Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Tuesday 10 June 2025 – Afternoon

GCSE (9–1) History A (Explaining the Modern World)

J410/12 The English Reformation c.1520–c.1550 with Castles: Form and Function c.1000–1750

Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

You must have:
- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

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INSTRUCTIONS
- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Answer **all** the questions.

INFORMATION
- The total mark for this paper is **55**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets **[ ]**.
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) and the use of specialist terminology will be assessed in questions marked with a pencil (✎).
- This document has **8** pages.

ADVICE
- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

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Section A

The English Reformation c.1520–c.1550

You should spend about **45 minutes** on this section.

1 Explain why there were uprisings against Henry VIII and Edward VI's religious policies between 1534 and 1550. **[10]**

2 Study **Sources A, B and C**.

'The Catholic Church was seriously threatened by opposition between c.1520 and 1534.'

How far do **Sources A, B and C** convince you that this statement is correct?
Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. **[20]**

(✎) Spelling, punctuation and grammar and the use of specialist terminology **[5]**

Source A

An extract from a book written by Henry VIII called the 'Defence of the Seven Sacraments'. The book was published in 1521, and the Pope gave Henry VIII the title of 'Defender of the Faith' to thank him for writing it.

Seven Sacraments is a reference to the holy practices and ceremonies of the Catholic Church.

> Martin Luther is like the Devil himself. His wicked and desperate words are those of a snake, tempting and corrupting people with false knowledge.
>
> I hope that with the help of God, he will change his mind, convert back to the true faith, and save his soul.

Source B

An extract from a speech made by the Bishop of Rochester, John Fisher, at a ceremony where Luther's books were publicly burned in London in 1526. He later published and distributed the speech.

> These heretics are lonely outsiders, isolated from the great mass of people and opinion in our Church. They have been blinded by false ideas, and the Church must be the light that guides them out of the darkness and restores their sight.
>
> If any follower of Luther thinks that my arguments against Luther are not enough, then he should come to speak with me. I will listen to what he says and keep the discussion secret. At the end of our talk, either I will become a Lutheran, or he shall become a Catholic.
>
> A **heretic** was someone who held opinions that went against the accepted teachings of the Church.

Source C

An extract from 'The Practice of Prelates', a book written by William Tyndale in 1530. It describes the execution of a priest called Thomas Hitton. Thomas Hitton was accused of distributing banned books and was arrested for heresy against the Catholic Church.

Heresy was the crime of holding or spreading beliefs that went against the accepted teachings of the Church.

> Thomas More, the King's chief minister, has written that none of us would dare stand by our faith to the death. But God has proved Thomas More to be a false liar. God gave strength to his servant Thomas Hitton. Thomas Hitton kept his faith even after he was starved, tortured and then murdered most cruelly at Maidstone by the bishops of Canterbury and Rochester.

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Castles: Form and Function c.1000–1750

You should spend about **30 minutes** on this section.

3 Explain how Kenilworth Castle changed between c.1500 and c.1750. **[10]**

4 Study **Sources D and E**.

Which of these sources is more useful to a historian studying the history of Kenilworth Castle between c.1250 and c.1500? **[10]**

Source D

A description of the 1266 siege of Kenilworth Castle. This description is from a chronicle that was written by William of Rishanger, a monk from the south of England. The chronicle was published around 40 years after the siege.

A **chronicle** is a history book.

> The King called together his army so that he could seize his inheritance by besieging the castle of Kenilworth. Siege machines and large stone-throwers were set up, and the castle was bombarded repeatedly. A wooden siege tower of remarkable height and width was prepared for Prince Edmund. It was attached to the wall with great skill, and inside it were many archers and crossbowmen, all ready to inflict great losses on the enemy. Another extremely impressive tower was called 'the Bear' because of its great size. It contained several divisions of men and had its own stone-thrower attached.
>
> Barges were even brought at great expense over land from the North so that an attack could be launched across the Mere. However, this attack failed. Likewise, plans to undermine the walls were too difficult to put into action.

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Source E

A recent photograph of the remains of the east side of the Great Hall and the cellars beneath it.

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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