
A-LEVEL

History

Component 2B The Wars of the Roses, 1450–1499

Mark scheme

7042

June 2017

Version: 1.0 Final

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It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of students' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

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June 2017

A-level

Component 2B The Wars of the Roses, 1450–1499

Section A

- 01** With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the reasons why George, Duke of Clarence, was executed in 1478. **[30 marks]**

Target: AO2

Analyse and evaluate appropriate source material, primary and/or contemporary to the period, within the historical context.

Generic Mark Scheme

- L5:** Shows a very good understanding of all three sources in relation to both content and provenance and combines this with a strong awareness of the historical context to present a balanced argument on their value for the particular purpose given in the question. The answer will convey a substantiated judgement. The response demonstrates a very good understanding of context. **25-30**
- L4:** Shows a good understanding of all three sources in relation to both content and provenance and combines this with an awareness of the historical context to provide a balanced argument on their value for the particular purpose given in the question. Judgements may, however, be partial or limited in substantiation. The response demonstrates a good understanding of context. **19-24**
- L3:** Shows some understanding of all three sources in relation to both content and provenance together with some awareness of the historical context. There may, however, be some imbalance in the degree of breadth and depth of comment offered on all three sources and the analysis may not be fully convincing. The answer will make some attempt to consider the value of the sources for the particular purpose given in the question. The response demonstrates an understanding of context. **13-18**
- L2:** The answer will be partial. It may, for example, provide some comment on the value of the sources for the particular purpose given in the question but only address one or two of the sources, or focus exclusively on content (or provenance), or it may consider all three sources but fail to address the value of the sources for the particular purpose given in the question. The response demonstrates some understanding of context. **7-12**
- L1:** The answer will offer some comment on the value of at least one source in relation to the purpose given in the question but the response will be limited and may be partially inaccurate. Comments are likely to be unsupported, vague or generalist. The response demonstrates limited understanding of context. **1-6**
- Nothing worthy of credit. **0**

Indicative content

Note: This content is not prescriptive and students are not obliged to refer to the material contained in this mark scheme. Any legitimate answer will be assessed on its merits according to the generic levels scheme.

Students must deploy knowledge of the historical context to show an understanding of the relationship between the sources and the issues raised in the question, when assessing the significance of provenance, the arguments deployed in the sources and the tone and emphasis of the sources. Descriptive answers which fail to do this should be awarded no more than Level 2 at best. Answers should address both the value and the limitations of the sources for the particular question and purpose given.

Source A: in assessing the value of this source, students may refer to the following:

Provenance, tone and emphasis

- Dominic Mancini was an Italian who was not in England at the time of Clarence's death and the duration of his later visit was very short
- the emphasis and tone are hostile to the Woodville family and are valuable in reflecting widely held views about the ambitions of that family
- claims as to the legitimacy of Edward's marriage may be influenced by when the source was written as these were central to Richard III's rise to the throne
- Mancini was writing after Richard of Gloucester's seizure of power and his work reflects the hostility to the Woodvilles that Richard had exploited.

Content and argument

- the claim is made that Elizabeth did not care about whether George was guilty or not because he was a threat to her and her family, his role in the execution of her kin in 1469 could be used to demonstrate this
- the source makes reference to claims made by Clarence regarding legitimacy of the marriage. Edward's alleged pre-contract to Eleanor Talbot (later Butler) could be discussed
- the influence of the Queen and her Woodville family on Edward IV in his second reign is highlighted by the source. The role of figures such as Anthony Woodville and Thomas Grey might be considered
- the account considers the ambition of George and his previous actions, such as marriage to Isabel Neville and his previous rebellions in the years 1469 to 1471, can be explored to demonstrate this.

Source B: in assessing the value of this source, students may refer to the following:

Provenance, tone and emphasis

- although the exact identity of the chronicler is disputed this is a very highly regarded source of knowledge for Edward IV's reign
- much of what the second continuation of the Crowland Chronicle presents is supported in other accounts which adds weight to its purported accuracy
- the chronicler's insider status is valuable given the relatively private nature of the family division depicted. It is authoritative in its tone and depiction of Edward IV's lack of trust in his younger brother.
- there is also some suggestion that the breakdown was due to mutual mistrust and it can be inferred that Edward IV aggravated the situation.

Content and argument

- the King's personal determination to punish, humiliate and ruin his brother is a recurring theme and could be challenged by Edward's previous actions and clemency with regard to George
- Edward's resentment at the ingratitude of George can be explored through George's actions and the patronage heaped upon him by the King in both reigns
- Edward's anger at George's arrogant conduct could be considered in the light of the King's character
- the impact of George's ambition on the wider European situation regarding Edward IV's diplomacy with Burgundy.

Source C: in assessing the value of this source, students may refer to the following:

Provenance, tone and emphasis

- provenance is especially relevant here as this is an official account of the parliamentary record and therefore represents events as the King wished them to be recorded
- the record was made at the time of George's execution in 1478 and was witnessed by the many members of political society present at that parliament
- the tone is official and legalistic reflecting the source and is valuable in that it presents the case that had been made against the duke, succinctly but fully.

