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**General Certificate of Education**

**2023**

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# History

Assessment Unit A2 2  
Historical Investigations and Interpretations



\*AHY21\*

**[AHY21]**

**THURSDAY 8 JUNE, MORNING**

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## TIME

2 hours 30 minutes.

## INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided.

Answer **three** questions from your chosen option. Answer Question 1, Question 2 and **either** Question 3(a) or 3(b).

Indicate clearly on your Answer Booklet which option you have chosen.

## INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 80.

Quality of written communication will be assessed in Question 3.

## Option 1: England 1558–1603

Answer Questions 1 and 2 and either Question 3(a) or 3(b).

Read the sources and answer the questions which follow:

### Elizabeth I's Attitude to Marriage

#### Source 1

Extract from a letter from Elizabeth I to King Erik of Sweden, 1560. She is responding to his proposal of marriage.

While I perceive from your letter that your love for me has not diminished, I am sorry that I cannot return the same kind of affection to your Serene Highness. And that is not because I doubt in any way your love and honour, but, as I have often declared both in words and writing, it is because I have never felt that kind of affection for anyone. I certainly think that, if God ever directs my heart to consideration of marriage, I will not be influenced by outward appearances alone, however powerful and wealthy a Prince might be. I have always given the same answer both to your brother, who delivered your letter, and also to your ambassador. I have no plan to take a husband. I highly commend this single life, and hope that your Serene Highness will no longer spend time waiting for me.

#### Source 2

Extract from a speech by Elizabeth I to a parliamentary delegation, 1566. The delegates are urging the Queen to marry.

Was I not born in England? Were my parents born in a foreign country? Is not my kingdom here? Whom have I oppressed? Whom have I enriched to the harm of others? What turmoil have I caused in this country? How have I governed since my reign began? I need not use many words, for my actions speak for themselves. I have already made my position clear on the issue of marriage and I will never break the word I have spoken in public. Therefore I say again, I will only marry when it is convenient, and I hope to have children, otherwise I would never marry. This is a strange delegation that seeks clarity and assurance on this matter directly from your sovereign, but will not believe my word when it is spoken.

#### 1 (a) Use Source 1 and your knowledge of this period.

How valuable is Source 1 to an historian as evidence in a study of Elizabeth I's attitude to marriage? [15]

#### (b) Use Source 1 and Source 2 and other evidence you have studied.

How far do the sources support the view that Elizabeth I regarded marriage as a private and personal affair rather than a matter for Parliament? [20]

## Elizabeth I's Relationship with her Leading Ministers

### Interpretation A

Extract from S. Yagan, *Elizabeth and Her Advisers*, published in 1971.

Elizabeth I's leading ministers were hard-working and loyal. In fact, the talents of William Cecil (Lord Burghley) and Francis Walsingham, and Elizabeth's ability to work productively with them, were perhaps the most crucial strengths of her rule. Even Elizabeth's more minor advisers, including Thomas Gresham, a financial adviser as mean with money as the Queen herself, were talented and valuable. However, Elizabeth I did not always get on with her advisers. She constantly argued with Burghley but nonetheless said of him that "no Prince in Europe has such an excellent adviser". Walsingham was also extremely capable and loyal. Although Elizabeth found his fanatical Protestantism disagreeable, this flaw was more than outweighed by his ability as a spy-master. Walsingham built a spy network which alerted Elizabeth to most of the plots against her. She was an especially intelligent ruler who surrounded herself with able and shrewd advisers who were prepared to disagree with her when she was wrong. This was one of the factors which contributed most to the greatness of her reign.

### Interpretation B

Extract from A.F. Pollard, *Sir Francis Walsingham*, published in 1910.

