



Examiners' Report **June 2023**

GCE History 9HI0 2B

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Introduction

Candidates from across the ability range engaged effectively with A Level paper 2B which deals with Luther and the German Reformation, c1515-55 (2B.1) and The Dutch Revolt, c1563-1609 (2B.2).

The paper is divided into two sections. Section A contains a compulsory question which is based on two linked sources. It assesses source analysis and evaluation skills (AO2). Section B comprises a choice of essays that assess understanding of the period in depth (AO1) by targeting five second order concepts – cause, consequence, change and continuity, similarity and difference, and significance. Candidates appeared to organise their time effectively and there was very little evidence of candidates being unable to attempt both answers within the time allocated.

Examiners continued to comment on the fact that a significant minority of scripts posed some problems with the legibility of handwriting. This appeared to be a more extensive issue during this cycle. Candidates are reminded that examiners can only give credit for what they can read. Similarly, examiners commented on the increasing use of shorthand and abbreviations in the work produced by candidates, which can often hinder meaning and the flow of an argument.

In Section A, the strongest answers were able to develop reasoned and supported inferences from the sources. Such responses evaluated the sources thoroughly in relation to the demands of the enquiry based on both the contextual knowledge that was on offer, and through an awareness of the nature, origin and purpose of the sources. The question requires candidates to use the sources 'together' and the majority of candidates continue to be aware of this requirement. There is still some evidence of candidates using often extensive contextual knowledge to drive an answer to the enquiry, rather than using it to illuminate and discuss the sources. This resulted in candidates not dealing with the sources adequately.

In section B it was clear that most candidates had a secure knowledge base, but this was not always effectively used to address the specific focus of the questions posed. Stronger answers clearly understood the importance of identifying the appropriate second order concept that was being targeted by the question. Candidates also need to be aware of the chronological parameters of questions and to ensure that they cover the chronology fully. Some candidates continue to explicitly state in the introduction to the essay that they are naming the criteria that they plan to use, when in actual fact they are referring to the issues or the factors that will be discussed in the response. Centres are reminded that 'criteria', in bullet point 3 of the generic mark scheme, refers to the basis on which candidates reach their judgement, not the issues that are discussed in the process of reaching that judgement.

Question 1

Responses to this question came from across the ability range. Most candidates were able to identify, from both sources, reasons for discontent with the Catholic Church in early sixteenth-century Germany, notably unease with the conduct of the parochial clergy, the financial demands of the Church on a struggling population, also the sale of indulgences. Stronger candidates used their knowledge of the conduct both to discuss and challenge the claims made in the sources, for example with reference to the discontent of ordinary Germans caused by absent or unqualified clergy. These answers also commented on the provenance of both sources to make reasoned judgements on the weight of their evidence to the enquiry. For example, with reference to Source 2, there were some often insightful comments made about the commitment of the princes towards Church reform, rather than simply a wish to make life more difficult for Charles V.

Weaker answers tended not to engage fully with the content of the sources, a problem caused by rushed reading perhaps but one which stymied candidates' ability to engage with the enquiry. Many wrote extensively about the nature, origin and purpose of the sources often along stereotypical lines without attempting to apply this to the content of the sources in coming to a judgement. Some chose to view the question solely through the prism of indulgences and Luther's Ninety-Five Theses. It was clear that some candidates lacked a sound knowledge and precise understanding of this part of the specification – such responses tended to lack depth, accuracy and precision.

The German Reformation was caused by a number of factors in particular the discontent with the Catholic Church. Many reasons became apparent for this discontent including criticisms with the papal taxation anticlericalism, and the theology. Both source one and two discuss these factors, how useful these sources are together is debatable.

These sources together do show reliability and a rounded picture in many aspects. Both historians agree that priests were unqualified and unfit to do the job. Source one is keen to question the pope for this issue "Wouldn't the pope be better off with priests trained in the Bible and church laws." Source 2 is more broadly blaming the church as a whole "Rome often grants church positions in Germany to unlearned and unqualified persons." Both sources support this view, furthermore the parish priest was key to getting their parishioners to heaven therefore an incompetent priest would have been extremely problematic.

Both sources very clearly reject the exploitation of the indulgences. Source one focuses on the fact that

Indulgences both detracted people from leading a good life and in fact encouraged people to continue to sin "many indulgences have been sold in Germany that it is likely to encourage the people to live immoral lives. Source 2 rejects indulgences due to the financial costs that ordinary Germans are exposed to "highly objectionable that the pope should permit so many indulgences to be sold in Germany". Both sources rightly point out this key factor which was undoubtedly a significant factor in the discontent towards the church. The 45 these which triggered the Reformation was majorly based on the abuse of indulgences in particular the sinful works of Johan Tetzel.

