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History 7042  
Specimen Question Paper 2E (A-level)  
Question 02 Student 3  
Specimen Answer and Commentary

V1.0

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**Specimen answer plus commentary**

The following student response is intended to illustrate approaches to assessment. This response has not been completed under timed examination conditions. It is not intended to be viewed as a 'model' answer and the marking has not been subject to the usual standardisation process.

**Paper 2E (A-level): Specimen question paper**

**02** 'Religion was the main reason for conflict between Crown and Parliament in the years 1625 to 1629.'

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]**

**Student response**

Religion was the main reason for conflict and growing tensions between Crown and Parliament. Religion was a major cause of the English Civil War. It was part of a Europe wide conflict between Roman Catholicism and Protestantism. In 1625, Charles came to power as the second Stuart King of England.

King Charles orchestrated a large role in the breakdown of relations with Parliament. King Charles I was deeply religious. He believed that he ruled with the Divine Right of Kings – that he was only answerable to God. This religious belief therefore made it impossible for parliament to intervene in the role of the country to the extent that they had done under the reign of Elizabeth I. Charles I preferred the high church, with ceremonies, rituals and lavish ornamentation. Charles thought the hierarchy of bishops and priests was very important. This highly conflicted with the views of some Protestantism as it appeared that Charles was leaning towards Catholicism. The Puritans considered all of this to be forms of 'Popery'. They wanted a purer form of worship without rituals and without religious icons and images – they wanted a low church. Puritans believed that they had a personal relationship with God and did not need bishops. At the start of his reign in 1625, King Charles I had married the roman Catholic Henrietta Maria of France. Included in her marriage treaty were provisions that she was to be allowed to practice her religion freely at Court. This included Catholic mass during church. It was also made a condition of the treaty that King Charles I set about lifting restrictions for recusants (Catholics who refused to attend Anglican Church services). The marriage was highly disliked by England. At this time Roman Catholics were distrusted and feared. The reign of the Catholic Queen Mary I had seen the persecution of Protestants. The Protestant nightmare was within living memory: several Catholic plots aimed at assassinating Elizabeth I and putting a Catholic on the throne, the Gunpowder plot of 1605 where Catholics attempted to blow up the King and the Houses of Parliament; and the on-going Thirty Years War, ultimately a religious conflict which saw Roman Catholic nations trying to wipe out Protestantism in Europe. In addition to, ill-fated wars with France and Spain brought about a crisis in 1628-29. Alongside this, two expeditions to France, led by Buckingham, a man of political influence and military power (favourite of both Charles I and James I) added to parliamentary tensions.

Parliament twice threatened Buckingham with impeachment and Charles was forced to dissolve parliament to prevent Buckingham from going to trial. Charles' first major military expenditure was Cadiz 1625. The effects of Cadiz was disastrous, it was seen as a fiasco and an embarrassment to Charles. Cadiz highly contrasted to the legendary successes of Drake when Drake defeated the Spanish Armadar in 1580 which people would compare and view Charles

