Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Friday 23 May 2025 – Morning

A Level History A

Y308/01 The Catholic Reformation 1492–1610

Time allowed: 2 hours 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 the question in Section A and **any two** questions in Section B.

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 **4** pages.

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

© OCR 2025 [T/506/4295]
DC (IP) 355280/1
OCR is an exempt Charity

Section A

Read the **two** passages and answer Question 1.

1 Evaluate the interpretations in **both** of the two passages.

Explain which you think is more convincing as an explanation of the nature and extent of Philip II's support for the Spanish Inquisition. **[30]**

Passage A

The most pressing of Philip's problems with the Church on his return to Spain in 1559 was to regain control over the Inquisition and to direct it for his own purposes. He signalled his support of the Inquisition by following up his attendance at the auto-da-fe* in Valladolid in 1559 by being present at autos in Toledo (1560) and in Barcelona (1563). He also allowed the Inquisition to exercise some new powers. In 1559, for instance, he ordered that all Spanish students at Louvain University in the Low Countries were to return home and submit themselves to vetting by the Inquisition. He forbade Spaniards to study at foreign universities. More drastically still, he allowed Fernando de Valdes (Inquisitor-General) to issue the Index of August 1559.

However, once Philip had succeeded in removing Valdes in 1565 (on grounds of old age and ill health) he deliberately changed the nature of the Inquisition by appointing Diego de Espinosa as the first of a succession of Inquisitors-General of whose loyalty he could be absolutely certain. From that point, the king was in charge of the Inquisition - and of all his churchmen. Under Espinosa, the Spanish Inquisition once again became a department of state. Under Philip and his son the Inquisition became the policeman of the nation's morals rather than the persecutor of Jews and their sympathisers (which had been its original justification).

*Auto-da-fe: A formal condemnation of heretics, often followed by executions.

Patrick Williams, Philip II, published in 2001.

Passage B

© Geoffrey Parker, Imprudent King, pps 291-292, Yale University Press, 2014. From first line "If his other instruments of control proved inadequate or inappropriate," to last line "he insisted on having the last word in all other judicial matters." Item removed due to third party copyright restrictions.

Section B

Answer any **two** questions.

2* ‘The Catholic Reformation was a reaction to humanism and Protestantism.’

How far do you agree with this view of the period from 1492 to 1610? **[25]**

3* ‘The most significant institutional reforms during the Catholic Reformation were those established at the Lateran Council (1512–17).’

How far do you agree with this view of the period from 1492 to 1610? **[25]**

4* ‘The attitudes of the laity were the greatest obstacle to the reform of the Catholic Church.’

How far do you agree with this view of the period from 1492 to 1610? **[25]**

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