Both sources rightly point out the issue of papal taxation and the greed of the Catholic Church. Source one focuses on the papal taxes imposed upon parishioners "Rome must reduce the burden of taxes on Germany". Source 2 ~~stress~~ highlights the fact that the church were milking Germans for money who already had very little "our poor nation is financially drained and ordinary Christians risk eternal damnation". This argument is supported by the ~~factual~~ ~~informal~~ fact that the church was ~~in fact~~ demanding papal taxation from the German poor. The 'Tithe' was a tax of ten percent of each

Parishioners income and annates were the first years income of a parish priest which went to the pope. Given how expensive priests were any abuses by the church were resented.

Another useful aspect of these sources is their dates, while source one is written in 1515 before the Reformation has been triggered and source 2 is written in 1521 shortly after the Reformation has begun. Therefore you are able to see how these criticisms have developed and see the outcomes to these criticisms. It also means that a far bigger picture of this rising is created.

While these sources show much usefulness together in terms of their content and ~~the~~ date of issue, there is a limit to their usefulness and reliability. Neither source is able to give a voice to the ordinary Germans and peasantry. Both are written by fairly upclass sections of society in particular source 2 with Emperor Charles V. Therefore it is difficult to get a full picture of what issues were around at that time. Without the voice of ordinary Germans its hard to make a solid conclusion on what triggered criticisms. ~~for~~

Source 2 shows unreliability as it is a speech intended to be heard by many, therefore it lacks truth reliability as it may appear that Charles V is more interested in appealing to many and stirring emotions rather than straight factual truths. Furthermore Charles is trying to impress the princes as the princes had made it clear that they were not impressed with the church. This can be supported by their actions later on at the Diet of Nuremberg when they write one hundred and two grievances with the church on issues such as pluralism.

While these sources have limits overall they paint a good picture of the feelings and criticisms surrounding the church. They both support each other when mentioning issues of indulgences, incompetent priests and papal taxation. These factors were clear triggers in the Reformation given the economic state of Germany and critics of church theology from humanists and heretics helping to spread doubt about the theology of the church. Overall these sources successfully evaluate the issues surrounding ^{the church} and ~~show~~ successfully show that even after the Reformation had begun these critiques did not change.

Essay plan



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This response makes repeated inferences from both sources with regard to discontent with the Catholic Church in Germany in the early sixteenth century. Some contextual knowledge is added to expand upon these inferences, though this could have been further developed. Lastly, the candidate makes some attempt to examine issues relevant to the utility of the sources to the enquiry in coming to a judgement. It was given a mid L4 mark.

Question 2

Candidates attempting this question mostly identified from the sources the depth of feeling expressed by opponents against Spanish rule, also the need for greater unity and co-ordination in order to maintain their rebellion. Better answers were able to place the sources firmly in the context of the years specified in the question with regard to the military and diplomatic challenge of Parma, for example, the recent conclusion of the Peace of Arras. When considering the weight of their evidence to the enquiry, many noted the position of Orange, and the nature of Source 4 as a speech demanding action, in coming to a judgement.

Weaker answers tended not to engage fully with the content of the sources. Many wrote extensively about the nature, origin and purpose of the sources often along stereotypical lines without attempting to apply this to the content of the sources in coming to a judgement. Such answers often lacked a sound knowledge and understanding of this part of the specification, tending to view opposition to Spanish rule in 1579-80 overwhelmingly with regard to, for example, Alva's role as governor-general of the Netherlands.

Plan: - Unity

- Spain's violence (both)

- Lack of unity

The historian could make great use of Sources 3 and 4 together to investigate the opposition to Spanish rule in the Netherlands in the years 1579-80. Here, the opposition to Spanish rule comprises of the nature of the rebel force and what means they are using to create and maintain their opposition, with Source 3 claiming that the opposition, comprising of the Union of Utrecht, is unified and effective, whilst Source 4 ^{seemingly} contradicts this and states it is failing due to a lack of unity. Both sources agree ~~that~~ ^{on} the reasons why that Spain's tyranny is the reason for opposition, with both being written by ~~the~~ members of the Union of Utrecht, although ~~as~~ Source 3 is a legal document whilst Source 4 is a persuasive speech.

