



# **Examiners' Report June 2024**

**GCE History 9HI0 2B**

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## Introduction

It was pleasing to see candidates able to engage effectively across the ability range with A Level Paper 2B, which deals with Luther and the German Reformation, c1517-55 (2B.1) and the Dutch Revolt, c1563-1609 (2B.2). The paper is divided into two sections. Section A contains a compulsory question that 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. There continues to be an increase this year in the number of scripts that were seen that posed problems for examiners with a lack of legibility of handwriting, some of which were almost entirely indecipherable. Examiners are only able to give credit for what they can read. There did seem this summer to be evidence of a greater number of candidates using the language of the mark scheme in their responses. However, many of these responses were not doing what they claimed to be doing and it was felt that generally this was not a very helpful approach. There was also some evidence this summer of a number of candidates abbreviating words that should not be abbreviated in formal written English, eg the use of gov instead of government, or CV instead of Charles V. This is not a development that is welcomed.

In Section A, the strongest answers were able to develop reasoned and supported inferences based on the sources. Such responses evaluated the sources thoroughly in relation to the demands of the enquiry on the basis of both the contextual knowledge that was on offer and through an awareness of the nature, origin and purpose of the source. It continues to be disappointing to have to note that a number of candidates do not explicitly address the focus of the enquiry, but rather discuss issues arising from the sources in general terms. This question requires candidates to use the sources ‘together’ and most candidates are now able to deal with this reasonably well. Approaches to how it is approached do vary, but that is perfectly acceptable, as long as it is present. Some candidates still continue to use their contextual knowledge to describe events in great detail, rather than using it to illuminate and to discuss the sources. This sometimes resulted in candidates not dealing with the sources adequately. In other cases, candidates might offer up little or, on occasion, no contextual knowledge to support their arguments and analysis. These were not always weaker candidates; some answers were seen that were strong in bullet points 1 and 3 of the mark scheme, but had very little that could be credited for bullet point 2. The impact of this was to hold down the marks that were achievable in this question.

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. Weaker candidates either engaged in a narrative approach that made links to the question in the conclusion or alternatively shaped their responses analytically but lacked sufficient substance and accurate contextual knowledge to support the arguments that they were making. It continues to be the case that there are a number of responses that have a tendency to only deal with one side of an argument; some of these were a sophisticated analysis of that one side, showing the links between the issues that were raised, but it is essential that candidates acknowledge the existence of a counter argument, where appropriate. Candidates are encouraged to ensure that they take the most appropriate approach to answering a question. Candidates should always aim to show the links between the issues raised, not merely present a list of factors. Candidates continue to need to be aware of the chronological parameters of questions and to ensure that they write across the chronology. Equally, the evidence that is presented should come from within the timeframe of the chronology of the question.

## Question 1

Responses to this question came from across the ability range. Most candidates were able to identify, from both sources, ways in which the development of Lutheranism was effected in the aftermath of the Edict of Worms, notably Luther's translation of the Old Testament in Source 1 and the radicalisation of his ideas by the Zwickau Prophets during his absence from Wittenberg in Source 2. Stronger candidates used their knowledge of the context of the sources, for example with reference to the role of Frederick the Wise at the time of Luther's 'kidnapping', to expand upon and illuminate such features. Such answers often also commented convincingly 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 Melancthon's motivations in pressing Frederick to allow Luther home from the Wartburg.

Weaker answers tended not to engage fully with the content of the sources. Such responses often commented 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. 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.

Historians can make use of sources 1 and 2 together to investigate the development of Lutheranism in the aftermath of the Diet of Worms as both sources reach a mutual agreement that Luther's 'imprisonment' in Wartburg Castle under Frederick the Wise has put a hindrance on the growth of Lutheran theology. Luther writes himself in Source 1 that "I sit here all day long with my wife, safe from the Emperor's laws." Similarly, Melancthon states in Source 2 that "it is vital that these men are able to meet soon with Martin." From this it can be deduced that the Edict of Worms<sup>(\*)</sup> played a major role in 'stalling' the development of Lutheranism following the Diet as Luther was forced into hiding which ultimately led to issues and problems regarding further spread of his ideas. It can also be considered that both Sources are written by people with close connections to Luther (with one being Luther himself)<sup>(\*)</sup> Furthermore, ~~not they~~ were also written <sup>in 1521,</sup> shortly after the Diet of Worms, which embellishes the reliability of the content within the sources. Therefore, one of the ways in

which historians can make use of the sources together is by considering how Luther's absence as a result of the Diet of Worms in 1521 caused a hindrance in the spread of his ideas and started the growth of Lutheran theology.

