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**General Certificate of Education**

**2024**

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# History

Assessment Unit A2 2  
Historical Investigations  
and Interpretations

**[AHY21]**



\*AHY21\*

**FRIDAY 7 JUNE, AFTERNOON**

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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 Relationship with the Privy Council

#### Source 1

Extract from Sir Robert Naunton's account of the reign of Elizabeth I, entitled *Fragmenta Regalia*, published in 1641. Naunton was an English writer and MP, who was born in 1563.

Many of Elizabeth I's ministers and servants of her government sat on the Privy Council. They were royal favourites, though they were not always submissive. However, they acted more in accordance with Elizabeth's own rules and judgements than their own beliefs and inclinations, something of which the Queen took careful note. Elizabeth made sure of this up to the end of her reign. The main characteristic of her reign was that she ruled mainly by factions and parties, which she herself created, maintained and reduced in influence in accordance with her own judgement. She exercised absolute control over the kindnesses she granted, and all those to whom she distributed her favours knew that these could be withdrawn at any time. They stood on no safer ground than her royal pleasure and their own good behaviour.

#### Source 2

Extract from Elizabeth I's statement to William Cecil on his appointment as her principal Secretary of State and a member of the Privy Council, 17 November 1558.

I will give you these responsibilities. You will be a member of my Privy Council and will be willing to work tirelessly for me and my realm. My judgement of you is that you will not be corrupted by any gifts you are offered and that you will be loyal to the nation. I also believe that, whatever my own private views are, you will give me the advice you think is best and not what you think I want to hear. And if you know anything which needs to be declared to me in confidence, you will show it only to me. Be assured that I will not betray the trust you have placed in me. I therefore appoint you to be one of my Privy Councillors.

#### 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 relationship with her Privy Council?

[15]

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

How far do the sources support the view that, although Elizabeth I attached great importance to managing and controlling her Privy Council, she nonetheless valued the advice of certain councillors in particular?

[20]

## Elizabeth I's Response to the Dutch Revolt

### Interpretation A

Extract from A. Weir, *Elizabeth the Queen*, published in 1998.

The Protestant communities in Europe were shocked at the news that William of Orange had been assassinated on 10 July 1584 in Delft. It was obvious that Philip of Spain had been behind the killing, and this seemed ominous for Elizabeth, whose subjects were terrified that she might be next. Nothing stood now between her and the Duke of Parma's great army in the Netherlands: the corrupt Henry III of France was too preoccupied with keeping the factions at his court from each other's throats, and the Duke of Anjou was dead. Parma was advancing steadily, taking city after city, and Elizabeth believed that, once the Netherlands were subdued, as they would be if no leader could be found to replace William of Orange, Philip would set his sights on England. Something must therefore be done urgently. In August 1585 the Treaty of Nonsuch was signed, by which Elizabeth extended her protection to the Dutch and undertook to send them an army of 6000 men and 1000 cavalry under the command of a general, who was also to act as her representative to their governing body, the States General.

### Interpretation B

Extract from S. Schama, *A History of Britain: At the Edge of the World? 3000 BC–AD 1603*, published in 2000.

The simple test of how seriously anyone thought about England's survival in the years of an apparent Catholic crusade was how they felt about the war in the Netherlands, which had begun in 1568 and showed no signs of ending. Was it some far-off incomprehensible civil war that was none of England's business, or was it *the* struggle on which England's fate would ultimately depend? Walsingham knew that Cecil and the Queen wanted no part of it and thought it a battle between two parties of equally deplorable fanatics. Many in the Privy Council saw no compelling need to rush to the aid of the Dutch when they had been attacking English ships peacefully trading with Spain. But Walsingham insisted that, if Spain succeeded in crushing the Dutch Revolt, England would be next. Cecil grudgingly accepted that something needed to be done, but preferred that it be done by the French, hence his hope that a French marriage would somehow work out.

## 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 response to the Dutch Revolt do you find more convincing?

[25]

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

**Either**

(a) "Roman Catholics posed a significant threat to Elizabeth I between 1558 and 1603."  
How far would you agree with this statement? [20]

**Or**

(b) To what extent did trade with the New World have an impact on the English economy?  
[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:

### Opposition to James II in England in the First Year of His Reign

#### Source 1

Extract from a declaration by the Duke of Monmouth, published after he landed in England in June 1685.

