Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Thursday 12 June 2025 – Morning

A Level History A

Y205/01 Exploration, Encounters and Empire 1445–1570

Time allowed: 1 hour

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.
- Choose **one** question and answer **all** the parts of that question.

INFORMATION
- The total mark for this paper is **30**.
- 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.

© OCR 2025 [L/506/4268]
DC (CJ) 354177/1
OCR is an exempt Charity

BLANK PAGE

Answer Question 1 **or** Question 2.

1

(a) Which of the following gains was more important for explorers and their patrons during the period from 1445 to 1570?

(i) Prestige

(ii) Wealth

Explain your answer with reference to both **(i)** and **(ii)**. **[10]**

(b)* To what extent were the routes taken by explorers determined by trade during the period from 1445 to 1570? **[20]**

2

(a) Which of the following was more important in encouraging exploration?

(i) Technological change

(ii) Internal developments in Portugal and Spain

Explain your answer with reference to both **(i)** and **(ii)**. **[10]**

(b)* 'The settlement of Brazil was the most significant feature of Portuguese expansion during the period from 1445 to 1570.'

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

END OF QUESTION PAPER

© OCR 2025

OCR
Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Copyright Information

OCR is committed to seeking permission to reproduce all third-party content that it uses in its assessment materials. OCR has attempted to identify and contact all copyright holders whose work is used in this paper. To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced in the OCR Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download from our public website (www.ocr.org.uk) after the live examination series.

If OCR has unwittingly failed to correctly acknowledge or clear any third-party content in this assessment material, OCR will be happy to correct its mistake at the earliest possible opportunity.

For queries or further information please contact The OCR Copyright Team, The Triangle Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA.

OCR is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, which is itself a department of the University of Cambridge.

© OCR 2025