

Paper Reference(s) 9HI0/1C
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced

PAPER 1: Breadth study with interpretations

**Option 1C: Britain, 1625–1701: conflict, revolution
and settlement**

Extracts Booklet

**DO NOT RETURN THIS BOOKLET WITH
THE QUESTION PAPER.**

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Extracts for use with Section C.

EXTRACT 1: From Barry Coward, *The Stuart Age: England 1603–1714*, published 2012.

William III still ruled as well as reigned. Government was still largely personal government by the monarch. William III retained a firm grasp on the process by which government decisions were made. The royal court remained the centre of politics. Ministers might have to secure support in parliament for their measures, but their main concern was to retain royal favour. When they lost that, their political fortunes inevitably collapsed. The personal wishes and friendships of the monarch were still of major political importance.

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The immense personal power of the monarch was maintained despite the developing role of the cabinet. The cabinet first appeared in the early 1690s to provide continuous day-to-day control of wartime administration during William III's frequent absences on the continent. All this though did not necessarily mean a reduction of royal power and influence. William III controlled the day-to-day business of government and all decisions of the cabinet had to be approved by him. Nor were all the important decisions of government made in cabinet; they continued to be made either in smaller committees or through informal meetings between the monarch and his ministers.

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EXTRACT 2: From John Miller, *Early Modern Britain 1450–1750*, published 2017.

The change of ruler in 1689 and the Bill of Rights 25
would not seem to merit the title of a ‘revolution’ and
yet the nature of monarchy was to change dramatically.
William was able to insist on being made king in
his own right and to keep the Crown’s prerogatives
intact, but he could not make the Commons grant 30
his ordinary revenue for life. Moreover, his accession
resulted in England’s involvement in a very expensive
war against France. The Commons used the King’s
need for money, and occasionally legislation, to make
regular annual parliaments indispensable and to 35
strengthen their bargaining position.

During the 1690s the Commons appointed committees
of accounts which scrutinised public expenditure,
looking for signs of waste, mismanagement and
corruption. Government could no longer be seen as the 40
private preserve of the king and his ministers. William
also learned the hard way that, although in theory
he was free to choose his ministers, in practice he
needed to appoint men who could push his measures,
especially money bills, through Parliament. By 45
demanding the right to scrutinise Royal government,
the Commons under William reflected increasing
public concern about the role and scale of government
and taxation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**Extract 1 from: The Stuart Age: England 1603-1714,
Barry Coward, Routledge, 2012**

**Extract 2 from: Early Modern Britain 1450-1750, John
Miller, Cambridge University Press, 2017**