as an idiot. The result of Cadiz of failing miserably was that this forfeited Charles' chance of obtaining a further grant from parliament towards his war expeditions. However, the failure of Cadiz was partly left to Crown's own fault. He didn't think it was necessary to explain Crown policy to the Commons as he believed it was his Royal Perogative. In addition to, his Catholic wife, Henrietta Maria, meant that Charles was seen to be promoting Catholicism at home due to having Catholic mass. Parliament didn't want to grant Charles any more subsidies in fear of repeated future military expeditions. This led to growing tensions between the relations of Crown and Parliament as Charles dissolved the 1626 Parliament. However, to combat this issue of having no Parliament, Charles introduced the Forced Loan. Charles also billeted his troops in civilian homes near the South Coast of England. The infrequently-paid troops were unruly and destructive, but it was difficult to local civilians to call them to account as soldiers were under Martial Law, and could only be tried in military courts. Bulleting of troops was so unpopular that Charles used it as a method of subduing and punishing his opponents. Most of those ordered to pay the Forced Loan had obeyed, but seventy six gentlemen and Earl of Lincoln were imprisoned for their refusal to pay. Charles did not bring any care against these men in court for fear that the judges might decide against the Forced Loan's legality. This led to the Five Knights case – a famous trial in 1627. Five imprisoned gentlemen were imprisoned for their refusal to pay the Forced Loan, they challenged their imprisonment by issuing the wits of Habeus Corpus, which came from the Magna Carta of 1215. Habeus Corpus directly translates to "bring me the body" – this means that you are "innocent until proved guilty". The right of the monarch to imprison people who posed a danger to the state had long been accepted, and the judges were in Charles I's favor. The Five knights were sent back to prison. Although Charles won the Five knights case, he consumed political capital. The royal prerogative to imprison without cause was widely accepted in the case of disloyal conspirators. The political nation was not happy for it to be used against respectable citizens objected to extraordinary levies. This led to growing conflict between Crown and Parliament as the Forced Loan meant Charles was forced to collect levies from his people after the 1626 dissolution of Parliament.

Unfortunately for Crown, there was a general dislike of Buckingham, causing political controversy; Charles' royal perogative was to choose his own ministers, yet they had to be acceptable to Parliament or there would be repeated confrontations. In effect, this again caused a growth between King and Parliament, as this "acceptability" was not present. After Charles ascended the throne in March 1625, Buckingham's leadership led to a series of disasters. The marriage he arranged between Charles and the French Roman Catholic princess Henrietta Maria failed to bring about an Anglo-French alliance, and it angered Parliament by raising the threat of a Catholic succession to the English throne. In addition, Buckingham led the Cadiz expedition. It was so poorly organized and equipped that it disintegrated before it could storm the city. Hence, a bill to impeach the duke was introduced in Parliament in May 1626. In order to save him, Charles dissolved Parliament in June. Buckingham's case was then tried before the royal Court of Star Chamber, where, to no one's surprise, the charges were dismissed. Meanwhile, England was drifting toward war with France. In June 1627 Buckingham personally took command of an 8,000-man force sent to relieve the port of La Rochelle, a Huguenot stronghold under attack by French government troops. After a four-month campaign in which Buckingham showed bravery—and an ignorance of the arts of war—his shattered army was compelled to withdraw. The Parliament of 1628 tried to force Charles to dismiss Buckingham, but the king was unflinchingly loyal to his friend. On August 17 Buckingham arrived at Portsmouth to organize another expedition to La Rochelle. Five days later he was stabbed to death by John Felton, a naval lieutenant who had served in his campaigns and who misguidedly believed that he was acting in defense of principles asserted in the House of

Commons. The populace of London rejoiced at the news. When he was attacked and killed in 1628, Parliament openly celebrated his death; angering Charles and increasing tension between the two sides.

In conclusion, religion was one of the most important factors in the conflicts between King and court. Overall, it is clear that the relationship between King and Parliament steadily crumbled. Religious troubles had been rife in England for many years. England had been a predominantly Protestant country, and Charles I, acting on advice from Buckingham, made himself deeply unpopular with Parliament by marrying a Catholic princess, Henrietta Maria from Spain. Charles' religion was also another point of conflict with Parliament. Charles practised Arminianism, a branch of Protestantism, which seemed to Parliament uncomfortably close to Catholicism. Charles embarked on a campaign to reform the church guided by his own beliefs, increasing the Royal power of the Arminians. This made Parliament feel uncomfortable as his links with Arminianism meant further tension between Crown and Parliament.

### **Commentary – Level 3**

The answer contains much appropriate detail, but essentially lacks a clear and consistent focus. There is useful comment on the context of religious disputes and divisions, but no explicit and balanced analysis on how this had an impact on the relationship between Crown and Parliament. Thereafter, the answer tends to drift into description and narrative with only occasional references to the question itself. It is this lack of consistent and explicit focus which limits the mark to Level 3.