⊕ Whilst the other was Philip Melancthon, one of Luther's closest friends who was the author of several Lutheran works such as the *Two Communes* that summarised Lutheran theology and was published in the same year.

Another way historians can make use of these sources together is by considering the fact that Luther's circumstances enabled the development of Lutheranism in the aftermath of the Diet of Worms<sup>in 1521</sup> to take a much more radical approach that strayed from his own beliefs and values. He writes to Spalatin that "in the present circumstances, someone might intercept my letters" which thus excuses an explanation for his absence and ~~the~~ reclusive in Wittenberg. Luther's lack of presence was taken advantage of by radicals such as the Zwickau Prophets for them to push their own ideas that Luther disagreed with, such as their condemnation of child baptism. Historians can observe this in Melancthon's report, in which he

states that "three men [the prophets] ... have been among the leaders of this unrest at Zwickau." It should be considered, however, that the report was designated for Frederick and Wise, who oversaw Zwickau. As a Catholic up to his death, the spread of radicalism in his territory would cause anger. Historians should consider the possibility that, as a friend of Luther, Melancthon played upon this in his report to encourage Luther's return to the development of Lutheranism <sup>so that the radicalism stopped</sup>. Therefore, another way in which historians can make use of the sources together is by drawing how the effects of the Edict of Worme pushed Luther into hiding which, in turn, gave others the opportunity to turn the development of Lutheranism onto a more radical scale.

An additional way historians can make use of these sources together is by considering the possibility that the development of Lutheranism after the Diet of Worms in 1521 was not impacted much at all, and that it continued to grow and develop under Luther even while he was in Wittenberg. This possibility is highlighted when Luther mentions in Source 1 that "I shall continue my work on the translation of the Old Testament", which

~~turned~~ turned out to be true, evidenced by the publication of the translated bible in 1526. In addition, when considering Source 2, Melancthon mentions that "only Martin can judge this matter." This indicated that, ~~although~~ despite his absence, Luther not only continued his works in Wittenberg but also remained as the figurehead of the reformation among his followers.

Historians could agree that Melancthon was biased by his friendship with Luther, but additional historical ~~knowledge~~ <sup>evidence</sup> dictates that he did indeed ~~return to~~ <sup>arrive in</sup> Zwickau to deliver eight sermons which crushed the radical presence of the prophets and reinstated Luther's influence in the growth and development of Lutheranism after the Diet of Worms. Therefore, an additional way historians can make use of the sources together is by observing how Luther's works and influence was maintained after the Diet and Edict of Worms, even during his absence.

In conclusion, historians can make use of sources 1 and 2 together <sup>to a relatively far extent</sup> to investigate the development of Lutheranism in the aftermath of the Diet of Worms in a plethora of ways. It can be agreed that his absence not only hindered the growth and spread of his theology but also ~~and~~ gave other

people the opportunity to turn the movement more radical. It can also be argued that Luther's influence was maintained and the work he did whilst absent in Wartburg enabled further development of Lutheranism even during the Diet of Worms.

⑥ which was issued by Charles V at the Diet to outlaw Luther and his followers and encouraged anyone who saw him to capture him,

⑦ Historians can use sources 1 and 2 together to a relatively far extent to investigate the development of Lutheranism in the aftermath of 1521. The Diet of Worms by analysing how Luther's absence due to the Edict of Worms stimulated further growth and enabled other individuals to ~~do~~ <sup>take</sup> the reformation onto a more radical scale. That being said, Luther's continued work through his absence and maintained influence can also be observed.



This response makes reasoned inferences from both sources with regard to the development of Lutheranism in the aftermath of the Edict of Worms. It also deploys knowledge of the historical context to illuminate what can be gained from the content of the sources and uses valid criteria in evaluation of their use to the enquiry. It was awarded a low L5 mark.