Elizabeth I was irritated by Walsingham's gloomy manner, while his outspoken comments earned him frequent reprimands from the Queen. His devotion to Protestantism made him extremely wary of the perils which threatened the Reformation and he took an alarmist view of every situation. Very conscious of the risks of peace, he was blind to the dangers of war. It was fortunate that his reckless advice was generally overruled by his cautious sovereign. He would have plunged England into war against Spain in 1572, when the risks would have been much greater than in 1588. Elizabeth I and Walsingham disagreed on many other foreign policy issues. The Queen, unlike Walsingham, preferred Philip of Spain to remain master of the Netherlands rather than see them fall into the hands of France. While Elizabeth and Burghley wanted to form an alliance with James VI of Scotland in 1583, Walsingham sought to undermine his own government's policy. However, Walsingham also detected and frustrated various plots against Elizabeth's life, achieving a success which his foreign policy initiatives never gained.

## 2 Study Interpretation A and Interpretation B.

Using the interpretations, and your understanding of the historical context, which of these different interpretations of Elizabeth I's relationship with her leading ministers do you find more convincing?

[25]

3 Quality of written communication will be assessed in this question.

**Either**

(a) To what extent was the Elizabethan Church Settlement shaped by the personal religious beliefs of Elizabeth I? [20]

**Or**

(b) How far was poverty in Elizabethan England the result of population growth? [20]

## Option 2: Ireland 1685–1714

Answer Questions **1 and 2** and either Question **3(a)** or **3(b)**.

Read the sources and answer the questions which follow:

### The Policies of James II in Ireland 1685–1689

#### Source 1

Extract from a pamphlet written by the Earl of Sunderland in March 1689. Sunderland wrote and published this pamphlet after the offer of the Crown to William and Mary in England.

The Earl of Tyrconnell has held such absolute power in Ireland, that I was never able to have any of my Protestant friends appointed to even junior positions in the army, or even protect them. However, with great care and hard work, I was able to use my access to the King to prevent the calling of a Parliament in Ireland. Tyrconnell's plan was to alter the land settlement in Ireland, which would have greatly damaged the Protestant interest. He sent over two Irish judges to meet James II with a draft law for that purpose. They tried to persuade the King to accept it and offered me a bribe of forty thousand pounds for my support. I informed the King and showed him that what Tyrconnell proposed was unjust. He has done great damage in Ireland.

#### Source 2

Extract from a book entitled *A Vindication of the Present Government in Ireland*. It was written by an anonymous author and published in 1688.

Ireland is in a far better situation under Tyrconnell, a native Lord Deputy, than under any foreigner. The Irish Catholics are pleased with this state of affairs, as Tyrconnell has removed all inequality from them. As for the Protestants, they have no reason to be worried, because they are sufficiently secure. There have been many protests against our present Lord Deputy, but these do not come from wise or fair-minded men. It is apparent that everything he has done has the full support of the King. The King and his Privy Council have clearly decided to reform Ireland and restore some sense of balance there. No doubt Parliament, when the King chooses to call one, will repeal all remaining unjust laws.

#### 1 (a) Use Source 1 and your knowledge of this period.

How valuable is Source 1 to an historian as evidence in a study of the policies of James II in Ireland in the period 1685–1689?

[15]

#### (b) Use Source 1 and Source 2 and other evidence you have studied.

How far do the sources support the view that the Earl of Tyrconnell was successful in his administration of Ireland in the period 1685–1689?

[20]

## The Impact of the Treaty of Limerick

### Interpretation A

Extract from D. Hayton, *The Williamite Wars*, published in 2008.

The Treaty of Limerick was harsh towards Irish Catholics. There were many loopholes in the Treaty and the way in which it was interpreted gave rise to a sense on the Catholic side of having been cheated. In the first place the civil articles were obscure: the original agreement had stipulated that the articles were to apply to all those currently under the protection of the Jacobite armies outside the besieged cities. This clause was left out of the Act of the Irish Parliament in 1697 that ratified the Treaty. Second, the statements about religious liberty in the Treaty were so vague that they did not in practice mean anything at all. In any case, they, too, were left out of the Act of Ratification. The aftermath of the war witnessed a complete betrayal of the spirit of the Treaty. This was not William's own doing, as he was no religious bigot. But he was forced, by his Irish Parliament, to accept laws restricting the rights of Catholics.

### Interpretation B

Extract from J.G. Simms, *Jacobite Ireland*, published in 1969.

