St Albans School History Department – 13+ Entrance Examination

Section One: Source Investigation on Henry VII (20 marks = 20 minutes)

Source A: A painting of Henry VII dating from 1505, sent to a possible new wife after his first wife, Elizabeth of York, died in 1503.



Source B: Some payments made by Henry VII between 1492 and 1494, taken from court records.

1492
8 Jan: For the King to play at cards £5.00
16 Jan: For one who brought the King a lion £2.66½
29 Jan: To Lady York for minstrels £1.00
12 Feb: For a fool who entertained 33p
29 April: For a flute player 33p
4 Jun: For the King's loss at gambling with his crossbow ... 66p
10 Jun: For a Spanish man who played the fool £2.00
30 Jun: For the King, which he lost at cards £40.00
31 Jul: For a horse and saddle to give to the Spanish fool . 92½p
1 Aug: For children who sang in the garden 16½p
1493
23 Jun: For making a bonfire on Midsummer Eve 50p
25 Aug: For a young girl who danced £30.00
24 Sept: For a man who had his bull baited 50p
1494
13 Jun: For a Spanish tennis player £2.00
14 Aug: For the King's loss at tennis £1.38

Source C: Written by a Spanish visitor in a letter home in 1489.

'Henry VII likes to be spoken about and looked up to by the whole world. In this he fails because he is not a great man. Although he claims many virtues, his love of money is too great!'

Source D: Spoken by the preacher at Henry's funeral in 1509.

'In politics no one was as wise as him. He had a very good memory, a quick and alert mind, and always gave fair and short reasons ... Many were the languages he spoke. He was friendly. He had a clear skin and blue eyes. With all Christian princes he made alliances. His might was feared everywhere, both inside and outside his kingdom.

By the people he was obeyed as much as any other king. For many a day his land lived in piece and quiet. In battle his successes against his enemies was almost miraculous. During danger he calculated in a cold and clever way. He got wind of any treason plotted against him. Immense were his treasures and riches, and fair his buildings in the latest style.'

Having examined the sources above, tackle the questions below:

1. What can we learn from the picture (Source A) about Henry VII? (5 marks)
2. How useful is Source B to a historian studying Henry VII's attitude towards money? (5 marks)
3. Does Source C agree or disagree with the description of Henry VII given in Source D? (5 marks)
4. Why might Source D be unreliable to a historian studying the life of Henry VII? (5 marks)

Remember to use the detail of the sources when answering these questions! You should also take note and comment on the captions that accompany them!

Section Two: Evidence question (30 marks = 25 minutes)

1. What are the main advantages and disadvantages to the historian of using the following types of evidence? Support your answer with examples from each:
    - Diary entries
    - Eye witness accounts
    - Photographs
    - Autobiographies (or memoirs/someone telling the story of their life)
    - Cartoons

Section Three: Essay question (50 marks = 45 minutes)

Choose **one** of the following and write an essay on it:

1. Who do you consider to be the most important figure from history? Why is he/she so significant?
2. What is mankind's greatest invention and why?
3. Why is the study of History important for students in the twenty-first century?
4. Which empire has left the greatest impact on the human race?