## Question 2

There were few entrants to this paper. Candidates attempting this question mostly identified from the sources the hostility demonstrated in Source 1 by Philip II towards Protestantism in the Netherlands, also the defiance to Philip's wishes shown by the hedge-preaching in Source 2. Better answers were able to place the sources firmly in the context of the years specified in the question with regard to growing popularity of Calvinism and Margaret of Parma's seeming inability to stamp it out. When considering the weight of their evidence to the enquiry, some noted the nature of Philip's Edict and/or the position of Titelmans as an inquisitor, demanding action of the government, in coming to a judgement.

Weaker answers tended not to engage fully with the content of the sources with regard to the question. 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 precise knowledge and understanding of this part of the specification, consequently lacking depth and discrimination in assessing the value of the sources.

Historians can make use of both source 3 and 4 together to investigate the religious situation. Both source 3 and 4 both interpret a religious situation. Source 3 consistently repeats the word nobody. Within the lines 'nobody shall hold in their house any illegal gatherings or at which followers of the above-named heretics teach against the holy church' and 'nobody shall explain or support any of the opinions of the above named heretics.' Show an indication that the 'heretics' caused a problem towards Philip II. These heretics are shown to be people other than Philip II which could indicate Catholics, which Philip II is, which could indicate that this was a religious situation in the Netherlands that there were people who supported other faiths other than Catholicism. Source 3 also

States that 'nor shall they break or damage any images of the holy virgin or the saints. From my own knowledge I know that these images and the saints were damaged and broken during the iconoclastic fury. Furthermore, Source 3 can be used to investigate religious situations in the Netherlands as Philip II also states that if any of the heretics confess their heresy then men shall be be-headed and women to be buried alive, but those who do not confess shall be burned and all their property is to be confiscated to the crown. This shows that if they confess or not they will still be execution, indicating that Philip II is trying to control the Netherlands with religion to only follow Catholicism. This is a first hand account as it is an Edict issued by Philip II himself, which can lead historians to that the religious situations were biased to only Catholicism.

Source 4 states, that a man named

Damann attacked the Church, the pope's authority, the mass, and other parts and rites of our Holy Catholic faith. This suggests that the religious situations in the Netherlands according to Source 4 is that people are going against the Catholic faith. Historians can make use of Both sources as they both <sup>indicate</sup> state that the Catholic is what should be followed however, some are not following this faith in the Netherlands and ~~an~~ action needs to be taken. Source 4 is from a letter written by Pieter Titelmans who was a long-serving inquisitor in the Southern Netherlands, this could show bias towards Catholicism as and situations in the Netherlands as Pieter is Catholic and was involved in over 1000 heresy trials. From my own knowledge, I know that in the Netherlands there was a division between the northern provinces and the south due to the North being Protestant and South being Catholic.

However, it could be argued that both historians cannot make use of both sources 3 and 4 together to investigate the religious situation in the Netherlands as Source 3 talks about the Edict and is not specifically talking about the Netherlands whereas Source 4 talks about a specific town in the Netherlands. Both sources also talk about the religious situation of Catholicism only in the Netherlands and not any other religion, including the Calvinist being isolated and the Northern provinces wanting independence as they are not Catholics.

Overall, I do believe that historians could make use of both sources 3 and 4 to a quite large extent as they although Source 3 does not specifically state the Netherlands the laws would have still applied to them. Both talk about the religious situation to a far extent stating how Catholicism should be the only religion, indicating that

there could be a battle between religions and any others who don't follow Catholics. Catholicism was casted out to be a heretic and should be punished.



Here, the candidate demonstrates some understanding of the source material, and attempts analysis by selecting and summarising information relevant to the enquiry from both sources. Some relevant contextual knowledge is added to this, though some of it has limited linkage to the material. In evaluation of the utility of the sources to the enquiry, the candidate mainly notes aspects of source provenance but there is limited support for the judgement. This received a L2 mark.

### Question 3

This was, by some distance, the most popular of the two essay questions on paper 2B.1. The better-performing candidates in this question directed themselves precisely to 'the development of Luther's challenge to the Catholic Church in the years 1517-20.' This was particularly important when examining the role of the printing press in this period. Those answers that accessed top L4 and L5 marks usually examined a variety of factors that propelled Luther's challenge (notably the publication of the Ninety-Five Theses, the inaction of the Church authorities, Luther's debates with Cajetan and Eck), and were able to assess the importance of the printing press alongside these. Less strong answers tended to assert the importance of the printing press, often with reference to the Ninety-Five Theses in particular, without any sense of the development of Luther's challenge thereafter. Many such answers lacked depth and range of knowledge, and frequently ranged outside the dates specified in the question.

