

**A LEVEL**

**Examiners' report**

# **HISTORY A**

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**H505**

For first teaching in 2015

**Y106/01 Summer 2023 series**

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## Introduction

Our examiners' reports are produced to offer constructive feedback on candidates' performance in the examinations. They provide useful guidance for future candidates.

The reports will include a general commentary on candidates' performance, identify technical aspects examined in the questions and highlight good performance and where performance could be improved. A selection of candidate answers is also provided. The reports will also explain aspects which caused difficulty and why the difficulties arose, whether through a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique, or any other identifiable and explainable reason.

Where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report.

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## Paper Y106/01 series overview

Y106 is one of thirteen units for the revised A Level examination for GCE History. This unit tests an extended period of History of about fifty years through an Enquiries or source-based option and an essay. The paper is divided into two sections. In Section A candidates have to answer a compulsory source question based on four written primary sources. The question requires them to use all four sources to assess the validity of a view. In Section B candidates are required to answer one essay question from a choice of two.

To do well on Section A, candidates need to be able to consider both provenance of the sources and apply contextual knowledge to them in order to reach a judgement about the sources in relation to the issue in the question. The judgement should be based on an evaluation of the reliability of the evidence given, not on the topic or contextual knowledge. In order to reach Level 6 a judgement should be made at the end of the analysis of each source, with an overall judgement in the conclusion.

To do well on Section B, candidates need to address the issue in the question, using detailed supporting knowledge. In order to reach the higher levels candidates will need to assess the issues they discuss and reach a supported judgement at least in the conclusion. To reach Level 6 candidates should also make an overall judgement as well as interim judgements when assessing each factor.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>considered the provenance of the source(s) and used relevant contextual knowledge</li> <li>clearly linked the contextual knowledge to the source being discussed to show whether the view of the source was valid or not</li> <li>reached an overall judgement as to the extent to which the sources supported the view in the question</li> <li>in answering the essay question, discussed at least two issues in depth</li> <li>wrote supporting detail that was both accurate and relevant to the question set, not just the topic</li> <li>reached a supported judgement about the issue in the question</li> <li>made a series of interim judgements about the issues discussed in relation to the question.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>did not consider the provenance and use contextual knowledge to evaluate the sources</li> <li>wrote an unbalanced answer in their treatment of the sources, with very little consideration of one of the sources</li> <li>reached a judgement based on their knowledge rather than the sources</li> <li>showed a poor understanding of the major issues relevant to the essay</li> <li>were unable to support their answer with relevant material</li> <li>did not focus on the precise wording of the question</li> <li>made unsupported comments about issues which were assertions.</li> </ul>

## Section A overview

The Enquiry section in this unit examines the extent to which there was resistance and opposition to Mary's religious policies. The question requires candidates to critically assess evidence and reach judgements. The critical evaluation of sources is the central theme in this section with all marks awarded against AO2.

### Question 1

#### Mid Tudor Crises 1547–1558

- 1 Using these four sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the view that there was resistance and opposition to Mary's religious policies. [30]

The four sources provided a range of views across the period of Mary's rule and the dates of the sources were important in reaching a judgement as to how far each source supported the view in the question. In most responses candidates were able to explain how a source did or did not support the view, with most also being able to provide some supporting contextual knowledge to back up their argument. However, although many answers contained comments about provenance, this was done less well, and candidates often resorted to 'stock' comments about a diary. It might be helpful if candidates considered the purpose of a source or gave attention to the date the source was written as this will often shed valuable light on their value in addressing the question.

Source A, from Parkyn, on the surface largely challenged the view, but there were some responses that gave excessive weight to the comment about married priests. It does appear to show celebration and joy at Mary's accession, but some commented this may have been due to her legitimacy compared to Jane Grey, while others commented on the popular response to her accession with mass being said in various places before it was law. Many commented on the fact it was written at the start of her reign before any policies had been implemented and the most successful responses noted her comments at the start of her reign. There was valuable discussion about Parkyn's beliefs and the fact he was from Yorkshire, a Catholic stronghold and how this might influence his views.

