adapted from Christopher Haigh, *Elizabeth I*, 1988

EXTRACT B

It is easy to be taken in by Elizabeth's love of theatricality. Elizabeth's political aims and style of government were more complex than her image makers and admirers have admitted. In addition, her popularity with her subjects can no longer be taken for granted, especially during the last decade of her reign. Nonetheless her achievement as a ruler should not be underestimated. Despite enormous difficulties and several major crises, she survived as monarch with her Protestant religious settlement intact, while her realm was preserved from successful invasion and the civil wars which afflicted her neighbours, Scotland, France and the Netherlands. Fifteen years of warfare created stresses certainly but not the financial collapse or large scale political unrest which often came in the wake of war. The stability and security which England enjoyed owed much to Elizabeth's firm but flexible leadership, and her conservative and relatively cautious policies.

Adapted from Susan Doran, 'Elizabeth I', *The Historian* (No. 54), 1997

EXTRACT C

In the making of the cult, images and presentation were as important as policies and patronage. Elizabeth certainly capitalised on all the qualities commonly attributed to her sex and the court was the natural setting for the cult of Gloriana with its conspicuous displays in the queen's honour. The queen was also always anxious to reach out to the nation at large, hence the royal progresses. It is certainly true that many contemporaries equated the monarch's fame with the emergent English nation. After the triumph over the Armada, Elizabeth I became enshrined in the myths of the Virgin Queen and Gloriana, as the symbol of England's greatness. However, there is more to the successes of Elizabethan England than Elizabeth's leadership. Moreover, England in 1603 still had unresolved constitutional problems between queen and Parliament and grave economic difficulties with over 40 per cent of the population living below subsistence level. The queen's subjects had suffered unrelieved taxation for two decades, so the Elizabethan age ended for many in despair and disillusionment.

Adapted from John McGurk, *The Tudor Monarchies 1485–1603*, 2010

At the end of Chapters 2 (pages 65–6), 3 (pages 96–9), and 5 (page 149), there have been sections on interpretations. In the A-level examination Section A you are given three sources and asked to evaluate their reliability.

First, have a look back at the advice in these chapters. Remind yourself of the skills that are being tested. Then study the three extracts below on the theme of Elizabeth and her Parliaments and carry out the activity that follows.

Extract A

In the view of the Tudor sovereigns – and Elizabeth held it to the end – parliaments were summoned to do three things, and three things only: to vote such taxes as were required, to legislate on topics submitted to them, and to give advice on policy when asked. Elizabeth's parliaments certainly fulfilled these functions. Each session was called with some principal object in view ... (However) it was during these sessions that the House of Commons began to grope towards another, and rival, conception of its functions, and in the process to join issue with the Crown. That issue is epitomised in the immortal words 'freedom of speech'...

'Matters of state' could come up only on the royal initiative. Unfortunately, the two questions which touched Members most keenly were by this definition 'matters of state'... Succeeding parliaments went on urging the Queen to ease her subjects' minds by marrying or naming a successor, or at least by disposing of the claim and person of Mary Stuart.

From *Tudor England* by S. T. Bindoff (Penguin), 1950, pp.221–23.

ACTIVITY

Having read the extracts, and using the advice given in previous chapters, make notes on the content, using your knowledge to decide what you agree with and what you disagree with. In practice, it may sometimes be partial disagreements – that is, disagreeing with the emphasis or tone. Then answer the following practice question.

Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to Elizabeth's relations with Parliament during her reign. [30 marks]

Extract B

Some historians have argued that Parliament became politicized under Elizabeth; ordinary MPs, especially puritans and common lawyers, according to this view, ventilated their "opposition" to her conservatism. But this interpretation endows the House of Commons with a preconceived status and fails to recognise the influence of the Lords in an aristocratic age. It also falsely presupposes that 'adversary politics' prevailed in the sixteenth century. ... Those who have posited the 'rise' of the Commons have studied Tudor Parliaments from the perspective of a determinist interpretation of the 'origins' of the Civil War and Interregnum. By seeking the origins of the Stuart conflict in the so-called 'apprenticeship to future greatness' of the Elizabethan House of Commons, the leading exponent of this interpretation [J.E. Neale] was driven to manufacture a 'puritan choir' supposedly operating within Elizabeth's early Parliaments.