~~The pri~~ There were many challenges to the development of Catholic Church, due to the development of Lutheranism between 1517-20, ~~th~~ some of these include the printing press, the Diet of Worms and Luther's teachings and translations. It can be argued that the printing press was only of minor importance to the development of Lutheranism.

The printing press was a cheap, accessible and quick way to spread news, ideas, leaflets and books. It was used to create & leaflets of Luther's ideas and widespread them across Germany. This meant that many people were able to hear about Luther's ideas and criticisms of the Catholic Church, like the indulgences scandal of 1517. ~~H~~ Luther also used the printing press to release the new German Bible (New Testament) this meant that in sermons and teachings where this Lutheran Bible was being used more common illiterate people were able to

understand the scripture - arguably converting them to Lutheranism as they could actually understand what was being taught to them. Luther ~~by~~ having this ~~to~~ tool granted him the ability to not have to go across Germany to spread his ideas and critiques, it meant that they could be published and widespread very quickly, therefore hurrying the spread of Lutheranism. This clearly demonstrates that the printing press was not only of minor importance towards the development of Lutheranism.

However, it can be argued that the Diet of Worms ~~and~~ (started in 1520) ~~after~~ allowed Luther to openly critique Catholicism to the Holy Roman Emperor and have that intellectual conversation with him publically which obviously brought attention to Luther and his ideologies. Due to the fact that this was young Charles (19) first Diet it was evident he was unsure on what to do and overall he appeared as a weak emperor, which may have

#deterred people from the Catholic faith if new Luther ideas seem stronger than the Emperor's. This is overall a weak argument towards the development of Lutheranism as it is based on the fact that there was potential attention drew to the Diet, and the fact that it didn't actually conclude until '21 which is out of the given time period - evidencing the printing press was more major than this.

Another argument towards the development of Lutheranism is the fact that a lot of the German Princes were converting to Lutheranism between 1517-20 which created real hinderance for the Emperor. Charles already was focussed on many different things like war with France and Spain, great taxes and internal disputes throughout the empire which meant he often relied on the Princes to help lead their given nations. However, with some of them converting to Lutheranism it meant that Luther could not be overall banished as that would loose support

for Charles, ~~and~~ which could then potentially cause wars between internal nations. This is a very important factor towards the growth of Lutheranism as it meant Luther was still free and able to express his ideologies without punishment from the Holy Roman Emperor out of fear of loss of control.

Overall, the printing press was not a minor factor towards the development of Protestantism. It is arguably the biggest and most influential factor towards Luther's growth in people who believed and followed his new strand of Christianity. Without the printing press Luther would have never been able to widespread his German translation of the Bible, his pamphlets and it ~~may~~ be argued that without the translation of the Bible Luther's ideas would have never been a threat.



The major weakness of this response is that much of the material used does not relate to Luther's challenge to the Catholic Church in the years 1517-20, eg the production of the German Bible and the Diet of Worms. There is, therefore, only limited analysis of some key features relevant to the question and, while relevant material is included, it has limited linkage to the focus of the question. It was awarded a L2 mark.

## Question 4

Of the much smaller number of responses to this question, stronger candidates were comfortable with discussing a range of reasons for the failure of Lutheran-Catholic negotiations during this period. Those that scored most highly were able to evidence Luther's role with reference to his influence over the talks at Augsburg and Regensburg, alongside the role of the papacy and the attitude of Charles V. Weaker answers tended to lack detailed knowledge of the negotiations and were much more general in consideration of the reasons for their failure. In such cases, judgements tended towards assertion and lacked conviction.