The historian could make good use of Source 3 to investigate the ~~reasons~~ opposition to Spanish rule in the years 1579-80, as the source asserts that the opposition was unified. ~~in its opposition~~ The source

states that the provinces will 'ally and unite as if ~~there~~ they were a single province'. As this is the first item on the list of agreed points, this indicates its importance and ~~popularity~~ popularity, with the ~~word~~ repeated use of the phrase 'these provinces' and 'united provinces' further emphasising their intention of to co-operate in terms of ^{both} 'tax' and ^{and} 'defense'. ~~This~~ ^{This} ~~source~~ ^{source} can be seen ~~to~~ from the Treaty establishing the Union of Utrecht, making it both well-informed and legally binding, and thus giving its assertions of unified opposition more credibility. ~~This can be seen as~~ ^{as} The Union was formed as a response to the Union of Arras, ^{earlier} in 1579, and thus the need for unity against the Spanish in the period, and their intention to remain unified, is ^{given greater credibility} ~~legitimate~~. Therefore, the historian can make good use of Source 3 as in investigating opposition to Spanish rule in the years 1579-80 as it demonstrates that the opposition posed by the Union of Utrecht intended to provide a unified defense against the Spanish, paid for by centrally ^{agreed upon} ~~decided~~ taxes.

The historian can also make ~~good~~ great use of Source 4 in investigating opposition to the

Spanish in the years 1579-80 ^{despite its apparent contradiction of source 3} as it states that the provinces were lacking unity. The source claims that 'remaining indivisible' and 'without a higher committee' ~~are~~ 'badly weakens us all'. The ^{repeated} use of the plural pronoun 'us' and 'we' continues to demonstrate that the provinces share these issues and are unified in their wish to provide opposition to the Spanish, ^{agreeing with source 3} whilst the powerful language of 'badly weakens' shows the perceived extent of the issue that a lack of a centralised higher body of authority posed the opposition. As this source was a speech from William of Orange, it is again likely to be well-informed as he was ~~also~~ the leading rebel figure, however it may be hyperbolic as it is persuasive. As it was written the year following the Treaty, it also shows the development of the issue, ^{frasee source 3} faced by the opposition ^{with source 3} and is ^{core corroborated} corroborated by the rebel provinces loss of both Breda and Mechlen to Parma's diplomacy and siege warfare in 1580, with Parma paying Mechlen 5000 florins to open their gates. This gives the source a greater credibility. Therefore, the historian can make great use of Source 4 in the years 1579-80 to investigate

opposition as it depicts the evolution of the opposition's issues through the year, showing that its intended unity has fractured and broken down, ^{especially in terms of defence} leaving it vulnerable to further loss of territory.

The historian can make excellent use of Sources 3 and 4 together to investigate opposition in the years 1579-80 as it asserts that the reason for opposition, which ~~was~~ ^{took} formed by the Union of Utrecht, was due to Spanish cruelty and tyranny. Source 3 claims that the provinces must defend themselves 'against all acts of violence made by... King Philip' who wished to bring the low countries 'into slavery'. The use of the powerful language 'slavery' and 'violence' indicates the depth of the conviction the provinces hold these beliefs with, which is substantiated by Source 4 as it states that 'we lost the town of Maastricht', ~~with~~ ^{the} The use of the emotive verb 'lost' indicates that ~~it~~ ^{the town} was forcibly taken by the Spanish, which would be considered an 'act of violence'. As both sources are taken from well-informed rebel origins their corroboration gives both more

original intentions of the Union ^{in 1579} were to remain unified in both defense and tax ~~boxes~~ ~~used~~ used to pay for this, whilst Source 4 demonstrates that by 1580 this unity had broken down, leaving the Union with a weak defense that ^{made} ~~left~~ them vulnerable to Spanish attack.

Despite Source 4 being ~~of a propagandous~~ ~~value~~ propaganda as it was a persuasive speech, the it is lent credibility by its speaker being the effective leader of the opposition and by its agreement with Source 3, which ~~is~~ is a legal document. Thus, both sources together can be used to great effect.



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Examiner Comments

In this answer, the candidate makes use of the sources together to examine the opposition to Spanish rule in the years 1579-80. Inferences are drawn with respect to the unity of the rebel cause and to the reasons for continued opposition to Spain, and sound contextual knowledge is added to these which illuminates what can be drawn from the content of the sources. With respect to source evaluation, valid comments are made with regard to the position of Orange in Source 4 and to the time difference between the two sources. It was awarded a high L4 mark.

