

Sample CE essay questions by Subject: **Making of UK 1500 – 1750 (The Green Paper)**.

### **War And Rebellion**

Choose any one rebellion, such as the Pilgrimage of Grace of 1536, the Northern rebellion of 1596, the Monmouth Rebellion of 1683, the Jacobite rebellions of 1715 or 1745, or another within this time period that you may have studied.

- a) Describe the main events of the rebellion. (15)
- b) Explain why the rebellion failed. (10)

*Choose any one failed rebellion, such as the Pilgrimage of Grace of 1536, the Northern rebellion of 1596, the Monmouth Rebellion of 1683, the Jacobite rebellions of 1715 or 1745, or another within this time period that you may have studied.*

- a) Describe the main aims of the rebellion. (15)*
- b) Explain why the rebellion failed. (10)*

Choose one military or naval commander, such as Robert Dudley (Earl of Leicester), Sir Francis Drake, Oliver Cromwell, Prince Rupert, the Duke of Marlborough, the Duke of Cumberland or another from this time period.

- a) Describe the main features of this commander's life and career. (15)
- b) In which ways do you think that this commander's career affected the history of England or the United Kingdom? (10)

*Choose a monarch, such as Henry VIII, Mary I, Elizabeth I, or William III or any other from the period you have studied.*

- a) Describe the main wars this monarch fought against other countries. (15)*
- b) What were the effects of these wars on England or the United Kingdom. (10)*

Choose a plot such as the Lady Jane Grey Plot (1553), the Ridolfi Plot (1571), the Babington Plot (1586) or the Gunpowder Plot (1605) or any other you have studied.

- a) Describe the main features of the plot. (15)
- b) What were the main effects of the plot. (10)

*Choose ONE battle, such as Flodden Field, Naseby, Culloden or another from the period you have studied.*

- a) Describe the main events of that battle. (15)*
- b) In which ways do you think the outcome of that battle, affected the history of England or the United Kingdom. (10)*

Choose a monarch from the period you have studied such as Henry VII, Mary I, Charles I, James II or George I or any other.

- a) Describe the main features of the rebellions of this monarchs reign. (15)
- b) Why do you think that the rebellions of this monarch's reign failed or succeeded. (10)

*Choose any rebel leader, such as Thomas Wyatt, the Duke of Monmouth, the Old Pretender, the Young Pretender, or another you have studied.*

- a) Describe the main reasons why the leader rebelled. (15)*
- b) Explain how much of a threat the rebellion was to the government of the time. (10)*

Choose from this period a major English or British war with another country, such as Henry VIII's war with France, Elizabeth I's war with Spain, the Dutch Wars of the Commonwealth or Charles II, William III's wars against France or any other you have studied.

- a) Describe the main events of the war. (15)
- b) In which ways do you think the result of this war affected the history of England or the United Kingdom. (10)

*From this period choose a major English or British victory in a war against France or Spain.*

- a) Describe the main features of the battle. (15)*
- b) In which ways do you think victory affected the history of England or the United Kingdom? (15)*

### **Government and Parliament**

Choose a royal minister such as Cardinal Wolsey, Thomas Cromwell, William Cecil (Lord Burghley), the Duke of Buckingham, Robert Walpole or another from this time period.

- a) Describe the main features of this minister's life and career. (15)
- b) What do you think was this person's greatest success or failure? Explain your answer. (10)

*Choose a royal minister such as Cardinal Wolsey, Thomas Cromwell, William Cecil (Lord Burghley), the Duke of Buckingham, Robert Walpole or another from this time period.*

- a) Describe the event or action for which he is best remembered. (15)*
- b) Explain whether this minister was a success or a failure. (10)*

Choose a royal minister such as Cardinal Wolsey, Thomas Cromwell, or the Duke of Buckingham, or another from this time period.