The government of England today is very far from what was intended. Indeed, all the boundaries and limits of government have recently been broken. Everything necessary for turning our limited monarchy into an absolute tyranny has been attempted. The whole course of the life of James, the present pretender to the throne, has been nothing but one long conspiracy against the Protestant faith and the rights of the people. Since he snatched the crown from his brother's head, he has trampled on the laws concerning our property by collecting illegal taxes. We must, as men and as Christians, take up arms against him.

#### Source 2

Extract from the memoirs of Sir John Reresby, a Tory gentleman. The memoirs were published after his death.

James II's accession was marked with all imaginable signs of peace and joy throughout the whole kingdom. It was very strange that, having once demanded his exclusion, so many now submitted to James with quiet acceptance. The fears and worries of the people were in fact greatly calmed by the speech the king made to the Privy Council immediately after King Charles's death. James declared that he would defend the government of England, in both Church and State, as it was established by law. He said that he would show the people the same kindness as his brother had. He promised to defend the rights and prerogatives of the Crown but also promised not to interfere with any man's property.

#### 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 response to James II in England in the first year of his reign?

[15]

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

How far do the sources support the view that James II encountered serious opposition in England in the first year of his reign?

[20]

## The Pro-Catholic Policies of James II in Ireland 1685–1688

### Interpretation A

Extract from S.J. Connolly, *Divided Kingdom: Ireland 1630–1800*, published in 2008.

The central issue of dispute in Ireland was not the appointment of Catholics to civil or military office, but the fate of the Restoration land settlement. Clarendon had already made some quite moderate proposals, which would have left much of the land in the hands of the current Protestant owners. This would serve the dual purpose of reassuring Protestants and securing the interests of England. But Tyrconnell and his supporters pushed a more radical case. They argued that a complete revision of the land settlement was essential, not just to correct past injustices, but to ensure that current Catholic gains would be sustained. Under a future Protestant king, Catholics would need to be as wealthy as they were numerous, if they were to defend their faith. Tyrconnell pressed ahead with his more radical plans, which would require a meeting of the Irish Parliament. As a small minority, Irish Protestants had little chance of success in acting to stop Tyrconnell.

### Interpretation B

Extract from G. Fitzgibbon, *Kingdom Overthrown*, published in 2015.

In Dublin, the surge of Catholic influence gathered speed. Tyrconnell took up his new duties as Lord Deputy with great enthusiasm and expected his aides to do likewise. Catholics were appointed to the judicial benches, ensuring a Catholic majority in every court. Radical changes were made to the army and the Catholic Church was given new prestige. Tyrconnell wanted to create a kingdom where political power and legal authority was held entirely in Catholic hands. The reaction among the Protestants of Ireland was firm. The Irish economy struggled through 1687, caused partly by a slow trickle of Protestant wealth and commercial expertise out of the country. With the Irish economy wobbling, rumours began to spread that Tyrconnell was to be reprimanded or dismissed, but he received James II's full support at the Chester meeting of 1687. By 1688, Tyrconnell believed that the powerful Protestant minority in Ireland might be provoked to take up arms. The potential for trouble in Ulster was serious.

## 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 James II's pro-Catholic policies in Ireland in the period 1685–1688 do you find more convincing? [25]

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

**Either**

- (a)** “James II’s failure as a military commander was the main cause of his defeat at the Battle of the Boyne.” How far would you accept this judgement? [20]

**Or**

- (b)** “The Penal Laws of 1691–1714 were designed primarily to maintain security in Ireland.” To what extent do 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 Causes of the 1798 Rebellion

##### Source 1

Extract from a speech made by the Marquess of Downshire in the Irish House of Lords, 26 March 1798. Downshire was the leading landowner in County Down and a fierce opponent of the United Irishmen.

The government troops in Ireland have indeed committed some acts of terror, but do not forget that they have been greatly provoked by the atrocious conduct of the United Irishmen. I was one of the first to recommend to the Irish government a policy of coercion against these traitors and rebels. The United Irish demands for a reform of Parliament and Catholic Emancipation are simply a cover for their real aims. They want to start a rebellion to separate their country from the Crown of Great Britain and reduce Ireland to a province of their French ally – our enemy and the main cause of all this trouble. It is no wonder that our soldiers sometimes overstep the mark in response to the atrocities of the United Irishmen. All who are acquainted with the United Irishmen know that coercion alone should be our policy against this conspiracy.

##### Source 2

Extract from *A Letter from an Irish Emigrant*, published in America in 1799 by Reverend Thomas Ledlie Birch. Birch was the former Presbyterian minister in Saintfield, County Down. A United Irish sympathiser, he was put on trial in June 1798 and sent into exile for life.