Question 3

The better-performing candidates in this question had precise and detailed knowledge of Luther's attitude towards the Radical Reformation, and his reasons for opposing it, firmly based within the context of the early 1520s. Such responses examined his condemnation on the innovations of Karlstadt and the Zwickau Prophets, also of Muntzer and the Peasants' Revolt, and were often able to make nuanced comments on the range of motivating factors behind Luther's actions. In coming to a judgement, stronger candidates were able to balance Luther's need for princely protection and his hopes for an ordered reformation, against his personal distaste for violence and social upheaval.

Less strong answers tended to describe the course of the Peasants' Revolt rather than analyse Luther's reasons for condemning it. Many answers lacked depth of knowledge and their judgements tended to assertion rather than being based upon any valid criteria.

Chosen question number: Question 3 Question 4

Question 5 Question 6

~~Whilst it can be argued that Luther did condemn radicalism towards in 1525, it~~

Whilst it can be argued that Luther did, to an extent, condemn radicalism in the years 1521-25 it was only in order to secure support from the German princes ~~and~~ during the 1524-25 Peasants' War. His condemnation of radicalism was neither consistent ^{nor} did it clarify ^{his new} clerical doctrine which was arguably the cause of ~~the~~ radicalism ~~in~~ those years. Therefore it ^{could} be argued that Luther's ^{sporadic} condemnation ^{of} ~~any~~ radicalism was due to his own personal faith overall.

During the Wittenberg Tumults of 1521-22, Luther's response was arguably a strong condemnation of the radicalism that was occurring. As ~~but~~ led by Andreas Karlstadt and Gabriel Zwilling, Wittenberg became a place of iconoclasm, clerical marriage, loss of clerical vestments and other ~~people~~ radical prophecies. Zwilling preached so strongly that a group of listeners stormed a local parsonage in Eilenberg and Karlstadt

married a 15 year old in support of clerical marriage. ~~The radical~~ Luther's response came at the height of radicalism ~~at~~ which was led by Müntzer and his Zwickau Prophets who ~~prof~~ prophesied and believed in the Second Coming. Luther's response ~~does~~ demonstrates his intolerance for radicalism as he delivered the Invocavit Sermons for eight days and preached about top-down or 'magisterial' reform as well as banishing the Zwickau Prophets. ~~By re-~~ However, Luther's condemnation of radicalism and restoration of order in this instance is not due to a ~~need~~ desire for princely support but instead due to its inconsistencies with his own personal beliefs. Luther maintains this view thus showing a consistency in his personal beliefs ~~the series of revolts during~~ however Luther ultimately didn't provide a clarity of his doctrine in order to help the people avoid radicalism and follow his orders. Therefore Luther does appear to condemn the Wittenberg radicalism but his response neither clarifies his doctrine nor was it because of the princes.

Luther's condemnation is ultimately shown to be inconsistent, however, as he failed to respond to the radicalism of the Knights' Revolt of 1522-23.

After ^{the} humanist Ulrich von Hutten and Franz von Sickingen attempted to take the city of Trier and quickly failed, Luther remained silent which crucially showed the importance of princely support in terms of him successfully developing Lutheranism. Possibly his friend Melancthon's friendship with von Hutten prevented Luther from condemning their radicalism, however due to the rivalry between knights and princes, his silence suggested an alliance with the former, thus angering the latter. Therefore Luther not only created more ambiguity in terms of his view of Lutheranism's future as his actions in ~~this~~ response to this revolt completely contrast those of the previous one but it also shows that his ~~anti~~ condemnation of radicalism was not consistent.

^{Luther's condemnation of the}
Whilst the Wittenberg Tumults ~~was~~ ^{lack of} was arguably due to his own personal faith, the ^{reaction of} reaction to the Knight's Revolt meant that his actions in the Peasants' War of 1524-25 were directly purposefully in order to gain princely support.

~~As~~ As the Peasants were revolting due to a confusion over the priesthood of all believers element of Luther's pamphlet "On the Christian Nobility of the German nation" (misinterpreting it

it to mean all manners of equality instead of just spiritual equality) Luther's ~~re~~ condemnation further confuses his doctrinal beliefs. After the peasants were unresponsive to his speech at Thuringia, he Luther wrote the pamphlet 'Against the Robbing and Murderous Hordes of Peasants' which encouraged all princes and landowners to "stab, smite and slay" all peasants who were partaking in the revolt. This did successfully win the support of the princes, particularly the Margrave Philip of Hesse who had been killing peasants before Luther's pamphlet had been published. However, whilst Luther won princely support, his loss of the peasants' support due to his violent condemnation of their actions which were, as they believed, to have been ~~for~~ done in Luther's name. Regardless, the princely support ~~er~~ led to a long-term impact as in the 1526 Diet of Speyer, Lutheranism was declared legal. Therefore whilst Luther's condemnation of radicalism remained inconsistent as he switched positions once again, his reasoning also changed as this particular condemnation was indeed to win the support of the German Princes.