- a) Describe how this minister tried to carry out the monarch's wishes. (15)
- b) How successful was the minister in running the government for the monarch? (10)

*Choose an important Act of Parliament, such as the Act of Supremacy under Henry VIII, the Bill of Rights 1689, the Act of Union 1707 or another Act from this time period.*

- a) Describe the main reasons for the passing of the Act of Parliament. (15)*
- b) How did the passing of this Act of Parliament affect the history of England or the United Kingdom. (10)*

*Choose a monarch that disagreed with Parliament such as Elizabeth I, James I, Charles I or any other monarch in this period that you have studied.*

- a) Describe the main events of this disagreement. (15)*
- b) Explain the importance of the consequences of the disagreement. (10)*

*Choose a monarch, such as Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, Charles I or James II from the time period you have studied.*

- a) Describe the relations between this monarch and his or her Parliaments. (15)*
- b) How did this relationship (good or bad) affect the history of England or the United Kingdom. (10)*

*Choose an event during this time which caused Parliament's power to grow, such as Henry VIII's changes to the church, the Civil Wars, the Glorious Revolution or another event you have studied.*

- a) Describe the actions taken by Parliament. (15)*
- b) How did this lead to the growing power of Parliament? (10)*

*Choose from this period an Act of Parliament, such as the 1487 Star Chamber Act, the 1534 Act of Supremacy, the 1567 Poor Law, the 1628 Petition of Right, one of the Clarendon Code, the Septennial Act of 1715 or any other you have studied.*

- a) Describe the main reasons why this Act was passed. (15)*
- b) How do you think that this Act of Parliament changed English history? Explain your answer. (10)*

*From the time period you have studied choose a group which wanted reform of Parliament such as the Puritans, Levellers or the Whigs.*

- a) Describe the main reasons why the group wanted reform. (15)*
- b) How successful was the group in getting reforms carried out. (10)*

## **Religion**

*Choose a monarch from the period you have studied such as Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I, Elizabeth I, James I, Charles I, James II or any other monarch.*

- a) Describe the main events concerning religion in the reign of this monarch. (15)*
- b) Explain what you think was the single most important event affecting religion in the reign of this monarch. (10)*

Choose an important religious leader or figure, such as Cardinal Wolsey, Archbishop Cranmer, Archbishop Laud, John Bunyan or another from this time period.

- a) Describe the main features of this religious leader's life and career. (15)
- b) Explain what you think was this person's greatest success or failure. (10)

*Choose an important event in England's development of anti-catholic feeling, such as Henry VIII's Reformation of the Church, Mary Tudor's reign, Catholic rebellions during Elizabeth I's reign, the Glorious Revolution or any other you have studied.*

- a) Describe what happened during this event. (15)
- b) Explain how this caused anti-catholic feelings to grow. (10)

Choose an important religious leader or figure, such as cardinal Wolsey, Archbishop Cranmer, Archbishop Laud, John Bunyan or another from this time period.

- a) Describe the religious reforms or changes he or she wanted to make. (15)
- b) Explain how successful he or she was in achieving his or her goals. (10)

*Choose an important religious leader or figure, such as cardinal Wolsey, Archbishop Cranmer, Archbishop Laud, John Bunyan or another from this time period.*

- a) Describe the main aims of that religious leader. (15)
- b) How successful was that religious leader in his or her aims? Explain your answer. (10)

Choose an important religious leader or figure, such as cardinal Wolsey, Archbishop Cranmer, Archbishop Laud, John Bunyan or another from this time period.

- a) Describe the greatest successes and failures of that religious leader's life. (15)
- b) Explain why that person is remembered. (10)

*Choose a monarch from the period who oversaw major religious change, such as Henry VIII, Mary I, Charles I, James II or any other you have studied.*

- a) Describe the religious changes attempted during the reign of this monarch. (15)
- b) How successful were these religious changes?(10)

Choose a religious movement which started in this period, such as Puritans, Baptists, Quakers or any other you have studied.

- a) Describe what caused the movement to start. (15)
- b) How did this movement affect English or British life. (10)

*Choose from the period you have studied a monarch, such as Henry VIII, Mary I, Elizabeth I, James I, Charles I, Charles II or James II.*

- a) Describe the religious opinions of and the religious influences on that monarch. (15)
- b) Explain the most important consequence of that monarch's beliefs and actions. (10)

Choose from the period you have studied a monarch, such as Henry VIII, Mary I, Elizabeth I, James I, Charles I, Charles II or James II or any other you have studied.

