



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2015

## History

## HIS2D

### Unit 2D Britain, 1625–1642: The Failure of Absolutism?

Wednesday 20 May 2015 1.30pm to 3.00pm

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

#### Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

#### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is HIS2D.
- Answer **two** questions.  
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.  
Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

#### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

#### Advice

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on each question.

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Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

Each question has **two** parts. Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.

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### Question 1

Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

**Source A** With Buckingham's assassination the political landscape was suddenly and dramatically transformed, for the worse. Although Charles displayed self-control in public, in private he was grief-stricken, and all the more so because of the open rejoicing which greeted Buckingham's death. Many hoped that Buckingham's removal would open the way for a much better understanding between King and Parliament. They were soon disappointed. Buckingham was never replaced as favourite, with the negative result that the King became more closely identified with the conduct of government. Furthermore, Charles deliberately chose to continue with policies which had already proved so unpopular. His authoritarianism was clear in his promotion of Laud and his allies and his continued collection of tonnage and poundage. 5 10

Adapted from David L Smith, *A History of the British Isles, 1603-1707*, 1998

**Source B** When he heard of Buckingham's murder Charles was grief-stricken; Londoners danced for joy in the streets. Buckingham's murder added further to Charles' hostility to Parliament; he held the Commons morally responsible for Buckingham's death. A positive result was that he fell in love with his queen. It also enabled Charles to emerge as a person in his own right. Another positive result was that he was now prepared to listen to advisers other than Buckingham and thereby attempt to reconnect with the political nation. The wars were effectively abandoned, although peace was not made until 1630. Charles was even persuaded to allow Parliament to reconvene in 1629. 5

Adapted from John Miller, *The Stuarts*, 2004

**Source C** The Parliament of 1625 communicated its concerns. Parliament's attack on Montagu should have made Charles aware that his religious policy was antagonising the very people he needed to support his foreign policy. The refusal to provide more than two subsidies should have alerted him to the fact that he did not have the political support or the money to fight the kind of war he and Buckingham had designed. The attack on Buckingham should have been a warning to distribute offices more widely. Charles was given good advice, but he refused to listen. If there was a communication problem, it was because Charles was not a good listener. When Charles encountered criticism, he did not accept it. His reaction, instead, was to attack his critics. 5 10

Adapted from Michael B Young, *Charles I*, 1997

**0 1** Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source B** differ from those in **Source A** in relation to the impact of Buckingham's death.

**[12 marks]**

and

**0 2** Use **Sources A, B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How far was Buckingham the most important reason for the collapse of the relationship between Crown and Parliament in the years 1625 to 1629?

**[24 marks]**

**Either**

**Question 2**

**0 3** Explain why Puritans did not support Charles I's foreign policy in the years 1625 to 1630.  
**[12 marks]**

and

**0 4** 'The most important reason for opposition to Charles I in England, in the years 1633 to 1640, was finance.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[24 marks]**

**Or**

**Question 3**

**0 5** Explain why John Pym dominated Parliament in the years 1640 to 1642.  
**[12 marks]**

and

**0 6** 'The most important reason for the outbreak of civil war in England in August 1642 was religion.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[24 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**There are no questions printed on this page**

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