Overall it can be argued that Luther did generally condemn radicalism between the years 1521-25

however this was inconsistent. Not only ^{were} ~~was~~ his actions inconsistent but this inconsistency meant that his doctrinal beliefs lacked clarity which ultimately triggered more radicalism in his name. In regards to his motives, Overall Luther's seemingly conservative attitude was due to his personal beliefs and his reaction to the Peasants' War was the only time in which the princes' support was important to him.



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Examiner Comments

In this mid-L4 answer, the candidate focuses clearly on the reasons for Luther's condemnation of radicalism in the early 1520s. Mostly accurate and relevant knowledge is deployed to demonstrate some understanding of the demands and conceptual focus of the question, and attempts are made to establish criteria for judgement. The general trend of the argument, moreover, is clear.

Question 4

There were many strong, and impressive, answers to this question. Most candidates were comfortable with discussing a range of reasons for the survival of Lutheranism in Germany during the period specified. Some, however, tended towards a recitation of potential factors without reference to the interaction of events across a period of over 20 years, and some clearly lacked knowledge of the Peace of Passau. In such cases, judgements tended towards assertion and lacked conviction.

The most highly-scoring answers, on the other hand, were able to place the Peace of Passau clearly in the context of the developing security of Lutheran communities across the period, thanks perhaps to the determination of the Protestant princes, the absences of Charles V, or indeed the greater doctrinal clarity and appeal of Lutheranism itself. These were often able to locate Passau in the context of the failure of the Habsburgs to create religious peace in the Empire, despite their victory in the Schmalkaldic War.

Chosen question number: Question 3 Question 4
Question 5 Question 6

The Peace of Passau in 1562 was one of the most significant legal developments in the survival of Lutheranism. However, its significance was primarily dependant upon the impact of the Schmalkaldic League. Furthermore, it was only due to the actions of the Emperor and Charles to prevent the survival of the Reich. Therefore, whilst the peace was highly significant for securing the legal status of Lutheranism across the scope of the Empire, its impact was wholly dependant on pre-existing factors. Furthermore, the peace came right at the end of the period, meaning its impact did not have the same duration as other factors.

The Peace of Passau in 1562 was a hugely beneficial ~~to~~ for the legal status of the Lutheran

Swiss. When it came about in 1552, it allowed Lutherans the freedom to worship and exercise their beliefs. This was particularly due to the realism of Ferdinand, who knew that further attempts to pass legislation against the Lutherans would be ineffective. The Peace was also the foundation for the 1555 Peace of Augsburg, which recognised the legal status of Lutherans and declared a 60 year peace between the two sides. This demonstrates although it could be argued that the 1555 peace was more significant as it recognised the legal status of Lutheranism, this 1552 peace ended imperial opposition to the Lutherans and laid the foundations for the 1555 peace of Augsburg two years later. Although all of this demonstrates the significance of the Peace of Passau, it

~~also~~ ~~remains~~ The significant impact of the peace was wholly dependant on the invasion of Metz and the recelism of Ferdinand. Although the Peace of Passau was significant its significance was limited by the fact that it was dependant on other factors ~~on it~~ for the impact that it did have* in the survival of Lutheranism

Another important factor in the survival of Lutheranism was the formation of the Schmalkaldic League in 1531. The formation of this league of ~~many~~ protestant princes was ~~one of~~ the first militarised groups to be formed in Luther's name, and the scope of their influence only grew as they took on more ~~many~~ powerful members such as Philip of Hesse and Albrecht Hohenzollern. This group had a hugely positive impact on the survival of

Lutheranism as they increased the scope of the Lutheran faith and took on many key, highly influential individuals in defence of the Lutheran faith. Although it could be argued that the significance of the League was diminished by their defeat at the Battle of Mühlberg in 1547, Charles' failure to capitalise on this victory meant that the League could be revived in 1552, where the support of the French King, Henry II meant that the invasion of Metz led to the peace of Passau and a legal recognition of the Lutheran faith. Whilst this peace was significant, it is likely that it would not have happened without the ^{power} support of the Schmalkaldic League and the invasion of Metz. It is because of the effectiveness and significance of this invasion that the

peace was able to have the impact that it did. Whilst the peace was significant in the legal recognition of Lutheranism, the Schmalkaldic League was responsible for the powerful status that Lutheranism gained and its survival across the course of the period. Without the power of the league, it is unlikely that the Lutheran faith would have survived and remained powerful in the empire for a longer duration of time.