The problem was that Ireland's corrupt Parliament was controlled by the gentlemen of the Protestant Ascendancy. Presbyterian and Catholic churches were deprived of wealth and status and Catholics were prevented from voting in elections until recently. Into this unhappy state of affairs, Earl Fitzwilliam was appointed Lord Lieutenant in 1795, giving hope to Catholics. But he was recalled to London and replaced by Lord Camden. Ten thousand additional troops were immediately sent to Ireland and military guards stationed in every village. The people, deprived of any prospect of change, became desperate and began to arm themselves secretly for their own defence, but the government began to arrest and imprison suspected men and declared martial law. The people were thus pushed into rebellion in May 1798 to end the unfairness and bring about their greater happiness.

#### 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 causes of the 1798 Rebellion? [15]

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

How far do the sources support the view that the main cause of the 1798 Rebellion was that the United Irishmen were pushed into an insurrection by the government's military policy? [20]

## The Constitution of 1782

### Interpretation A

Extract from P.D.H. Smyth, *The Volunteers 1778–84: An Introduction*, published in 1974.

It was appropriate that Ulster provided the final momentum towards achieving legislative independence. Ulster had almost as many Volunteers as the other three provinces combined, and a much higher proportion of its population was politically active. Action had been needed by the Volunteers if their demands for legislative independence were to be met and swift action was forthcoming. Elected delegates to a Volunteer convention in Dungannon in February 1782 produced what was in effect a Volunteer manifesto. Grattan and Charlemont were largely responsible for these Dungannon resolutions and, while some may not have understood the subtle nature of these resolutions, the general intention was clear. Volunteer companies across Ulster, numerous town meetings and meetings of local grand juries rushed to declare public support for the Dungannon resolutions. The demand for legislative independence became so loud that it could no longer be ignored. By June the Irish Parliament was formally initiating its own legislation for the first time in over 200 years.

### Interpretation B

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

The situation regarding legislative independence was unclear when the Irish Parliament adjourned for Easter in March 1782. Ten days later, the situation had been transformed due to the resignation of Lord North as the British Prime Minister and King George III's reluctant acceptance of the Marquess of Rockingham as the new Prime Minister. The Patriots now had their Whig allies in power at Westminster and the new Lord Lieutenant, the Duke of Portland, gave his support to the granting of legislative independence. On 16 April, when the Irish Parliament met again, the motion for Irish parliamentary independence was introduced in Parliament for a third time by Henry Grattan. His speech was a hymn of triumph for a victory that had already been won and the motion was approved. This sudden success for Grattan and the Patriots was not won by any fresh effort of their own but sprang directly from the change of party fortunes in Britain. The alliance between the Patriots and the Whigs in Westminster brought about a new trend in Anglo-Irish relations, with the Patriots having influence as long as the Whigs were in power in London.

## 2 Study Interpretation A and Interpretation B.

Using the interpretations, and your understanding of the historical context, which of these different interpretations of the reasons for the granting of the Constitution of 1782 do you find more convincing? [25]

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

**Either**

- (a)** “The influence of Theobald Wolfe Tone was the most important factor in explaining the creation of the Society of United Irishmen in Belfast in 1791.” To what extent would you accept this verdict? [20]

**Or**

- (b)** How far would you agree with the view that the British government proposed the Act of Union solely as a response to the 1798 Rebellion? [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:

### Reasons for the Truce in the Anglo-Irish War of 1919–1921

#### Source 1

Extract from the minutes of a British Cabinet meeting, 30 April 1920. In the meeting, Lord French, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, is informing Lloyd George and Bonar Law of the situation in Ireland during the Anglo-Irish War.

Either we make a truce with the rebels or take measures against them since they have declared war on us. We should ask Sinn Féin what it wants and see if we can meet its demands. After its success in the 1918 General Election, Sinn Féin thought we would yield. It established its own parliament and entered communication with foreign powers, but nothing happened. In September 1919 the militants took control of Sinn Féin, believing that they could achieve better results than the moderates. The organisation has grown in strength and can now only be removed by force. The rebels have the advantage of using methods of war unavailable to us. Currently, the only alternative to war is to stop the violence and arrests we are making and enter into a conference to see if some arrangement can be reached.

#### Source 2

Extract from an official letter from David Lloyd George, the British Prime Minister, to Éamon de Valera, October 1921. He is inviting de Valera to open negotiations which would lead to an Anglo-Irish Treaty.