Source B was seen by most as evidence of opposition, but it would have been helpful to comment on the scale of that opposition and nature of the resistance. Once again, a comment on the date would have helped in analysing the source as it came at the time of Wyatt's rebellion and discussions over heresy laws. There was some discussion about the imprisonment of culprits suggesting people were willing to co-operate. Discussion about the author was varied, but those who were able to link Wriothesley to his cousin who was a member of the conservative faction under Edward made the most valuable comments on his likely outlook.

In discussing Source C, most argued that it showed opposition and a willingness to resist. The knowledge deployed was often wide-ranging, commenting on the numbers either burned or who fled, but others commented on the process of arrests and the role of JPs in this, while others noted the timings and suggested the authorities feared protests, as was seen from the London apprentices, while others commented on it being seen as more like entertainment, evidenced by the cherry pickers from Kent. Candidates were usually able to comment on Machyn being a supporter of Mary, but many did not note this was the first of the burnings and how this might impact.

The analysis of Source D was the least successful. The date was crucial here as 1557 was four years into Mary's reign and churches still needed repairs to return them to their former Catholic state. Very few were aware of who an archdeacon was and the purpose of a visitation.

The exemplar below provides a good illustration of a script that just got into the top level. There is an overall judgement about how the provenance of the sources impacts on reaching an overall view, but there are also some interim judgements about individual sources.

## Exemplar 1

1.	<p>When considering how far the sources support the view that there was resistance and opposition to Mary's religious policies, Source A appears not to support this view to a large extent, whilst Sources B and D suggest some level of opposition during her reign. Source C also points to some level of opposition to her religious policy, and so the sources largely don't support the view.</p> <p>Source A indicates little to no opposition to Mary's religious policies, stating "all places in the north gave greatly rejoiced" and that "mass was sung or said in Latin on the first Sunday of the said month". This assertion can be strengthened by the fact that Mary's coronation was followed by spontaneous Catholic activity across the reign, bolstered by the fact that she had previously made a speech declaring her religion as Catholicism and criticising the diversity of religion that had appeared. Furthermore, people <del>had</del> under Edward's reign in some areas had merely hidden their raised altars and spires and restored these to their churches after Mary's coronation. However, the fact that this source was written by a Yorkshire priest challenges the strength of the source's view in presenting Catholicism as being received with joy across the reign, as the North had remained a Catholic stronghold despite the changes seen under Edward VI, with less than 1/20 of the will being</p>
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		<p>Protestantly worded in Lincolnshire, demonstrating how little Protestantism was able to penetrate the north. Therefore, whilst the source can be supported to some extent in its view that the reversal to Catholicism was greatly welcomed and faced little resistance, its <del>provenance</del> <del>provenance</del> challenges its validity as it is only able to comment on the reaction in the <del>North</del> North which was already resistant to Protestantism.</p>
		<p>Source B points to some degree of resistance to Mary's religious policy, recounting the event when a "dead cat was hanged... dressed <del>like</del> in cloth like the vestment of <del>of</del> a priest". Further allusions to Catholic beliefs are made such as the "bottle nearly and <del>the</del> between its front paws was a piece of paper like a consecrated water", indicating further disapproval and resistance to the Catholic belief of transubstantiation and the laity being unable to partake in communion in both kinds. The source's view is strengthened by its provenance which states that this is an account of an event which took place in London, an area of strong Protestant support which did not receive the change to Catholicism well, particularly as 44% of wills here were Protestantly worded by the end of <del>the</del> Edward's reign. Furthermore, the author of the source being a royal messenger indicates the severity of the situation.</p>



warranting royal attention. However, considering the fact that this chronicle is dated shortly after Wyatt's Rebellion and the opposition that existed towards Mary's marriage to another ~~royal~~ powerful Catholic power could explain this incident as resistance ~~on~~ and opposition towards that as opposed to her own religious policies which included the Acts of Repeal ~~at the time~~. Ultimately, the source is supportive of the view in the question that there was resistance and opposition to Mary's religious policies and is strengthened by ~~the~~ its provenance as a chronicle of an event taking place in London which was already a stronghold of Protestantism.