Another important factor in the survival of the Lutheran faith in the years 1531-55 was the foreign threats that prevented Charles from being able to eradicate Lutheranism. The Ottoman invasion of Hungary in 1526 led to Charles being forced to reconcile with the Schmalkaldic League in order to help him stave off the Ottoman threat, as outlined in the religious truce

of Nuremberg in 1532. This meant that Lutheranism was able to survive and continue to obtain power as the period continued. Furthermore, Charles failed campaign at Algiers in 1542 ^{essentially} ~~essentially~~ along with the many other wars he had fought across the duration of his reign had essentially bankrupted him, meaning he was unable to continue the campaign against Lutheranism after the Battle of Mühlburg. Although Charles attempted ^{to} to pass legislation against Lutherans at the Council of Trent and even form an imperial league to root out Heresy with the 47 Augsburg Interim, these legislations came too late and were overturned by the Peace of Passau in 52, by which time Ferdinand had realised that continued military actions against the Lutherans was futile. The

Conditions laid down by Charles's failure to prioritise the Lutheran threat meant that the religion was able to survive and grow more powerful thanks to the help of the Schmalkaldic League. By the 1550s, there was no way that imperial power could effectively oppose the Lutherans and therefore the Peace of Passau was passed. Although the peace itself was highly significant, the conditions caused by Charles's military campaigns and the Schmalkaldic League were responsible for the survival of Lutheranism until that point, and therefore the peace was dependant upon them but the impact that it did have and the scope of Lutheran power.

In conclusion, whilst the peace

of Passau was hugely significant in obtaining the legal status required for the survival of Lutheranism, it was dependent upon the Schmalkaldic League for the impact that it had and the scope of its significance. Furthermore, the league and Charles's failures were responsible for the survival of Lutheranism until that point.

* Furthermore, the impact of the Peace came right at the end of the period, meaning it was relatively short term and ~~short~~



Here, key issues relevant to the significance of the Peace of Passau in ensuring the survival of Lutheranism in Germany are explored by a sustained analysis of the relationships between key features, such as the Schmalkaldic League and the foreign threats to Charles V that prevented him from devoting his efforts to the suppression of Lutheranism. The candidate clearly has a sufficient knowledge of the material in order to respond fully to the demands of the question. Also, they sustain a clear argument throughout and establish valid criteria in coming to a judgement. This response received a L5 mark.

Question 5

This was the least popular of the two essay questions on Paper 2.B2. and there were few responses. The better answers had some knowledge of Requesens' failure and of the difficulties of being the Spanish governor-general of the Netherlands in the years 1573-76, notably the continuing revolt in the northern provinces and the lack of sufficient financial support from Philip II. Weaker answers tended to answer the question solely with reference to Alva's period of rule. These often had a relatively weak knowledge and understanding of the material and tended towards assertion rather than a reasoned judgement based on clear criteria.

Chosen question number: Question 3 Question 4
Question 5 Question 6

~~In the years 1573-76, Alva's rule did~~

Requesens' failure in the Netherlands in the years 1573-76 was caused mainly by Alva's rule as governor-general to a great extent, ~~as there~~ ^{however} there were other influences like the Spanish Fury and Orange's successor. Alva's rule of destroying the fruit of Dutch people made Requesens' job harder and therefore directly caused Requesens' failure in the years 1573-76.

It can be argued that Alva's rule as governor-general ~~was caused mainly by Alva~~ ^{did mainly cause Requesens'} failures in the years 1573-76. Alva's rule over the Netherlands spanned the 1560's and had resulted in strong tensions between both the Dutch rebels and Spanish followers. His creation of the Council of Troubles in the 1560's strengthened Dutch opposition, as it was nicknamed 'the Council of Blood' for its violent nature, despite it's implementation to solve 'troubles' of terrorism. Furthermore, Alva's ~~own~~ taxes made the States-General stronger dislike the Spanish rule, as his tenth penny tax in the late 1560's was rejected, and he still took it anyway, making his successor's job only harder. Therefore, Alva's rule as Governor-general did cause Requesens' failures in the years 1573-76, as ~~his~~ the nature of his rule resulted in stronger discontent in the Netherlands, causing stronger Dutch opposition.

