Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Thursday 5 June 2025 – Morning

GCSE (9–1) History B (Schools History Project)

J411/15 Crime and Punishment, c.1250 to present with The Elizabethans, 1580–1603

Time allowed: 1 hour 45 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.
- Section A – Crime and Punishment, c.1250 to present: Answer Questions 1(a–c), 2, 3 and **either** Question 4 **or** Question 5.
- Section B – The Elizabethans, 1580–1603: Answer Questions 6(a–b) and 7, and **either** Question 8 **or** Question 9.

INFORMATION
- The total mark for this paper is **80**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets **[ ]**.
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document has **8** pages.

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

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Section A

Crime and Punishment, c.1250 to present

Answer Questions 1(a–c), 2 **and** 3.

1

(a) Name **one** crime in medieval Britain (1250–1500) which could be punished by execution. **[1]**

(b) Name **one** new punishment introduced in the early modern period (1500–1750). **[1]**

(c) Identify **one reason why** the crime rate changed during the period 1900 to 2015. **[1]**

2 Write a clear and organised summary that analyses the use of technology in law enforcement since c.1900.

Support your summary with examples. **[9]**

3 Why was the Metropolitan Police Force set up in 1829?

Explain your answer. **[10]**

Answer Question 4 **or** Question 5.

4* 'The role of the community in enforcing the law and punishing criminals was more important in the medieval period (1250–1500) than it has been after 1900.'

How far do you agree?

Give reasons for your answer. **[18]**

5* 'The reason punishments changed in the period 1750–1900 was because of new concerns about people's welfare.'

How far do you agree?

Give reasons for your answer. **[18]**

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Section B

The Elizabethans, 1580–1603

Answer Questions 6(a–b) **and** 7.

6

(a) In **Interpretation A**, historian Suzannah Lipscomb gives an impression of the wealth and luxury associated with the Elizabethan nobility (upper class).

Identify and explain **one** way in which she does this. **[3]**

Interpretation A

An extract from a recent podcast in which the historian Suzannah Lipscomb walked around Hardwick Hall, an Elizabethan country house, describing what she could see. Hardwick Hall was owned by Bess of Hardwick.

> I'm speaking to you from the magnificent Hardwick Hall. Crafted from golden stone, it stands impressively tall with vast diamond-pane windows. It has six grand turrets, with walkable roofs between them, and is topped with Bess of Hardwick's coat of arms.
>
> I've now moved into the High Great Chamber. You could fit a five-bedroom house in here! This vast space, like a palace, features an intricate plasterwork frieze covered with lions, elephants, deer, camels, and trees. Every room here is absolutely dripping with vivid, brightly coloured tapestries.
>
> Before I leave, I wanted to climb up here, onto the top of the Hall. This is where Bess would have brought her guests. They would have walked across the roof to the banqueting house in one of the turrets. This was a room designed for the final course of a feast and for only a select few of her guests. And this view is what Bess would be showing them: the extent of her wealth. Here, she was queen of all she could see.
>
> A **frieze** is a type of wall decoration.

(b) If you were asked to do further research on **one** aspect of **Interpretation A**, what would you choose to investigate?

Explain how this would help us to analyse and understand the Elizabethan nobility (upper class). **[5]**

7 **Interpretations B** and **C** both focus on the treatment of Catholics in England during the reign of Elizabeth I.

How far do they differ and what might explain any differences? **[12]**

Interpretation B

An extract from the tourist website of Harvington Hall, an Elizabethan manor house in Worcestershire. The house is now owned and run by the Catholic Church.

DISCOVER HARVINGTON HALL, THE HOUSE OF SECRETS

Explore the house as it was during Elizabeth I's reign, when English Catholics lived in terror. Wealthy families like the Pakingtons, owners of Harvington, devised ways to keep their priests safe from priest hunters. The Hall boasts the country's finest collection of priest holes. Priest holes were secret hiding spaces for Catholic priests, and there are seven at Harvington.

Priests endured cramped, cold, and dark conditions, sometimes hiding for over a week. As you explore Harvington, imagine the terrifying sounds of the priest hunters pulling up floorboards and stripping back wall panels. Imagine how the priests would have felt knowing that, when the house fell silent, the priest hunters were waiting to hear any sound. It was a real-life game of hide-and-seek, often with awful consequences.

Harvington Hall's theatrical tours vividly depict the dangers faced by recusant families like the Pakingtons. Join us for a journey through fear, devotion, and persecution.

Interpretation C

An extract from a recent article by the historian Susan Doran in 'BBC History Magazine'.

Under Elizabeth, the Church of England was flexible and moderate. Elizabeth would not listen to the extreme Protestants who attempted to introduce more radical religious changes.

Elizabeth also tried to prevent Catholic rebellion without following a policy of intense religious persecution. It is of course true that she signed the death warrant of Mary Queen of Scots, but she did this with great reluctance. It is also true that Jesuit priests and the people who hid them were imprisoned or executed under Elizabeth, but this was mainly because it was believed that the priests were being used by the Pope and Catholic Spain to stir up trouble against Elizabeth.

By the standards of that time, Elizabeth was a model of religious tolerance.

Jesuit priests are a type of Catholic priest.

Answer Question 8 **or** Question 9.

8* In his 2011 book 'A Brief History of Britain, 1485–1660', historian Ronald Hutton argues that 'Elizabeth's reign is a story of many major successes'.

How far do you agree with this view of Elizabeth's reign **between 1580 and 1603**?

Give reasons for your answer. **[20]**

9* In a recent article on the English Heritage website, historian Diane Purkiss argues that it is '**untrue**' that 'witch-hunting was really women-hunting'.

How far do you agree with this view of accusations of witchcraft in Elizabethan England?

Give reasons for your answer. **[20]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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