The terms of the Treaty of Limerick were regarded as too generous to Irish Catholics, particularly by Protestants in Ireland. It was felt that a greater effort should have been made to secure the permanent security of the Protestant interest in Ireland by the complete suppression of the Catholics. The military clauses of the Treaty were the first part to be implemented. It was an astonishingly generous arrangement. An intact Jacobite army was to be transported, at William's expense, to a hostile country. Ginkel was criticised for having agreed to this. The Limerick settlement appeared to leave Catholics in a dangerously strong position, and there was much opposition to the parliamentary ratification of the civil articles. William and his government made efforts to implement the civil articles, but these had been poorly drafted in a hurry and did little except save a few individuals from having their land confiscated. The surrender of Limerick had given a real enough advantage to William and his allies. The Treaty concessions were a price worth paying for the advantage gained by ending the war.

## 2 Study Interpretation A and Interpretation B.

Using the interpretations, and your understanding of the historical context, which of these different interpretations of the impact of the Treaty of Limerick do you find more convincing?

[25]

3 Quality of written communication will be assessed in this question.

**Either**

- (a) "James II lost the English throne because his policies lost the support of the Tories." How far would you agree with this judgement? [20]

**Or**

- (b) "The Williamites were victorious at Aughrim because they possessed better leaders, men and equipment than the Jacobites." To what extent would you accept this verdict? [20]

### Option 3: Ireland 1778–1803

Answer Questions **1 and 2** and either Question **3(a)** or **3(b)**.

Read the sources and answer the questions which follow:

#### The Act of Union 1798–1800

##### Source 1

Extract from a letter from Charles Coote, an MP in the Irish House of Commons, to his brother, Eyre Coote, 14 January 1799. Eyre Coote was also an MP and a major-general in the English army. Charles eventually voted in favour of the Union in 1800 and was rewarded with a commission in the Queen's County Militia. He was also given a peerage.

Nothing is talked about here other than the Union Bill being proposed this month. Dublin is strongly against it. The Chief Secretary, Lord Castlereagh, sent for me, as he has for every member of the Irish Parliament. I spent an hour with him and told him that I could not pledge myself to support this Union, but at the same time I would not necessarily vote against it. Castlereagh told me that the government was determined to carry through this business and that it would never be abandoned. Castlereagh was not happy when I suggested that he could not count on my support. In actual fact, my dear Eyre, if the Union would provide us with domestic peace and security from invasion, I would rather support it than not. But the introduction of this Bill has not been well managed. The Irish Parliament ought to have been consulted and the measure should not have simply been brought in by a flood of government pamphlets.

##### Source 2

Extract from a letter from the Lord Lieutenant, Lord Cornwallis, to Major-General Ross, 8 June 1799. Appointed jointly to the roles of Commander-in-Chief of the army and Lord Lieutenant in 1798, Cornwallis is discussing how to progress the Union Bill through the Irish Parliament.

The political dealings of this country sicken me. I have spent my life avoiding this dirty business and now I am involved in it. How I long to kick those MPs whom my public duty obliges me to be nice to! My occupation is now of the most unpleasant nature – negotiating with the most corrupt MPs under heaven. I despise and hate myself every hour for engaging in such dirty work. Nothing but the conviction that a Union is absolutely essential for the safety of the British Empire could make me endure the shocking task which is imposed on me. Without a Union, the Empire will be dissolved.

#### 1 (a) Use Source 1 and your knowledge of this period.

How valuable is Source 1 to an historian as evidence in a study of the attitudes of Irish MPs to the proposals for an Act of Union between 1798 and 1800? [15]

#### (b) Use Source 1 and Source 2 and other evidence you have studied.

How far do the sources support the view that government pressure on Irish MPs was the most important reason why the Act of Union was passed? [20]

## Grattan's Parliament 1782–1800

### Interpretation A

Extract from J.C. Beckett, *The Making of Modern Ireland, 1603–1923*, published in 1966.