From *Tudor England* by John Guy (OUP), 1988, p.320.

Extract C

'[In 1601 Elizabeth's] touch was as sure as ever. Before Christmas her words to the deputation in the Council Chamber were in print and later generations were to call it her "golden speech", for she had here put into words, without attempting a definition, the essence of that remarkable relationship between sovereign and people in the golden age of monarchy that passed with her death ... The Commons had responded loyally with voting four subsidies and eight fifteenths and tenths ... Before they dispersed to their homes for Christmas, she gave members ... a masterly survey of policy during the forty-four years as queen, a statesman's swan-song, for with taxation voted for the next four years she knew, surely, she would be unlikely to survive to address another Parliament.'

From *Elizabeth I, Queen of England* by Neville Williams, (Weidenfeld and Nicholson), 1967, p.348.

Working on interpretation skills

In earlier chapters of the book you were given the opportunity to develop skills in answering interpretations questions. It is probably a good idea to re-read the advice given earlier in the book at the end of Chapters 2 (pages 65–6) and 3 (pages 96–9) before you answer the practice A-level question that follows.

Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the existence of a mid-Tudor crisis from 1538 to 1558.
(30 marks)

Extract A

The picture we see of Henry VIII towards the end of his reign is a very different image from that which started his reign. Gone is the picture of confidence and virility. Instead, we see the bloated face of a man who had lived an extremely tempestuous life

Henry had done his best to fulfil his role as warrior-king. The victory at Boulogne would live on in popular memory for the rest of the century. However, Henry had provoked real hostility in his personal life – his rejection of Catherine of Aragon and his series of new wives hardly matched his father's fidelity.

It is hard to see Henry VIII in a very positive light, both as man and as king ... Henry talked a good game – his own church, warrior-like-posing in foreign fields, monuments built to his own magnificence. But when asked the question 'What has Henry VIII ever done for you?', the peasant in the field might well have been lost for words ...

From *The Early Tudors: England 1485–1558* by D. Rogerson *et al.* (Hodder) 2001, p.184.

Extract B

The concept of a mid-sixteenth century crisis in England is now considered to be difficult to maintain. This is certainly true if by 'crisis' it is implied that the whole of the country, and all the people, were experiencing a crisis continuously between 1547 and 1558. Indeed, it is only really possible to say that the country as a whole and some sections of society underwent very short-lived crises at times between these dates. If this is the case, most historians would consider that this was normal for any country at any time. Mid-Tudor England faced a variety of problems. Many of these arose from the political, social and economic consequences of the political and economic breakdown at the end of the late Middle Ages. Others, like the reactions to the English Reformation, can be seen as very short term. A few, such as the succession crisis of 1553, were responses to immediate events. At no time, even in 1549, was the country in danger of collapse, and for most people life went on as normal.

From *Edward VI and Mary: A Mid-Tudor Crisis?* (2nd edn.) by Nigel Heard, (Hodder Education), 2000, p.158.

Extract C

[In the traditional interpretation] Mary was portrayed as a politically naïve zealot whose reintroduction of Catholicism was widely unpopular. In particular, her burning of Protestants as heretics backfired, as she inadvertently turned them into martyrs and was subsequently labelled by Protestant propagandists as 'Bloody Mary'. Her Catholicism led her into domestic and foreign policy disaster as she stacked her Privy Council with Catholic nonentities ... Mary was lucky to survive the Wyatt Rebellion, which the Spanish Match provoked. Marriage to Philip then led to English involvement in the Spanish–French war, which disastrously culminated in the loss of the last English possession in France: Calais ...

This picture of the mid-Tudor period apparently reveals a country lurching from crisis to crisis. Given the link between religious and political opposition, and the way in which economic discontent fuelled rebellion, the case for a full-scale structural crisis appears to be a strong one.

From *Elizabeth I: Meeting the Challenge, England 1541–1603* by John Warren, (Hodder Education), 2008, pp.5–6.

Extract A

The church faced formidable difficulties by the early sixteenth century. The growth of an educated class of thinkers, the great impetus given to it by the printing press, the general scepticism about many of the devotional practices which the church encouraged or at least tolerated, the widespread resentment of church wealth, church privileges, church power; all this provided material which could be shaped into a revolutionary movement. Luther's protest was to weld these somewhat disparate trends into a rival system ... Lutheranism was far more intellectually and emotionally satisfying to the religiously committed than Catholicism. Catholicism was too much associated with the established abuses of the status quo.