Source C indicates that there was opposition and resistance to some extent by chronicling the burnings, stating that Rogers was "burned for his critical opinions" and that the next day "departed master Hooper to Gloucester and Scudler to Coventry, both to be burned". Rogers and Hooper were staunch ~~as~~ Protestants and opponents of Catholicism and Mary's religious policies and so the fact she had resorted to burnings to deal with the issue points to the severity of the situation. Considering the ~~source's position as someone~~ author's position as someone "who welcomed Mary's intention to restore Catholicism" this explains to some extent why the news of the

bannings is reported without surprise or criticism, despite the fact that by the end of her reign over 300 people were burned and from 1554-1558 numerous books of Protestant propaganda were published capitalising on Mary's bad reputation and the opposition to her religious policy of the bannings. Therefore, it is clear that the source to some extent tries to ~~understate~~ downplay the impact and unpopularity of the bannings which can be explained by its provenance, but still ~~expresses~~ supports the view that there was resistance and opposition to Mary's religious policies as a result of the bannings.

Source D, written in 1557 at the end of her reign, points to a degree of opposition and resistance as a "centre of Protestantism... is ordered to hit out their churches for Catholic worship" which includes "front cloth for the altar" and a "canopy and veil", as under Edward Protestant policies the altar tables were replaced by simpler communion tables. The fact that by the end of her reign, after both Acts of Repeal have been passed reversing all changes made also by Henry VIII, there are still churches that were not ~~entirely~~ ~~completely~~ yet Catholic in nature and kept their changes made under Edward indicates some level of

failure on Mary's part to spread Catholicism across the whole country with there being clear evidence of refusal to comply and opposition in some areas remaining. Evidently this source strongly supports the view in the question and is strengthened by its provenance which points to continuing resistance to Catholicism despite intervention from Mary in the form of visitations and changes to statute law.

Overall, the sources largely support the view that there was resistance and opposition to Mary's religious policies and Catholicism. Although source A does not seem to support this view, it is weakened by its provenance which indicates limitations on its ability to comment for the whole of England as it can only provide the Northern experience, an area that was already resistant to Protestantism and so would not resist or oppose Mary's intentions to restore Catholicism. ~~Source C also says~~ Whilst source C points to the burnings as clear evidence of some degree of opposition and resistance as people were willing to be burned for their Protestant beliefs, the author's personal support for Mary can explain why the burnings are reported without surprise.



		on the criticism of Mary. Its provenance therefore explains its attempt to undermine the extent of opposition towards Mary's policies which included the burnings. Sources B and D largely support the idea that there was resistance and opposition by recounting an incident of protest towards Catholicism being the main religion and also the refusal of certain parish churches to comply with legislation even by the end of her reign. These sources are strengthened by their provenance which indicates it was serious enough to be a royal issue and chronicled through official channels.
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Exemplar 1 provides a good illustration of a script that just got into Level 6 with 26 marks. There is an overall judgement about how the provenance of the sources impacts on reaching an overall view, but there are also some interim judgements about individual sources.

### Assessment for learning



Exemplar 1 is an example of a script that shows not only an overall judgement based on the provenance of the sources but some interim judgements.

## Section B overview

Candidates are required to answer one essay from a choice of two. Each question is taken from a different Key Topic and requires candidates to weigh up the importance of a range of factors or issues.

### Question 2\*

#### England 1485–1547

**2\*** To what extent were the aims of Henry VIII's foreign policy achieved in the period from 1509 to 1529? **[20]**

This was by far the more popular question. The most successful answers identified the aims of Henry's foreign policy in the opening paragraph and used these against which to judge the success or otherwise. This usually included glory, the desire to take the French throne and emulate his hero, Henry V, and the desire for dynastic security, as well as comments about being a major power. Responses were much stronger in dealing with the 1510s than the 1520s, although there were many responses that ignored the battle of Flodden in their discussions. In many answers the focus was heavily on the wars in France and the extent to which the capture of Tournai and Therouanne could be seen as achieving his aim. In considering this there was often emphasis on the cost against the propaganda value. Candidates did discuss the issue of glory through the Treaty of London and the Field of Cloth of Gold, although others used this to examine the aim of being a major power at the centre of Europe. Discussion of the 1520s was less successful, particularly over the start of the annulment process.