Content and argument

- George, Duke of Clarence, is presented as guilty of many treasonous activities and therefore deserving of execution
- Edward IV is presented as wholly blameless and loving towards his brother and this could be considered in the light of Edward IV's role in prosecuting the case in parliament
- reference is made to George's actions in questioning or undermining Edward's legitimacy and seeking to promote his own dynastic ambitions, Edward IV's parentage could be explored
- there is a focus on Clarence's actions as a supporter of the Lancastrians and his previous support for Queen Margaret and the Earl of Warwick is a potential area for investigation.

Section B

- 02** How significant was the First Battle of St Albans to the collapse of Lancastrian government by 1461? **[25 marks]**

Target: AO1

Demonstrate, organise and communicate knowledge and understanding to analyse and evaluate the key features related to the periods studied, making substantiated judgements and exploring concepts, as relevant, of cause, consequence, change, continuity, similarity, difference and significance.

Generic Mark Scheme

- L5:** Answers will display a very good understanding of the full demands of the question. They will be well-organised and effectively delivered. The supporting information will be well-selected, specific and precise. It will show a very good understanding of key features, issues and concepts. The answer will be fully analytical with a balanced argument and well-substantiated judgement. **21-25**
- L4:** Answers will display a good understanding of the demands of the question. It will be well-organised and effectively communicated. There will be a range of clear and specific supporting information showing a good understanding of key features and issues, together with some conceptual awareness. The answer will be analytical in style with a range of direct comment relating to the question. The answer will be well-balanced with some judgement, which may, however, be only partially substantiated. **16-20**
- L3:** Answers will show an understanding of the question and will supply a range of largely accurate information which will show an awareness of some of the key issues and features, but may, however, be unspecific or lack precision of detail. The answer will be effectively organised and show adequate communication skills. There will be a good deal of comment in relation to the question and the answer will display some balance, but a number of statements may be inadequately supported and generalist. **11-15**
- L2:** The answer is descriptive or partial, showing some awareness of the question but a failure to grasp its full demands. There will be some attempt to convey material in an organised way although communication skills may be limited. There will be some appropriate information showing understanding of some key features and/or issues, but the answer may be very limited in scope and/or contain inaccuracy and irrelevance. There will be some, but limited, comment in relation to the question and statements will, for the most part, be unsupported and generalist. **6-10**
- L1:** The question has not been properly understood and the response shows limited organisational and communication skills. The information conveyed is irrelevant or extremely limited. There may be some unsupported, vague or generalist comment. **1-5**
- Nothing worthy of credit. **0**

Indicative content

Note: This content is not prescriptive and students are not obliged to refer to the material contained in this mark scheme. Any legitimate answer will be assessed on its merits according to the generic levels scheme.

Factors that may be used to support the significance of the First Battle of St Albans to the collapse of the Lancastrian government in 1461 might include:

- the First Battle of St Albans can be seen as highly significant in that it was the first major battle of the war and it set the precedent that military action could be used against those who represented the King
- powerful and important supporters of the Lancastrian government, most notably the Duke of Somerset, were killed
- the outcome of the battle led to the development of a blood feud between the sons of those who had fallen in battle and the victorious Yorkist lords that they held responsible – making it impossible for them to accept the Yorkists
- the battle arguably persuaded Queen Margaret that Richard of York was a dynastic threat to her family and led her to adopt extreme hostility towards him and his followers that gave them no alternative but to topple the Lancastrian government if they wished to survive.

Factors that may be used to challenge the significance of the First Battle of St Albans to the collapse of the Lancastrian government in 1461 might include:

- Richard of York continued to recognise the authority of Henry VI and ruled as protector in his name in the immediate aftermath
- attempts were made, with varying degrees of success, to heal the noble divisions in the aftermath of the First Battle of St Albans
- mistakes made by the Lancastrian government between 1459 and 1461 were arguably more important including the attainder of the Yorkists and military failures
- the determined ambitions, actions, and ability of the Yorkist lords played a notable role in undermining the Lancastrian regime
- the fundamental weaknesses of Henry VI's kingship could be considered.

In summary, students may conclude that the First Battle of St Albans was a highly important event because it introduced violence as an accepted political method and introduced the concept of the blood feud. However, it did not make the fall of the Lancastrian government in 1461 inevitable. There is very little evidence that the wider nobility was willing to remove the King, indeed they attempted to avoid that at all costs. The determination of Margaret to destroy the Yorkists and the removal of the middle ground meant that perpetual control of the King or his replacement became the only means to ensure their survival.

- 03** To what extent was Edward IV responsible for the failure of the Lancastrian resistance in the years 1461 to 1464? **[25 marks]**

Target: AO1

Demonstrate, organise and communicate knowledge and understanding to analyse and evaluate the key features related to the periods studied, making substantiated judgements and exploring concepts, as relevant, of cause, consequence, change, continuity, similarity, difference and significance.