The Irish Parliament survived the establishment of its independence in 1782 by a mere eighteen years. Yet this brief period of independence had a brighter side: there was great economic progress and the gentlemen of Ireland showed that they were not unfit to be trusted with the management of their own affairs. Grattan's Parliament was to be associated with freedom, prosperity and national dignity. The Irish Parliament after 1782 had extended powers and it now met annually, which led to an increase in the range and volume of legislation. The attempts of Prime Minister Pitt to reassure British manufacturers by reducing Irish economic expansion in 1785 faced such bitter opposition in the Irish House of Commons that he was forced to abandon his planned commercial propositions. Economically, the development of manufacturing, the increase in land being cultivated and the general expansion of trade combined to increase the wealth of the country, and opinion at the time was that Ireland had never been so prosperous. Dublin's importance was enhanced by parliamentary independence and the city began a brilliant period of expansion.

### Interpretation B

Extract from T. Bartlett, *Ireland: A History*, published in 2010.

The verdict on the performance of Grattan's Parliament is a mixed one. Useful legislation had been pushed through the Irish Parliament. Pitt's challenge to the Irish Parliament's position through his commercial propositions in 1785, however exaggerated, had been seen off and so too had the threat posed to MPs by the Volunteers' demand for parliamentary reform. But there were also failures, and these would become crucial in the revolutionary decade of the 1790s. There had been no attempt to make the Irish government responsible to the Irish Parliament, nor had there been any progress on reforming Parliament to make it more representative and less dependent on the Lord Lieutenant and his circle. Crucially, there had been no approach to the Irish Catholics, who continued to look to the British government as their protectors rather than the Protestant Ascendancy. As the Irish Parliament under the reforms of 1782 entered into the 1790s, it was poorly equipped to meet the coming challenges.

## 2 Study Interpretation A and Interpretation B.

Using the interpretations, and your understanding of the historical context, which of these different interpretations of the period known as Grattan's Parliament (1782–1800) do you find more convincing? [25]

3 Quality of written communication will be assessed in this question.

**Either**

- (a) “The decline of the Volunteers from 1783 was due primarily to their irrelevance after the end of the American War of Independence.” To what extent would you accept this verdict? [20]

**Or**

- (b) “The most important reason for the failure of the 1798 Rebellion was the effectiveness of the government’s repressive policies in Ireland from 1796 until the outbreak of the insurrection in May 1798.” How far would you agree with this assessment? [20]

## Option 4: Partition of Ireland 1900–1925

Answer Questions 1 and 2 and either Question 3 (a) or 3 (b).

Read the sources and answer the questions which follow:

### The Reasons for the Rise of Sinn Féin 1916–1918

#### Source 1

Extract from a proclamation by Field Marshal Viscount French, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. This proclamation, which related to the “German Plot”, was published in *The Irish Times*, 18 May 1918.

It has come to our knowledge that certain Irish subjects of His Majesty the King have entered into treasonable communication with the German enemy. Drastic measures must be taken to put down this German plot. It is the duty of all loyal subjects of His Majesty to assist in every way His Majesty’s Lord Lieutenant in Ireland in suppressing this treasonable conspiracy. We must defeat the treacherous attempts of the Germans to damage the honour of Irishmen for their own purposes. To achieve this objective, we will take further steps to facilitate and encourage voluntary enlistment in Ireland in His Majesty’s Forces, in the hope that, without having to resort to compulsion, the contribution of Ireland to British forces will be brought up to its proper strength.

#### Source 2

Extract from the election manifesto of Sinn Féin. It was issued shortly before the General Election of December 1918.

The coming General Election is vitally important for the future of our nation. Sinn Féin aims at securing the establishment of an Irish Republic. This aim will be achieved, firstly by withdrawing the Irish representation from the British Parliament and by denying the right and opposing the will of the British Government to legislate for Ireland. Secondly, Sinn Féin will make use of any and every means available to make England powerless to control Ireland by military force or otherwise. Thirdly, Sinn Féin will establish an assembly comprising persons chosen by Irish constituencies as the supreme national authority to speak in the name of the Irish people. Finally, Sinn Féin will appeal to the Peace Conference for the establishment of Ireland as an independent nation.