It has been debated whether the failure of Lutheran-Catholic negotiations in the years 1526-46 was ~~due to~~ largely due to the attitude of Martin Luther. <sup>However,</sup> ~~however~~ other factors were also involved including, Charles and the Pope. <sup>Along with both sides not coming to an agreement.</sup>

~~The latter~~ Martin Luther was known for <sup>his outbursts</sup> ~~outbursts~~ and stubbornness and so ~~at~~ on a few occasions such as the Colloquy of Regensburg ~~1541~~ <sup>1541</sup> he ~~couldn't~~ <sup>managed to influence</sup> ~~agree~~ <sup>the outcome</sup> without being present. Charles had attempted to reconcile the division between the Catholics and Lutherans for a second time now and compromises from both sides had been made to form agreements. However, due to the fact that the Pope and Luther ~~was~~ both weren't present and refused to agree, ~~so~~ the colloquy failed and Charles decided the only ~~other~~ way to change the Protestant tide was to use force and to go to war with the Lutherans which led to the Schmalkaldic War in 1546. Luther's unwillingness <sup>to</sup> meant that no compromises could be found.

Moreover, it was not only Luther that caused the failure of Lutheran - Catholic negotiations because it was often the case that both sides couldn't come to an agreement. For example, the Augsburg Confession of 1530. On Luther's behalf, Philip Melancthon attended in his place because the Edict of Worms prevented his attendance. However, when Melancthon drew up a draft it contained a more moderate version of Luther's beliefs that was received well by the Catholic theologians. ~~Thus~~ However, the Confession still failed because each side couldn't agree on doctrines such as transubstantiation and clerical marriage. ~~Thus therefore weakens the argument because had Luther written the draft, it is likely that it wouldn't have been received well by the Catholic theologians.~~ Yet, it still the Confession failed regardless and so Luther can't be responsible for its failing. Moreover, it was Luther who came up with the theology initially and is why the two sides can't agree.

Finally, the another factor that contributed to the failings of Catholic - Lutheran negotiations is the authoritarian figures such as Charles, the Holy Roman Emperor and the Pope. For example, the Council of Trent in 1545 ~~was~~ had two aims. From Charles, he had hoped to address the corruption

Within the Catholic Church, in by doing so had hoped that it would undermine the Lutheranism by eradicating the anti-papal feeling. Whereas Paul III wanted to use the Council to take a hard-line approach and suggested that there was no reconciliation between the Catholic Church and the Lutherans. Therefore the Luther wasn't involved during this Council and so couldn't be held responsible for the failing to bridge the gap between the two sides.

Overall, I think it was Luther who created the Lutheran faith and its ideas, his unwillingness to change or compromise on any doctrine meant that no reconciliation could be found between the Catholics and the Lutherans so the gap couldn't be closed. These ideas formed the gap and two groups who could not now no longer find common ground on important doctrines such as transubstantiation.



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This response raises several key issues relevant to the question. It also deploys knowledge that demonstrates understanding of the conceptual focus of the question, though this is lacking in depth in places. The answer is generally well organised and establishes valid criteria in coming to a reasoned judgement. It was given a mid-L4 mark.

## Question 5

This was the less popular of the two essay questions on Paper 2.B2. and there were few responses. The better answers had some precise knowledge of Parma's leadership of the Spanish cause in this period, both of his diplomatic and military successes, including the fall of Antwerp, and of his later failings. Weaker candidates had a relatively weak knowledge and understanding of the material, and tended towards assertion rather than a reasoned judgement based on clear criteria.

Overall, Parma's leadership of the Spanish cause in the Netherlands was a success due to his political and military success he accomplished in this time. Although he never totally defeated the Dutch and after the Spanish Armada in 1588 his success began to slow down overall he had a much <sup>larger</sup> ~~more~~ positive impact on the Spanish cause than a negative one.

Parma was an incredible military leader and was many battles against the Dutch successfully gaining lots of territory and pushing back the rebels. One key victory was the Siege of Antwerp where he successfully recaptured Antwerp after a long siege. His military success was important for the Spanish cause as he didn't allow the Dutch to gain any momentum after the failure of previous Governor General and pushed back the rebels. ~~was~~ One main reason for his military success was how he kept his troops happy with regular pay. This allowed him to win battles and helping the Spanish cause by stopping the progression of the rebels.

However, Parma also had lots of political success as he regained the trust of the Southern provinces. The Union of ~~Arras~~ Arras signed by ~~Spain~~ Spain and the Southern provinces was key as it re-established Spanish control in the south and re-established Catholicism. This was a success for ~~Spain~~ ~~Spain~~ ~~Spain~~ ~~Spain~~ because Philip II's two main policies

are religion and power which Parma successfully reestablished with the ~~the~~ union.