The British Government is deeply anxious that the King's appeal for reconciliation in Ireland shall not be in vain. Rather than lose yet another opportunity of settlement in Ireland, we today make a final appeal for a conference between ourselves and the representatives of Southern and Northern Ireland. I therefore invite you and Sir James Craig to attend a conference in London to explore the possibility of a settlement. I request that you bring with you any colleague who will aid you in these negotiations. The Government will give safe conduct to those who attend the conference. We make this invitation with the desire to end the conflict in Ireland and improve relations between our two peoples. This would mean so much, not only to the Empire, but to humanity.

#### 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 truce in the Anglo-Irish War of 1919–1921? [15]

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

How far do the sources support the view that the pressures on the British Government were the main reason for the truce in the Anglo-Irish War of 1919–1921? [20]

## Craig's Response to the Challenges Facing Northern Ireland 1921–1925

### Interpretation A

Extract from A. Jackson, *Ireland 1798–1998*, published in 1999.

James Craig was the central figure in the early successes of the Northern Ireland state between 1921 and 1925. The new state was not founded on political consensus and in its early years relied heavily on Britain for its stability. The Prime Minister of this new state was James Craig. His early career was scarcely an adequate preparation for his new role, but the skills which brought him to political prominence were also responsible for his early successes. His biggest challenge was the IRA threat, but his government dealt effectively with sporadic IRA violence in 1921 and a more sustained offensive in early 1922. The most important reason for this success was Craig's use of the Ulster Special Constabulary. His government also successfully used the draconian Special Powers Act to preserve peace and maintain justice. A string of decrees followed, including internment, curfews and floggings. These penalties fell heavily on the nationalist minority but for Craig this was seen as a success in defeating the IRA and securing the new state.

### Interpretation B

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

When the Northern Ireland Parliament was opened on 22 June 1921, Craig looked to the future with real optimism. However, this optimism was misplaced as many of his policies failed. His government's most pressing issue was to deal with a fresh outbreak of sectarian violence, which reflected the existing divisions in Ulster society. Craig's response was to deploy the Ulster Special Constabulary, a solution made necessary by his failure to find a political settlement with either de Valera or Collins. The cost of security placed a severe strain on the province's stretched finances. The Imperial contribution, the Belfast Boycott and unemployment insurance proved financially disastrous in a small country with such high unemployment. Craig also failed to cope with the disaffected Catholic minority. Discrimination, internment, the use of the Special Powers Act and the role of the B Specials deepened divisions and strengthened the determination of the Catholic minority to withhold its support for the new state. Craig alienated nationalists further with the introduction of the Local Government Bill in 1922. His actions in eliminating the threat of the Boundary Commission by 1925 alienated nationalists even further.

## 2 Study Interpretation A and Interpretation B.

Using the interpretations, and your understanding of the historical context, which of these different interpretations of Craig's response to the challenges facing Northern Ireland in the period 1921–1925 do you find more convincing?

[25]

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

**Either**

- (a) “The Liberal Government under Asquith was primarily responsible for the crisis over the Third Home Rule Bill in the period up to September 1914.” How far would you agree with this statement? [20]

**Or**

- (b) “The ideology of its leaders was the main cause of the Easter Rising of 1916.” To what extent would you accept this verdict? [20]

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

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## Sources

- Option 1, Interpretation A**.....Elizabeth the Queen by Alison Weir, publisher Jonathan Cape Ltd, First Edition (1998) ISBN: 978-00224044141
- Option 1, Interpretation B**.....A History of Britain: At the Edge of the World? 3000BC-AD1603 by Simon Schama publisher Bodley Head (2000) ISBN: 978-1847920126
- Option 2, Interpretation A**.....Divided Kingdom: Ireland 1630-1800 by S.J. Connolly publish OUP; Illustrated edition, (2008) ISBN: 978-0199543472
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- Option 3, Interpretation A**.....The Volunteers 1778-84: An Introduction, first edition by P.D.H. Smyth, publisher HMSO (1974) ISBN: 978-0337231223
- Option 3, Interpretation A**.....The Making of Modern Ireland, 1603-1923 by J.C. Beckett, publisher Faber and Faber (1966)
- Option 4, Interpretation A**.....Ireland 1798-1998 by Alvin Jackson, publisher Wiley (1999) ISBN: 978-063119542
- Option 4, Interpretation B**.....Ireland 1905-25 by Russell Ross publisher Colourpoint Educational (1998) ISBN: 978-1898392194

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