#### 1 (a) Use Source 1 and your knowledge of this period.

How valuable is Source 1 to an historian as evidence in a study of the reasons for the rise of Sinn Féin in the period 1916–1918? [15]

#### (b) Use Source 1 and Source 2 and other evidence you have studied.

How far do the sources support the view that the mistakes of the British Government were the most important reason for the rise of Sinn Féin in the period 1916–1918? [20]

## The Causes of the Irish Civil War 1922–1923

### Interpretation A

Extract from R. Kee, *The Green Flag: A History of Irish Nationalism*, published in 1972.

It is more than likely that, had the Republican movement been a genuine democratic political movement, there would have been a proper constitutional way of resolving its internal political differences over the Anglo-Irish Treaty. The IRA had never been very respectful of its supposed allegiance to Dáil Éireann and was the dominant force in the country, whatever happened on the political level. Roughly speaking, the IRA split down the middle, with units conforming to the pro-Treaty or anti-Treaty positions of their commanders. The Civil War which was soon to follow has often been popularly blamed on de Valera, but the responsibility was not his. Anti-Treaty opinion in the IRA looked not to de Valera but to its own leaders. Collins himself was now at the mercy of the very loose system of organisation he had created. To Collins's own anxieties over the anti-Treaty IRA were added the complications over the situation in the North. It became clear that Lloyd George had allowed both Collins and Craig to gain totally contradictory impressions of what the Boundary Commission was meant to do.

### Interpretation B

Extract from R. Rees, *Ireland 1905–25*, published in 1998.

Both Griffith and Collins knew that Sinn Féin would split over the Treaty, but they were prepared to argue the document's merits in the Dáil. For his part, de Valera was shocked that the delegates had not, as promised, consulted him before signing the Treaty. However, Robert Barton insisted that the real problem had been caused by de Valera's refusal to attend the conference. Many have seen de Valera's actions in this period as a deliberate attempt to attract extremist support in order to wreck the Treaty and destroy his political rivals, notably Collins. In general, the IRA's response to the Treaty was confused, and in one sense this was a continuation of the indiscipline and internal wrangling which had plagued it in the period of the truce. A section of the IRA led by Rory O'Connor seized the Four Courts building in Dublin and established a new military headquarters. Events took a further twist with the assassination of Sir Henry Wilson in London. The British Government was outraged by the Wilson murder and blamed the anti-Treaty IRA housed in the Four Courts.

## 2 Study Interpretation A and Interpretation B.

Using the interpretations, and your understanding of the historical context, which of these different interpretations of the causes of the Irish Civil War (1922–1923) do you find more convincing? [25]

3 Quality of written communication will be assessed in this question.

**Either**

- (a) “The poor leadership of John Redmond was mainly responsible for the crisis over the Third Home Rule Bill in the period up to September 1914.” How far would you agree with this verdict? [20]

**Or**

- (b) “Acceptable to the British Government but unacceptable to all parties affected by it in Ireland.” To what extent would you agree with this assessment of the Government of Ireland Act of 1920? [20]

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**THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER**

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## Sources

- Option 1, Interpretation A**.....© Adapted from Queen Elizabeth I Study Guide: Elizabeth and Her Advisors | SparkNotes
- Option 1, Interpretation B**.....© Adapted from <https://www.luminarium.org/encyclopedia/walshingham.htm>
- Option 2, Interpretation A**.....Adapted from Hayton, D. W. (1991). Israel, Jonathan (ed.). *The Williamite Revolution in Ireland 1688–1691 in The Anglo-Dutch Moment: Essays on the Glorious Revolution and Its World Impact* (2008 ed.). © Cambridge University Press. ISBN 978-0521390750
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- Option 3, Interpretation A**.....© *The Making of Modern Ireland 1603-1923* by J C Beckett, Faber & Faber, 1966
- Option 3, Interpretation B**.....© *Ireland: A History* by T. Bartlett, Cambridge University Press (2010)
- Option 4, Interpretation A**.....© *The Green Flag: A History of Irish Nationalism* by Robert Kee, Littlehampton Book Services (1972)
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