



AS HISTORY

The Wars of the Roses, 1450–1499

Component 2B The Fall of the House of Lancaster, 1450–1471

Monday 19 May 2025 Afternoon Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-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 7041/2B.
- Answer **two** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- 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:
 - 50 minutes on Section A
 - 40 minutes on Section B.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Source A

From an extract referring to 1469 in 'English History', by Polydore Vergil, written c1513. Vergil was a respected humanist scholar and this book was commissioned by Henry VII.

At York there was an ancient hospital, which was very well funded, for the housing of beggars, the poor, and for the healing of the sick. For piety's sake the entire shire of York gave an amount of grain and fruits annually, for the use of the poor.

At the urging of certain noblemen belonging to Warwick's faction, the farmers refused, claiming that these contributions were given to wealthy overseers rather than the poor. The overseers resorted to arms. Thanks to these troubles and other rebellions inspired by nobles of this sort, everywhere churches and homes were robbed, fields were wasted, towns and cities were starved. Many evils befell the people, which were inevitably the result of war's savagery.

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Source B

From an account of 1469–71 by Burgundian diplomat, Philippe de Commines, writing in 1488–94. Philippe corresponded with Warwick, met Edward IV in 1470, but never visited England.

Now in my opinion, out of all of the countries with which I was ever acquainted, nowhere else was the government so well managed than it was in England. Nowhere else were the people more against violence and oppression than in England. Nowhere were their houses less liable to be destroyed and demolished by war than in England. For there, disaster and misfortune fell only on those who made the war: the soldiers and the nobles. England enjoyed this peculiar mercy above all other kingdoms. However, the people were more than ordinarily envious of the nobles, regardless of the calamities that befell their lords, for nothing is perfect in this world.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two sources is more valuable in explaining the impact of the Wars of the Roses on English society in the years 1469 to 1471?

[25 marks]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Either

0	2
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‘Growing political division, in the years 1450 to 1455, was due to the actions of Richard, Duke of York.’

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

or

0	3
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‘The Lancastrians were in a strong position between 1459 and the Second Battle of St Albans in February 1461.’

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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2 5 6 A 7 0 4 1 / 2 B