
A-level HISTORY

Spain in the Age of Discovery, 1469–1598

Paper 1B

Specimen 2014

Morning Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is **1B**.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the other questions answered.
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Section AAnswer Question 01.

Extract A

During the latter part of the sixteenth century, the Spanish Inquisition was generally popular within its own domain. Ferdinand and Isabella's tribunal had excited considerable fear and loathing in its earlier years, both from *conversos* and Christians, who resented its assaults on traditional practices and customs, especially in Aragon. Yet, the available evidence suggests that the subsequent Inquisition came to be regarded by most Spaniards with respect, if not with love, as a pillar of society. Denunciations and interrogations were shrouded in secrecy and the work of the tribunals depended almost entirely on the collaboration of neighbours with the authorities. Torture was accepted. Its practice was so universal in early modern law courts, both secular and ecclesiastical, that it was not normally in itself a focus of criticism. Torture was used to extract evidence, not as a punishment in itself, but any attempt to suggest that the Inquisition was 'milder' than contemporary secular tribunals cannot diminish the horror of its tortures, which were administered in all too many cases.

Adapted from John Edwards, *Inquisition*, 1999**Extract B**

Ferdinand and Isabella prided themselves on startling triumphs in their drive to 'constitute Spain to the glory of God'; among these was the founding of the Inquisition. This was used by themselves and subsequent monarchs with excessive zeal. All tried to burn heresy out of the kingdom. However, after the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella, the Inquisition adopted another role. It became the outlet for the complaints of the poor and unsophisticated and so had a divisive social effect, since it spread insecurity with its secretive procedures and vast web of informers. It would be wrong therefore, to suggest that the Inquisition was simply a bloody religious tribunal.

Adapted from Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, *The Improbable Empire*, 2000

Extract C

The role and impact of the Spanish Inquisition has been widely exaggerated. Commentators used to consider it a bloodthirsty institution, but that view can rightly be discarded. Thousands of conversos were certainly arrested in the early years, but few were imprisoned and even fewer executed. There is certainly no evidence that the tribunal ever acted as a tool of 'social control'. The inquisitors limited their activities to the main urban centres, neglecting almost entirely the small towns and the countryside where most people lived. In the heart of Castile, in Toledo, five times as many townspeople as peasants were tried by the tribunal. Outside Castile, local privileges fought hard, and often successfully, against the introduction of this foreign institution that clashed with the interests of both the elites and the clergy.

Though it is widely believed that Spanish literature suffered at the hands of the Inquisition, there are good reasons to question this belief. Those who really wished to obtain banned books of special interest – such as in astrology, medicine or scholarship – faced few obstacles. Total freedom of movement between the Iberian peninsula, France and Italy guaranteed an unimpeded circulation of people, books and ideas. Technical backwardness, rather than religious repression was one of the reasons why publishing never became big business in the peninsula.

Adapted from Henry Kamen, *Golden Age Spain*, 1988

0	1
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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the impact of the Inquisition in Spain.

[30 marks]

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0	2
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'The New World had made little impact on Spain before 1556.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0	3
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To what extent were Philip II's methods of government responsible for the problems he faced in Spain and its possessions?

[25 marks]

0	4
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'The battle of Lepanto in 1571 marked a turning point in Philip II's foreign policy.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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