On the other hand, it could be argued that Dutch opposition led by Orange stronger caused Requesens' failures. Orange had led the rebels since the death of Egmont and Hoorne in 1568, and saw successes in that time in battles in

~~the~~ Ternaigen and had gained the support of seabeggars. Orange's successor were arguably as a result of Spain's weak army, seen in the mutiny and Fury in 1572 until they were paid in 1573. Furthermore, Requesens' failures were caused by Dutch Opposition through the religious divide, as it furthered tensions between the Northern and Southern provinces. Therefore, the failures of Requesens' ~~of~~ were not mainly caused by Alva, and instead by Dutch rebel and Spanish Opposition.

In conclusion, Requesens' failures in the Netherlands, in the years 1573-76, was somewhat caused by Alva's rule as governor-general, as while Alva's rule significantly ^{hindered} ~~impacted~~ Requesens' success, there were other factors such as religion and Spanish Opposition. Alva's creation of the Council of Troubles in ^{the} 1560s and forceful tax taking angered Requesens, as it meant there was harsher repercussions for wrong moves. However, this was limited in impact compared to the religious problems, catalysed by the growth of Calvinism, and the Dutch rebels, who had been capitalising on the weaknesses of the Spanish Army in the years 1573-76 to highlight that Requesens' failures in the Netherlands in the year 1573-76 was somewhat caused by Alva's rule as governor-general, but greater caused by ~~Spanish~~ ^{the} opposition to Spanish rule.



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Examiner Comments

This answer does make an attempt to explain links between relevant key features of the period and the question, with regard to Alva's rule in the Netherlands and Orange's role as leader of the opposition for example. However, treatment of the issues is uneven and the material lacks range, with very little reference to the period in office of Requesens in the years 1573-76. As a result, it achieved a top L3 mark.

Question 6

Stronger answers to this question had a very good knowledge and understanding of the contributions of both Oldenbarnevelt and Maurice of Nassau to the survival of the United Provinces. Several candidates knew that of Oldenbarnevelt in some detail and were able to discuss his political reforms, religious policy and diplomatic achievements in impressive depth before assessing these in the light of Nassau's military successes. The less strong answers tended to tend more towards Nassau, and/or attempted to widen the focus of the question to other factors (for example, the importance of Spanish weaknesses in the period), which were not relevant.

Chosen question number: Question 3 Question 4
Question 5 Question 6

Plan:

- Maurice: Turnhout and Nieuwpoort
- Military reforms

Oldenbarnevelt: AOH, Triple Alliance 1596

1590 declaration of sovereignty

Treaty of Antwerp 1609

In the years 1584-1609, Oldenbarnevelt did ^{significantly} more to secure than Maurice of Nassau to secure the survival of the United Provinces. Here, securing the survival can be defined as establishing a secure political system ^{and ~~of~~ military defense} and flourishing economy, ~~and~~ retaining ~~and~~ gaining territory, and gaining international recognition for the state. Although Maurice did play a ^{large} significant role, Oldenbarnevelt helped to facilitate his actions and developed a long-lasting set of domestic ^{and international} policies.

In the years 1584-1609, Oldenbarnevelt significantly helped to secure the survival of the United Provinces through his domestic policies. In 1586, Oldenbarnevelt ~~and~~ became the Advocate of Holland, giving him the

ability to set the agenda for meetings and push bills through the States General as he was the most senior spokesperson. This meant that Oldenbarnevelt had the most political power in the United Provinces bar the stadholder, Maurice, who did not take part in politics, meaning that he approved all domestic policies passed in the period. In 1588, Oldenbarnevelt reduced the power of the States General, Council of State, thus promoting the States General, which declared its sovereignty as the main governing body in 1590. This meant that Oldenbarnevelt had streamlined the political system, making it more efficient and able to make effective future decisions. Oldenbarnevelt also ^{ensured} ~~reduced the~~ religious toleration ~~influence of Calvinism~~, prompting many to migrate, with Holland's population tripling from 1514 to 1611. This meant that the economy of the United Provinces flourished as more people paid taxes and deposited money in the banks, with trade also flourishing thanks to his East India Trading Company. Therefore, in the years 1584-1609, Oldenbarnevelt made the most significant contribution to the survival of the United Provinces as he established a stable, effective political system and boosted the economy.