Adapted from *Peace, Print and Protestantism, 1450–1558* by C. S. L. Davies, (Hart Davis), 1977, p154.

Extract B

Much of the evidence we have gives a favourable impression of the parish clergy, and much of it suggests that lay people were content with their priests. When churchwardens and other parishioners were invited to complain of their clergy at the visitations of bishops and archdeacons, they did so remarkably infrequently ... At Archbishop Warham's visitation of 260 Kent parishes in 1511–12, six priests were suspected of sexual offences (and another pestered a woman without success), and four priests were said to be ignorant. There were complaints of pastoral neglect from about one-fifth of the parishes, but that was rarely the fault of individual priests. It was much the same in the huge diocese of Lincoln. At visitations of over a thousand parishes between 1514 and 1521, only 25 allegations of sexual misconduct were made against priests ... There were 17 complaints that services were not regularly conducted, 12 that rituals were carelessly performed, seven that priests had failed to preach or visit the sick ... Though reformers might criticise, parishioners seemed satisfied.

From *English Reformations: Religion, Politics and Society under the Tudors* by Christopher Haigh, (Clarendon Press), 1993.

Extract C

Late medieval Catholicism exerted an enormously strong, diverse, and vigorous hold over the imagination and the loyalty of the people up to the very moment of Reformation. Traditional religion had about it no particular marks of exhaustion or decay, and indeed in a whole host of ways, from the multiplication of ... religious books [in everyday language], to adaptations within the national and regional cult of the saints, was showing itself well able to meet new needs and new conditions. Nor does it seem to me that tendencies towards growing lay religious sophistication and literacy, or growing lay activism and power in gild and parish, had in them that drive towards Protestantism which some historians have discerned. The Reformation was a violent disruption, not the natural fulfilment of most of what was vigorous in late medieval piety and religious practice.

Adapted from *The Stripping of the Altars: Traditional Religion in England, 1400–1580* by Eamon Duffy, (Yale University Press), 1992.

Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the state of the Catholic Church in the reign of Henry VIII up to 1529

EXTRACT A

There were parishes where the Protestant reforms of Edward VI were embraced with ardour by those with influence. Even in communities where this was not so, the passage of time and the relentless push of Protestant policies had its effect. People sold off as much of their Catholic past as they could not hide or keep and called in carpenters to set boards on trestles and fix wooden forms around the Communion tables. Used to obedience, many of them accepted the changes as unavoidable. Four years of exposure to the matchless dignity of Cranmer's English services could not be without effect. Even men of profoundly Catholic convictions found themselves drawing on the rhythms of the new English Bible and prayer book to express their beliefs. Even for the traditionalists, nothing would ever be the same again. But when all that is said, in the majority of English villages, men breathed easier for the accession of a Catholic queen.

Adapted from Eamon Duffy, *The Stripping of the Altars*, 1997

EXTRACT B

What the effect of religious changes had been on the people at large by 1553 is very hard to gauge. One might guess that the short-term effect of any particular change would be negative; a change in a church service would create a good deal of resentment and gain few genuine converts. On the other hand, the long-term effect of officially-inspired Protestantism was bound to be considerable. The effects of Cromwell's vernacular bible were, under Edward VI, reinforced by the new services, gradually accustoming men to the idea that Protestant worship was not the anarchical practice of wild enthusiasts and reinforcing the evangelical beliefs fostered by scripture reading. Vested interests in the new order were increasing; those who had benefited from the sale of monastic lands were joined by the many priests who had taken the opportunity to marry. It is probably true that most people were not committed to either Protestantism or Catholicism, or even thought in such hard and fast terms. Political accident could determine England's religious future.

Adapted from C. S. L. Davies, *Peace, Print and Protestantism 1450-1558*, 1977

EXTRACT C

The regime of Protector Somerset has been regarded as relatively moderate yet its impact was devastating: the great majority of the decorations and rites found in English churches in early 1547 had gone by 1549. The churchwardens' accounts reveal that all the succeeding 'radical' administration of Northumberland had to do was to 'mop up' by revising the prayer book, replacing altars with communion tables and confiscating church goods. The new service was introduced in every parish within a year and the other reforms were just as thoroughly carried out. The churchwardens' accounts show that the great majority of people did not want the Reformations of Henry, Edward and Elizabeth. Catholic practices retained their vitality in the parishes until the moment they were outlawed, and few parishes acted in advance of instructions. The machinery of coercion and supervision deployed by Edwardian governments was so effective that for most parishes passive resistance to reformist changes was simply not an option for a largely Catholic population.

