



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2010

## History

## HIS2D

**Unit 2D Britain, 1625–1642: the Failure of Absolutism?**

**Thursday 10 June 2010 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm**

**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 **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is HIS2D.
- Answer **two** questions.  
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- 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.

HIS2D

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

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### Question 1

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

**Source A** Charles' habit of distrust made him secretive, so that his intentions were often not well understood. He was also inclined to interpret opposition, even the principled dissent of good subjects, as disloyalty. Charles regarded loyalty as so absolute that he could consider himself free to act as he wanted towards those he regarded as disloyal.

- 5 Central to his political thinking was his belief in the sanctity of an anointed king's authority and in his duty to preserve it. More serious were Charles' lack of insight into human motivation and his fatally weak sense of what was politically possible and what was not.

Adapted from A WOOLRYCH, *Britain in Revolution, 1625–1660*, 2002

**Source B** Charles suffered from a pronounced stammer and therefore tried to make his public statements as brief as possible. As if to compensate for his own insecurity, Charles developed an inflated sense of the dignity of kingship and an obsessive concern with order and uniformity. Charles was a man of faultless private morals but far too inflexible and authoritarian to be a successful ruler. He invited misunderstanding because, convinced of his own correctness, he made little effort to explain his actions. This self-righteousness also blinded him to the sincere beliefs of others, and led him to assume that his critics acted from treacherous motives.

Adapted from D L SMITH, *A History of the Modern British Isles, 1603–1707*, 1998

**Source C** By dismissing the 1626 parliament, Charles forfeited his chance of obtaining a further grant from parliament towards his wartime expenditure, which was now running at around one million pounds per year. In the autumn he decided to try to make up for the shortfall by asking his subjects to loan him the equivalent of five subsidies. During the

5 remaining part of 1626 and the early months of 1627, this Forced Loan was opposed by significant numbers in the localities, and 'five knights' very publicly defied the king by challenging the legality of the loan in the courts. The government, however, responded decisively and employed all its powers to eliminate resistance. As a result, the vast majority reluctantly paid their loans and by the end of 1627 around £260 000 had been

10 received by the Exchequer. In purely financial terms, therefore, the Forced Loan was a great success.

Adapted from C DURSTON, *Charles I*, 1998

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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 Charles I's weaknesses as king. (12 marks)

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

How far was finance the 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 the Court of Charles I was regarded as a centre of Roman Catholicism. *(12 marks)*

**0 4** 'Charles I's religious policies were the main reason for the failure of his Personal Rule.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**OR****Question 3**

**0 5** Explain why Charles I called the Long Parliament in November 1640. *(12 marks)*

**0 6** 'The growth of support for the king in the years 1640 to 1642 had little to do with the actions of Charles I.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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

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Question 1 Source A: A WOOLRYCH, *Britain in Revolution, 1625–1660*, Oxford University Press, 2002. By permission of Oxford University Press.

Question 1 Source C: C. DURSTON, *Charles I*, Routledge, 1998.

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