## Exemplar 2

4~~th~~ Arguably, Henry VIII's foreign policy aims were partially achieved between 1509 and 1529. His primary aims consisted of his desire to assert what he believed to be his birthright, his claim to the French throne, solidify a marriage for his sister Mary, unite England and Scotland and to secure the Tudor dynasty. He was more successful in achieving some of these aims than others, contributing to his partial success in achieving his aims.

One of his first actions in foreign policy was to begin a series of French invasions in order to achieve his aim of claiming the French throne, beginning in 1513. Wolsey organised this invasion, contributing to its success in capturing Therouanne and Tournai in France, ~~a~~ great achievement for Henry VIII as another one of his aims was to achieve military glory. However, this invasion by no means achieved his aims, as the capture of two small towns was relatively insignificant, however it could be suggested that this meant he now had a strong foothold in France from which he could launch further invasions and eventually secure the throne. Furthermore, his capture led to the King Louis XII offering a Tudor-Valois Alliance, wherein which Henry received 100,000 crowns per year, ~~and~~ possession of Tournai and marriage of his sister Mary to the French King. This was a success ~~in~~ in achieving his aims, as the marriage of his sister to Louis led to a powerful alliance with France, and meant he'd achieved his aim of marrying her off. However, Louis died 3 months after their marriage, meaning that the success of the alliance and achievement of his aims was somewhat undercut, and further he hadn't achieved his original aim of claiming the French throne. This suggests that he was ~~not~~ somewhat successful in achieving his aims, but this success was

not long-lived, and he didn't achieve his primary aim.

Henry's failure in achieving his aim of the French throne is further realised by his entrance into war with France in 1521, allied with the Habsburgs of Spain. England fought for 4 years with no success and with costs piling up Henry was forced to withdraw from war in 1525. This further exemplifies his lack of success in achieving his initially prioritised aim of claiming the French throne, this time due to lack of funds to successfully fight, demonstrating that his efforts were in vain. Furthermore, his withdrawal coincided with Spain's stunning victory at the Battle of Pavia in 1525, where they captured Francis and imprisoned their nobility. Henry's withdrawal from the war meant that the Habsburg emperor Charles wouldn't give him a half of French lands and his 'birthright' title as King of France, meaning that Henry had further failed to achieve his aims in foreign policy, demonstrating his lack of success.

However, ~~towards the end of the~~ although his initial aims were centred around the achievement of the French throne, his aims evolved in the later years of the 1520s towards securing the Tudor Dynasty. In this respect he had more success than achieving the French throne, exemplified by his involvement in the Treaty of Cambrai in 1528. Henry negotiated peace between the Habsburg and Valois families and in doing so cemented England's recognition of an international power and a force to be considered. This would mean that the Tudor dynasty would be well respected and secured in international affairs, reducing challenges to his dynasty and thus increasing its security. This demonstrates that Henry did have



considerable success in achieving some of his foreign policy aims, perhaps in the most essential one of them all in ensuring the succession.

In conclusion, Henry VIII partially achieved his foreign policy aims between 1509 and 1529. ~~Then~~ He was unsuccessful in obtaining the French throne, although this aim was somewhat unrealistic, and he had some success in capturing Tournai and arranging Mary's marriage. ~~Additio~~ On the other hand, he had fairly significant success in what became his most important aim of securing his dynasty through the recognition of England as a significant power, exemplifying his partial achievement of his aims.

Exemplar 2 is a good example of a response that has a developed judgement in the conclusion but lacks the necessary interim judgements to reach the top level.

### Assessment for learning



It would benefit candidates to have a secure chronological grasp of events as inaccuracies do impact the analysis.

### Question 3\*

**3\*** How serious was the opposition to Henry VIII's religious changes in the 1530s and 1540s? **[20]**

There were very few responses to this question. Candidates who attempted this often focused solely on the Pilgrimage of Grace. There was little analysis of the importance of individuals, such as Fisher and More and their standing as major European figures. Some argued that opposition was not serious and explained why through considering the nature of the changes and the methods of control available to Henry, such as the Treason Act. There were also some useful comments about the nobility and how they were 'bought off' by the promise of rewards, such as land from the Dissolution.

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