However, it can be argued he wasn't a success as he never truly defeat the dutch and they survive this period still in control of key territory such as Holland and Zealand. Through this time period the rebels ~~the~~ ~~finally~~ sign the union of Utrecht, act of abjuration and the treaty of Nonsuch. ~~These~~ <sup>These</sup> all do not help the Spanish cause as the rebels gain foreign support from England and declare Philip as a Tyrant. Therefore, by ~~the~~ never fully defeating the ~~the~~ Dutch rebels ~~the~~ this allows them to grow and ~~become~~ gain support which cause huge problems for Spain, as can be seen with the failure of the Spanish Armada.

We can clearly see Parma's success decline after the Spanish Armada in 1588 as the Spanish are left bankrupt and severely weakened.

Parma faces issues after this as the lack of funding leads to mutinies from his troops after being unable to pay them. Therefore, allowing for the rebels to advance. Therefore, Parma wasn't a success as he failed to help the Spanish ~~rebel~~ cause in the later years of his leadership and therefore his time as governor general is tainted by his failures towards the end after 1588 until his death.

Overall, Parma's successes outweigh his failures as he ~~just~~ came to the Netherlands in 1578 when the ~~the~~ rebels were having lots of success and by 1580 had managed to regain the support of southern provinces and push the rebels back. Under his control key

Victorious in battle proved him to be a success for Spain as he was the key ~~part~~ reason for Spanish <sup>Success</sup> in this period. Although ~~taunted~~ <sup>taunted</sup> by the later year, none of his failures were caused by factors in his control and he did the best out of the resources given to him and therefore ~~was~~ his leadership of the Spanish cause in the Netherlands was a success.



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Examiner Comments

This response raises several key issues relevant to the question. It also deploys knowledge that demonstrates understanding of the conceptual focus of the question. The answer is generally well organised and establishes valid criteria in coming to a reasoned judgement. However, the answer lacks depth and a little precision in places. As a result, it was given a low L4 mark.

## Question 6

Stronger answers to this question had a very good knowledge of the reasons for the growing power of the United Provinces in the years 1584-1609, with reference especially to the roles of both Oldenbarnevelt and Maurice of Nassau. It tended to be, however, that even the better answers were least convincing when addressing the main factor in the question, the development of overseas trade, though some did this well, arguing especially that the contribution of the Dutch to global trade significantly enhanced the reputation and standing of the United Provinces as they asserted their independence from Spain. The less strong answers tended to focus on the military achievements of Nassau, often neglecting the role of overseas trade entirely.

It can be argued that between 1584-1609, the power of the United Provinces was due to the development of overseas trade. This can be ~~seen~~ largely seen in the creation of the Dutch East India company. This company was one of the wealthiest companies to ever exist at this time, ~~making a~~ <sup>having a</sup> worth of almost £8 billion in today's money. This company was responsible for a vast amount of the revenue for the Netherlands, as it had a monopoly over trade in the Pacific Ocean. Exports from these Asian countries not only topped the portuguese spice trade monopoly, but also allowed for new opportunities when it came to foreign campaigns. The Netherlands also traded in the baltic's and was known for a lengthy period of time for their cloth trade. Not only this but their ties with England would have allowed them to trade with one of the wealthiest countries at the time. ~~The~~ The income of the Netherlands was its main appeal to Spain and the Habsburgs since the beginning, and was the reason why the Dutch enjoyed so many liberties and provincial autonomy prior to Philip II. Their previous ~~trade~~ trade combined with the new trade overseas ~~allowed~~ made the Netherlands a very affluent country, and allowed for many improvements.

As a result of this trade, it was now easier to fund institutions and provide a higher quality of living.

Many people living in southern provinces such as Hainaut and Brussels migrated north as they were developing faster than the south. One of the major changes in the northern provinces was the introduction of a year round military, rather than an intermittent one often used across Europe. This allowed for better training, equipment and wages for everyone involved, improving camaraderie and creating a sense of unity. This, however, was not purely a result of trade, and ~~was~~ required the leadership of Maurice of Nassau and Oldenbarnevelt to work effectively.

