Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Friday 6 June 2025 – Afternoon

A Level History A

Y108/01 The Early Stuarts and the Origins of the Civil War 1603–1660

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

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

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 Question 1 in Section A. Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3 in Section B.

INFORMATION
- The total mark for this paper is **50**.
- 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 **4** pages.

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

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Section A

The Execution of Charles I and the Interregnum 1646–1660

Study the **four** sources and answer Question 1.

1 'Divisions amongst Charles I's opponents were the main reason why negotiations failed during 1646 and 1647'.

Use the **four** sources in their historical context to assess how far they support this view. **[30]**

Source A: Charles I, a prisoner of the Scottish army at Newcastle, writes to his wife about the Newcastle Propositions submitted to him by Parliament.

1 July 1646. I have a true copy of the Newcastle Propositions and now assure you that I cannot accept them without loss of my conscience, crown and honour. However, a flat denial is to be delayed as long as possible.

31 August 1646. It is now rumoured that Parliament means to do their work without taking any more notice of me. If we can use this time to persuade France and my other friends to support my restoration to power, then all is not lost. I wish to go back to London, to study the Propositions and to make my own counter-proposals.

Charles I to Henrietta Maria, letters 1646

Source B: A prominent London Presbyterian preacher issues a pamphlet exposing the political threat of religious Independents in the Army.

On 12 June 1646, a godly minister of this city told me about his discussion with an army major concerning Church government. The major told him plainly that those in the Army who are called Independents were not so much against Presbyterian government (though many thought they were) as being tied to any government at all. They supported liberty of conscience, leaving everyone free to believe what they pleased.

Thomas Edwards, 'Gangraena, or a New Higher discovery of the Errors, Heresies, Blasphemies, and Insolent Proceedings of the Sectaries of This Time.' December 1646

Source C: The envoy sent by Henrietta Maria and her advisers to promote an agreement between the king and army, later recalls the king's private attitude to negotiations during July and August 1647.

I informed His Majesty that many agitators feared Cromwell was untrustworthy, while Cromwell saw himself as falsely accused of sinister intentions and protested that his heart was sincere. Cromwell considered the king had saved the Independents from ruin by not consenting to the Scots propositions at Newcastle. The Presbyterian party and the City of London opposed the army to death. Hearing all this, the king responded to the army's proposals very bitterly, saying that he most regretted the Bill against Lord Strafford and hoped God had forgiven him for signing it. The king was convinced that they could do nothing without his consent.

Sir John Berkeley, Memoirs, written during the reign of Charles II

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Source D: At the Putney Debates, Cromwell criticises the Leveller proposals which were soon to be published as 'An Agreement of the People'.

Truly this paper contains very great alterations of the government of the kingdom. What the consequences of such an alteration would be, wise and godly men ought to consider. How do we know if, while we are debating this proposal, another group of men might submit another proposal as acceptable as this? And if so, what do you think the consequence of that would be? Would it not be utter confusion? There will be very great mountains in the way of this proposal, if it were the thing to be adopted.

Oliver Cromwell, Speech at Putney, 28 October 1647

Section B

The Early Stuarts 1603–1646

Answer Question 2 **or** Question 3.

2* ‘The most important aim of James I’s foreign policy was peace.’

How far do you agree? **[20]**

3* Assess the reasons for the breakdown of Personal Rule. **[20]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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