Adapted from R. Hutton, 'The local impact of the Tudor Reformations', in C. Haigh (ed.), *The English Reformation Revised*, 1987

Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the impact of religious change under Edward VI

Extract 1

Henry VIII carried the great conservative bulk of the nation with him in his dual action – the severance of England from Roman jurisdiction and the curtailment of the wealth and privileges enjoyed by the English Church. The quiet advances of Protestantism during Henry's last years account for the ease with which Somerset established it as the new official religion from the beginning of the new reign. The Edwardian years display a rough poetic justice. The seizure of chantries and church goods marred the public image of the Reformation in the eyes of many people. The fund of social idealism amongst the reformers, deeply impressive on paper and in the pulpit, availed little at this stage to check the profiteering which it so loudly denounced.

Adapted from A. G. Dickens, *The English Reformation*, 1964

EXTRACT 2

The persecution set the seal on Mary's failure to restore the Church of Rome in England, but that failure was pretty much guaranteed also by Pole's policies and by the fact that the earlier Reformation had taken a much firmer hold than has often been supposed. The signs are everywhere. The steadfastness of those executed proved so effective because they were setting their example to men and women more than half persuaded. The new owners' determination to retain the secularised lands not only demonstrated an understandable attachment to property, but also testified to the continued absence of any scruple about sacrilege. Despite herself, Mary throughout acted as the ruler of a Church which yet she believed was ruled solely by the Pope, a point underlined when Philip and Pope Paul IV had a serious argument and Pole lost the special papal authority which had lent some credibility to the notion that everything was done by and for Rome.

Adapted from Geoffrey R. Elton, *Reform and Reformation: England, 1509–58*, 1977

EXTRACT 3

By the end of Edward VI's reign in most churches the altars and statues were gone. Whatever the Crown commanded, the people, for the most part, did. When resistance erupted it was often because of specific local provocations or social and economic crisis. For historians convinced of the bankruptcy of late medieval Catholicism there is nothing here to surprise. Thus, for A.G. Dickens the chantries could be dissolved and the altars demolished because people no longer believed in intercession and the Mass as sacrifice. However, the vigour, richness and creativity of late medieval religion was undiminished and continued to hold the imagination and loyalty of the majority of the population. In the majority of English villages people breathed easier for the accession of a Catholic queen.

Adapted from Eamon Duffy, *The Stripping of the Altars: Traditional Religion in England, c1400–1580*, 1992

Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to religious change 1532 – 1558

Extract 1

Dependent upon personal influences and relationships, Tudor government varied in style from one reign to another. Henry VII relied very much upon a corps of household servants and other officers operating under special commissions outside the formal institutions of government. Henry VIII put his trust in two great ministers, both of whom built up institutions which they could dominate: Wolsey developing chancery and Star Chamber; Cromwell working through the secretaryship and the new financial courts. In their relations with the nobility Henry was mean with new creations and grants of land. Henry VIII and Edward VI by contrast raised many to the peerage and endowed them generously.

Adapted from Penry Williams, *The Tudor Regime*, 1979

Extract 2

Edward's life, after he ascended the throne, was played out mainly in the Privy Chamber, the focus of the court's political life, to which access was closely guarded by the four principal gentlemen of the Chamber, of whom the most important was Sir Michael Stanhope, Somerset's brother-in-law. Until the Protector's fall in October 1549, Edward was a cypher in politics, exercising little influence of his own. He was like the king on a chessboard, having little room for manoeuvre, but crucial to the development of the game. Control of the person determined the possession of power.

Adapted from Penry Williams, *The Later Tudors: England, 1547–1603*, 1995

Extract 3

From a childhood in which she was adored and feted and then violently rejected, a fighter was born. Mary maintained her faith and her self-belief. Despite repeated attempts to deprive her of her life and her right to the throne, the warrior princess turned victor, and became the warrior queen. The boldness and scale of her achievements is often overlooked. The campaign that Mary led in the summer of 1553 would prove to be the only successful revolt against central government in sixteenth-century England. In the moment of crisis she proved decisive and courageous, and won the support of the English people as the legitimate Tudor heir. Mary proved to be a conscientious and hard-working queen who was determined to be closely involved in government business and policy-making. She was also a woman who lived by her conscience and was prepared to die for her faith.