William of Orange's

Maurice of Nassau, ~~William's~~ son, became the figure head for the United provinces after his father's assassination. He was particularly adept in military tactics, and was able to reform the Dutch military allowing it to pose a threat to the most powerful empire at the time, the Habsburg empire. Maurice introduced standardised equipment for his soldiers, and introduced tactics such as ~~to~~ improved siege warfare and a more efficient usage of markets that would be copied and used by other nations for centuries. Maurice was known for his effectiveness at sieges, often making use of scouting for weaknesses in

streets or supply lines to take advantage of. Many of his successes in the late 1500s were a result of his expertise in siege warfare, however he was also proficient in open battle. The technique of rotating a line of musketeers allowed for a constant volley of bullets, combined with a wall of pikes allowed for a good balance of offense and defense. He used his strategy to a large success, allowing him to win strategic battles such as Turnhout and Newport. On the political side, Oldenbarnevelt was responsible for ensuring the province's independence from Spain. Spain had ~~previously~~ struggled with keeping the peace, having to sign treaties such as ~~the~~ the Union of Arras to avoid possible alliances ~~with~~ between north and south. The northern provinces would respond with the union of Utrecht, further emphasizing their independence and the growing power of the new United Provinces. ~~Spain's position, ~~was~~~~ At this time, Spain was struggling to control the Netherlands both due to their new advantages, but also because of Spain's own failures.

Spain was in debt under Philip ~~the~~ II, and would continue to struggle financially until his death. ~~During~~ Between the 1500s and 1600s, Spain was apart of many conflicts, including a war with the Ottoman Turks, revolutions in foreign colonies, the campaigns in Oceania islands such as

Vancouver and the Solomon Islands, the threat from French Huguenots and the conflict with England.

The Anglo-Spanish conflict was particularly devastating to Spain, because in 1588 Philip II had amassed the largest naval fleet ever seen up until that point, the Spanish Armada, which costed around two-thirds of the annual income of the ~~Spanish~~ Habsburg empire. Not only that, it was a catastrophic failure, leading to the abdication of the governor of Spain, Alexander Farnese, to fall out of power. The resources had to be stretched so thin that Spain struggled to fund the efforts in the Netherlands, and would eventually declare bankruptcy under Philip III ~~and~~ at the turn of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Spain's struggle to fight back against the United Provinces meant that the Dutch continued to grow in power without any meaningful opposition.

In conclusion, there were many factors ~~as~~ to why the United Provinces grew in power, however to say it was majority overseas trade would be disingenuous. Without an effective head of the provinces, the money that the Dutch were getting may not have been put to an effective use. Furthermore, the poor financial position of Spain was imperative in the provinces' victories, as the Habsburg ~~and~~ militia could not put up a fight, and lacked the funding in order to pose a

threat to the Dutch. Although trade was a large part as to why the military and sense of unity was so strong, without ~~the~~ Maurice on the Pieter head and the weakened Spain, it could have went differently. Trade was only able to fund what Maurice wanted to put in place, the reformed military, ~~the~~ improved pay for soldiers, the feeling of unity among the people was not down to trade, rather Maurice and ~~his~~ the people he worked close with.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

Here the candidate explores the relationships between key issues relevant to the question, and deploys knowledge sufficient to meet its demands. Valid criteria are established in coming to a judgement, and their relevant significance is considered in the process of reaching a conclusion. This essay received a L5 mark.

## Paper Summary

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

### Section A

- Candidates should read the question carefully and ensure that they explicitly address the focus of the enquiry rather than merely discussing the issues raised by the sources in general terms
- Candidates should aim to go beyond comprehension and summary of the sources by developing reasoned inferences that are fully discussed
- Candidates should read the caption and make full use of it when evaluating the sources
- Contextual knowledge should be used to illuminate and discuss what is in the source, rather than provide an answer to the enquiry. Long descriptions of linked events are unlikely to gain much, if any, credit
- Candidates should ensure that their responses address the demands of all three bullet points that are assessed in this section of the paper.

### Section B

- Candidates must provide precise contextual knowledge as evidence. Weaker responses generally 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 presenting a list of factors
- Candidates should ensure that they deal with both sides of an argument where the question requires this.

## **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>