Generic Mark Scheme

- L5:** Answers will display a very good understanding of the full demands of the question. They will be well-organised and effectively delivered. The supporting information will be well-selected, specific and precise. It will show a very good understanding of key features, issues and concepts. The answer will be fully analytical with a balanced argument and well-substantiated judgement. **21-25**
- L4:** Answers will display a good understanding of the demands of the question. It will be well-organised and effectively communicated. There will be a range of clear and specific supporting information showing a good understanding of key features and issues, together with some conceptual awareness. The answer will be analytical in style with a range of direct comment relating to the question. The answer will be well-balanced with some judgement, which may, however, be only partially substantiated. **16-20**
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- L1:** The question has not been properly understood and the response shows limited organisational and communication skills. The information conveyed is irrelevant or extremely limited. There may be some unsupported, vague or generalist comment. **1-5**
- Nothing worthy of credit. **0**

Indicative content

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Factors suggesting that Edward IV was responsible for the failure of the Lancastrian resistance in the years 1461 to 1464 might include:

- Edward established a broadly based regime that was able to both reward his own followers but also to bring in those that had previously opposed him
- Edward's diplomacy brought an end to the vital support that the Lancastrians were receiving from France and Scotland
- Edward appointed capable military leaders such as Herbert in Wales and the Nevilles in Northumberland
- Edward IV successfully contained the resistance to Northumberland and parts of Wales.

Factors challenging the view that Edward IV was responsible for the failure of the Lancastrian resistance in the years 1461 to 1464 might include:

- Edward repeatedly failed to lead forces himself in the north of England despite promises made to parliament and his supporters
- Edward made miscalculations in pardoning Lancastrian rebels who then returned to their former loyalty often taking hard won castles and territories with them and prolonging the resistance
- others, such as the Nevilles, played the decisive military role in defeating Lancastrian resistance in a series of key sieges and battles between 1461 and 1464
- Scottish divisions weakened the support that they provided to the Lancastrians and Queen Margaret could not completely rely on them or upon the French
- the inability of Henry VI to act as an inspiring leader, in an age in which personal kingship was key, also played a role.

In summary, students may conclude that although Edward IV did ultimately bring the Lancastrian resistance to an effective end in 1464 through diplomacy, he also inadvertently prolonged it. His policy of pardoning Lancastrian rebels was particularly unsuccessful with regard to Somerset and Percy supporters and meant that the resistance dragged on far longer than it might otherwise have done.

- 04** 'Margaret of Burgundy posed the greatest threat to Henry VII's position as king in the years 1486 to 1499.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

Target: AO1

Demonstrate, organise and communicate knowledge and understanding to analyse and evaluate the key features related to the periods studied, making substantiated judgements and exploring concepts, as relevant, of cause, consequence, change, continuity, similarity, difference and significance.

Generic Mark Scheme

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- L1:** The question has not been properly understood and the response shows limited organisational and communication skills. The information conveyed is irrelevant or extremely limited. There may be some unsupported, vague or generalist comment. **1-5**
- Nothing worthy of credit. **0**

Indicative content

Note: This content is not prescriptive and students are not obliged to refer to the material contained in this mark scheme. Any legitimate answer will be assessed on its merits according to the generic levels scheme.

Factors supporting the view that Margaret of Burgundy posed the greatest threat to Henry VII's position as king in the years 1486 to 1499 might include:

- Margaret was the sister of Edward IV and Richard III and the aunt of the next generation of Yorkists – she could therefore legitimise Yorkist opposition
- The Simnel and Warbeck incidents were both linked to, and at points relied upon, support from Margaret of Burgundy
- Margaret wielded influence with the powerful Maximilian, the Holy Roman Emperor, and his son Philip in Burgundy and they were certainly aware of her activities in seeking to undermine Henry's authority
- Burgundy had very strong commercial ties to England which made it difficult for Henry VII to isolate or ignore.

Factors challenging the view that Margaret of Burgundy posed the greatest threat to Henry VII's position as king in the years 1486 to 1499 might include:

- Maximilian and Philip ultimately controlled Burgundian policy and when it suited them they sought a rapprochement with Henry VII
- Simnel and Warbeck were both powerful threats independently of support from Margaret of Burgundy. They were both able to amass support in Ireland; Simnel's rebellion led to the Battle of Stoke Field and Warbeck was able to gain Scottish support too
- rebellious English nobles were a threat including disenfranchised and disaffected Ricardians, as well as former supporters of Henry VII
- popular revolts, due to domestic issues such as taxation, challenged Henry VII as shown in the Yorkshire rebellion of 1489 and the Cornish rebellion of 1497.

In summary, students may conclude that although Margaret of Burgundy was a prolonged and major obstacle to the security of Henry VII's regime, it was one that could be neutralised. It is arguable that the greater threat came from the dynastic rivals as well as the consequences of his own domestic policies as any external threat needed English allies to successfully overthrow the Tudor government.