- a) Describe the most important religious change which occurred in the reign of that monarch. (15)
- b) How did that change affect the future of religion in England or Britain. (10)

### **Social History**

*a) Describe how the Great Fire of London began and why it destroyed so much of London in 1666. (15)*

*b) Explain the main effects of the fire on London's later development. (10)*

a) Describe the main features of the Elizabethan Poor Law. (15)

b) What were the effects of the Elizabethan Poor Law on the English people? (10)

*a) Describe the main features of medicine in either the sixteenth or the seventeenth centuries. (15)*

*b) How effective were doctors in the period you have chosen? (10)*

Choose a famous English sailor from the period you have covered, such as Francis Drake or Walter Raleigh, or any other.

a) Describe the main features of the sailor's career. (15)

b) How did the life and work of this sailor benefit England or the United Kingdom. (10)

*a) Describe the start of the Great Plague of London and say why it killed so many in London in 1665. (15)*

*b) What were the effects of the plague on London (10)*

a) Describe how the Great Fire of London began and spread so rapidly in 1666. (15)

b) What were the effects of the Fire on the life of the population of London?(10)

*a) What were the main developments in travel by sea in the period you have covered? (15)*

*b) How did these developments help the growth of England as a power. (10)*

a) Describe a major agricultural or industrial change which affected England in this period. (15)

b) What were the effects of the agricultural or industrial change on England or Britain's development. (10)

*a) Describe the conditions of poor people who lived in towns in the period you have studied. (15)*

*b) Explain how the government tried to help poor townspeople in this period. (10)*

- a) Describe the conditions of poor people in the period you have studied. (15)
  - b) How did the government try to help poor people in this period? (10)
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- a) *Describe a major disaster which affected England in this period, such as the Plague of London, the Great Fire of London or any other you have studied. (15)*
  - b) *What were the effects of the disaster on England's or Britain's development? (10)*

### **General Topics**

- a) Describe the main features of any famous historical building from the period you have studied. (15)
  - b) Explain why you think it is important for historians to study changes in architecture. (10)
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- a) *Describe the main features of the lives of women in either the sixteenth century or the seventeenth century or the first half of the eighteenth century. (15)*
  - b) *What do you think was the most important difference in women's lives in the period that you have studied compared with those of women today. (10)*
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- a) Describe the main events of the life of a famous woman during this time period such as Bess of Hardwick, Katherine of Aragon, Nell Gwyn or any other you have studied. (15)
  - b) How difficult was it for her to live in a man's world? (10)
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- a) *Describe the main features of any famous town from the period that you have covered. (15)*
  - b) *Explain why you think it is important for historians to study the changes in town and city life. (10)*

Choose a European war which affected England or Britain at this time, such as the Thirty Years' War, the Dutch Wars, the War of Spanish Succession or any other you have studied.

- a) Describe the ways in which England or Britain were involved. (15)
- b) Explain how the results of the conflict affected England or Britain. (10)

*Choose an important artist who worked in England or Britain in the sixteenth or seventeenth centuries or the first half of the eighteenth century, such as Hans Holbein, Rubens, Van Dyck or any other you have studied.*

- a) *Describe his work. (15)*
  - b) *How much influence did he have on his time period? (10)*
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- a) Describe the main achievements of any musician from the period you have studied. (15)
  - b) Explain why you think it is important for historians to study the history of music and musical instruments across history. (10)

- a) *Describe the main features of health and medicine in the period you have studied. (15)*
- b) *What do you think was the most important difference in health matters in the British Isles in the period you have studied compared with today? Explain your answer. (10)*
- a) *Describe the main features of any famous invention from this period. (15)*
- b) *Explain why you think it is important for historians to study changes in science across history. (10)*
- a) *Describe the main features of the lives of children in the sixteenth century, the seventeenth century or the beginning of the eighteenth century. (15)*
- b) *In this period what do you think was the most important difference in children's lives in the British Isles, compared with those of children today. (10)*