Adapted from Anna Whitelock, *Mary Tudor: England's First Queen*, 2009

Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the quality of government 1514 – 1558

Section B: Essays spec papers first, then 2017 - 2019

1. 'Despite the need to secure his dynasty, it was the desire to expand England's overseas trade that underpinned Henry VII's foreign policy.' Assess the validity of this view.
2. 'The King's ministers served Henry VIII well, but served themselves even better.' Assess the validity of this view in the context of the years 1515 to 1540
3. How far were the problems of poverty in England successfully addressed during Elizabeth's reign?
4. The foreign policy of Henry VIII failed to achieve its objectives in the years 1509 to 1547.' Assess the validity of this view.
5. 'Rebellions in the years 1549 to 1571 stemmed from the weakness of central government.' Assess the validity of this view.
6. 'Throughout her reign, Elizabeth I controlled her ministers with masterly political skill.' Assess the validity of this view.
7. Local issues were the most significant reasons for rebellion in the reign of Henry VII.' Assess the validity of this view.
8. 'The main aim of English foreign policy in the years 1509 to 1529 was to achieve peace in Europe'. Assess the validity of this view.
9. To what extent was poverty in England in the later sixteenth century the result of population growth?
10. Henry VII had successfully established monarchical authority by 1509.' Assess the validity of this view
11. To what extent was England's government fundamentally transformed in the years 1509 to 1547?
12. 'The Elizabethan religious settlement was successfully established in the years 1558 to 1603.' Assess the validity of this view.
13. The Church in England in 1547 was little different from what it had been in the late 1520s.' Assess the validity of this view.
14. How far, in the years 1547 to 1569, did concerns over the succession threaten the stability of England?
15. How effectively did Elizabeth deal with the threat from Spain in the years 1558 to 1589? [25 marks]

FROM TEXT BOOK ETC.

16. Henry VII's financial policies were the most important reason for the success of his reign. Assess the validity of this view
17. How far can the foreign policy of Henry VIII be regarded as a success?

18. The main cause of rebellions in the years 1536 – 1558 was religion. Assess the validity of this view
19. The crisis faced by the Tudors in the years 1540 – 1563 was primarily economic. Assess the validity of this view
20. Elizabeth's influence was the most important reason for the development of the arts in the years 1558 – 1603. Assess the validity of this view?
21. Elizabeth's foreign policy was largely a series of disasters. Assess the validity of this view
22. The foreign policy of Tudor monarchs failed to achieve its objectives in the years 1547 – 1563. Assess the validity of this view
23. Anticlericalism was responsible for the development of the English reformation in the years 1529 – 1547. Assess the validity of this view
24. How successful was Henry VII in fulfilling his foreign policy objectives?
25. To what extent by 1509 was the Church in need of reform?
26. To what extent was Henry VIII himself responsible for the failures of English foreign policy during his reign?
27. The English economy remained weak throughout the reigns of Henry VII and Henry VIII. Assess the validity of this view
28. Henry VIII may have made himself the head of the Church but little else changed. Assess the validity of this view
29. How successful was English foreign policy in the years 1529 – 1558?
30. Religious changes in the years 1532 – 1558 enjoyed little popular support. Assess the validity of this view
31. Elizabeth's policy towards Spain was weak and unconvincing. Assess the validity of this view
32. To what extent did the plots and rebellions faced by the Crown during the reign of Elizabeth pose a real threat to the stability of the state?
33. To what extent did English government respond effectively to the domestic problems which it faced in the years 1529 to 1553?
34. To what extent was the English Church in 1553 different from what it had been in 1532?
35. How successful was English foreign policy in the years 1529 to 1558?
36. 'Religious changes in the years 1532 to 1558 enjoyed little popular support.' Assess the validity of this view.
37. 'England was better governed by ministers and regents than by monarchs. Assess the validity of this view of the years 1513 to 1558.
38. How important was the issue of succession in determining foreign policy in the years 1534-58?