In the years 1584-1609, Oldenbarnevelt ~~was~~ immensely helped to secure the survival of the United Provinces through his international policies. In 1596, he signed the Triple Alliance on behalf of the United Provinces, which stated that the United Provinces, France, and England would come to each other's aid ^{if needed} as they were all at war with Spain. This meant that the United Provinces had ~~not~~ gained de facto international recognition and started to build positive international relationships. In 1609, ~~Spain~~ ^{the Archdukes} and ~~the United Provinces~~ ^{Oldenbarnevelt} signed the Treaty of Antwerp, which stated that the Archdukes Ferdinand and Isabella would ~~not~~ ^{on behalf of Philip III} claim ^{the} United Provinces' territory ~~and~~ and each would lift the trade embargoes they had on the other's goods, and they would each ask permission to trade in each other's international waters. This meant that the United Provinces had achieved independence from Spain, ~~who~~ ^{also} who had effectively recognised their status as a separate Republic, ~~and~~ ~~so~~ with Oldenbarnevelt's negotiation having secured this. Consequently, James I of England and many other countries raised the status of their envoys to the United Provinces to ambassadors. This meant that Oldenbarnevelt's negotiation had secured.

permanent international acclaim and recognition for the United Provinces. ~~and~~ Therefore, ~~Albubarnaq~~ made the largest contribution to the survival of the United Provinces in the years 1584-1609 as he successfully negotiated permanent international recognition for ~~both~~ the United Provinces and its international ~~territory~~ territories and began to build positive international relationships that could ~~serve~~ act as allies in the future.

In the years 1584-1609, Maurice of Nassau partially helped to secure the survival of the United Provinces. ~~with~~ ~~the~~ Following being named stadholder of Holland and Zealand in 1585 and Overijssel, Groninger and Friesland in 1590, he reformed the military, establishing a permanent ~~for~~ standing army, standardised weaponry, and regular pay. This created a more cohesive army for future ~~defense~~ ^{defense} and created unity amongst the provinces he led. In 1597 he was successful in his first major military battle gaining back ~~the~~ Tournhout and only losing 12 men. Prior to this he had re-captured Breda in 1590, ~~and~~ Zutphen and Deventer in 1591. He also defeated the Spanish

at Nieuwpoort, although it was a pyrrhic victory. This means that he gained back much territory for the United Provinces and proved that his military reforms and tactics would work in the future. In 1609, he also signed the Treaty of Antwerp, although ~~also~~ this was only a symbolic contribution as he did not take an interest in politics, supporting the long truce only because his military skills would eventually be needed again. This meant that ~~he~~ ^{Maurice} also played a symbolic role in politics. Therefore, in the years 1584-1609, Maurice of Nassau also partially helped secure the survival of the United Provinces as he gained more territory and created a secure military defense system for the future whilst ~~as~~ also supporting Oldenbarnevelt politically.

Therefore, in ~~in~~ the years 1584-1609, Oldenbarnevelt did more to secure the survival of the United Provinces than Maurice of Nassau as he established a secure political system and flourishing economy, and gained international recognition and future allies for the state. However, Maurice did also help as he gained more territory and created a secure military defense system to

retain this territory in the future, ^{also} supported ^{ing} Aldenbarnevelt's political ~~man~~ machinations, ~~and~~ ^{This all created/long-lasting} ~~creating~~ a sense of unity and stability within the United Provinces, despite the two men ~~not~~ having ~~the~~ ~~relationship~~ ~~by~~ ~~lost~~ a declining personal relationship, ^{ensuring} ~~and~~ ~~ensured~~ ^{future} the survival of the United Provinces.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Here, the candidate deploys sufficient knowledge of the contribution of Oldenbarnevelt and Maurice of Nassau to the survival of the United Provinces to respond fully to the demands of the question. Valid criteria by which the question can be judged are established and applied in the process of coming to a judgement, and the argument is logical and communicated with clarity. It achieved a low L5 mark.

Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

Section A

- Candidates should go beyond paraphrasing the content of the sources to draw out reasoned, supported and developed inferences relevant to the enquiry
- Candidates should move beyond stereotypical approaches to the nature/purpose and authorship of the source by, for example, looking at and explaining the specific stance and/or purpose of the writer
- Contextual knowledge should not be used to list all the information that is missing from the sources, unless omission was the aim of the author
- Contextual knowledge should be linked clearly to the material provided in the source
- Candidates should make use of the sources together at some point in the answer.

Section B

- Spending a few minutes planning helps to ensure that the second order concept is correctly identified
- Candidates must provide more precise contextual knowledge as evidence. Weaker responses lacked depth and sometimes range
- Candidates should avoid a narrative/descriptive approach; this undermines the analysis that is required for the higher levels
- Candidates need to be aware of key dates as identified in the specification so that they can address the questions with chronological precision
- Candidates should try to explore the links between issues rather than merely present a list of factors.

Grade boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/results-certification/grade-boundaries.html>

