GCE History – Unit 3 – The breadth studies

3.2 Poverty, protest and rebellion in Wales and England c.1485-1603

Unit 3 covers two themes on an extended period of at least 100 years, each with a focus on change, continuity, similarity and difference. You must show understanding of the main developments and turning points. The emphasis is on developing and interpreting a broad overview of the period studied. The examination tests this by asking two different types of question.

In Section A, in which you choose one of two questions, you are required to answer a question covering a shorter timeframe, usually about 15–40 years.

Questions can broadly be broken down into four parts:

1. The command term
2. The named issue
3. Areas of debate (leading to a judgement)
4. The required timeframe

Consideration of all of these is essential to a well-argued and historically justified answer.

Section A – specific events in a narrower timeframe: **Poverty, vagrancy and the poor in Wales and England, c.1485-1603**

2019 Question 1:
'The most significant cause of poverty and vagrancy in the period from 1509 to 1553 was enclosure.' Discuss.

The command term: The command term is Discuss. So, in the context of ***this*** question, you will focus on the main idea in the question - enclosure - and make an argument that considers it in relation to other relevant factors: causes of poverty and vagrancy, in the context of the period 1509 to 1553 etc. Your aim is to **make a consistent and balanced judgement that is supported by factual evidence**.

The named issue – why **enclosure** was a significant cause of poverty and vagrancy:

- Large-scale consolidation of manorial farms led to the destruction of some villages.
- Enclosure represented a significant change in agriculture, with its move from labour-intensive arable farming to labour-saving pastoral farming, causing a rise in unemployment.
- The enclosing of common land denied small scale farmers land for their crops/animals.
- There was rural depopulation and demographic movement to urban areas.

Areas of debate – other causes of poverty and vagrancy included:

- There were fewer wars, less restrictions on retaining and a rising population which all led to greater competition in the jobs market.
- The dissolution of the monasteries was significant.
- There was inflation and debasement of the coinage, fuelled by an economic crisis and depression, especially in the wool industry.
- Charity—from a shrinking Church—was diminishing.

The required timeframe – make sure you utilise details from across the timeframe. Following is an example of some events you may wish to include. However, other information can be used in addition to, or instead of, this material.

1509	Accession of Henry VIII who succeeds to a kingdom at peace
1515	The Act avoiding pulling down of towns
1516	In his book, *Utopia*, Sir Thomas More suggests that enclosure was responsible or some of the social problems in England
1523	Sir Anthony Fitzherbert published two books *The Book Husbandry* and *The Book of Surveying and Improvements*
1535-40	Dissolution of the monasteries
1544	Henry reduced the silver content of new coins by half
1546	Publication of Simon Fish's *A Supplication of the Poore Commons*
1547	Accession of Edward VI, passes stricter laws against vagabonds
1549	Kett's rebellion cited the poverty caused by enclosure for the insurrection; John Hales delivered his 'Causes of Dearth' speech in Parliament
1553	Accession of Mary I

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In Section B, there is one compulsory question. It covers the duration of the timeframe or a period of at least 100 years. You will need to draw on material from across the timeframe.

Questions can broadly be broken down into four parts:

1. **The command term**
2. **The named issue**
3. **Areas of debate (leading to a judgement)**
4. **The required timeframe**

Consideration of all of these is essential to a well-argued and historically justified answer.

Think like an historian

To reach a valid – and supported – conclusion, you must consider a range of evidence, and a range of viewpoints, weigh them up and make a judgement on their worth.

Key words

Analyse ⌘ Concepts and perspectives
Key issues and content ⌘ Debate
Continuity and change ⌘ Similarity and difference
Evidence ⌘ Judgement

Section B – developments across a prolonged timeframe: **Threats, protest and rebellion, c.1485-1603**

2019 Question 3:
To what extent were protests and rebellions in the period from 1485 to 1603 motivated (adapted) by political grievances?

The command term: The command term is To what extent. So, in the context of ***this*** question, you will focus on the main idea in the question - political grievances - and make an argument that considers it in relation to other relevant factors: motives for protest and rebellion, in the context of the period 1509 to 1553 etc. Your aim is to **make a consistent and balanced judgement that is supported by factual evidence**.

The named issue – why **political grievances** motivated protest and rebellions:

- The man behind the Pretender Simnel (1486)—the Earl of Lincoln—was politically aggrieved.
- The Wyatt rebellion (1554) was politically motivated by loss of influence at court.
- The Northern Rising (1569–1570) was concerned about the leaders' political careers and their dwindling influence at court.
- The Essex rebellion (1601) aimed to remove the queen's advisers and make Essex the new power behind the throne.

Areas of debate – other motives for protest and rebellion included:

- The Yorkshire (1489) and Cornish (1497) rebellions were about taxation.
- The Kett rebellion (1549) was economically driven—largely by enclosure.
- The Pilgrimage of Grace (1536), Western rebellion (1549) and various plots against Elizabeth (1571–1586) were driven by religious complaints/considerations.
- The Oxford protests of 1596 (and others like them sporadically through the mid-1570s and early to mid-1590s) were in respect of famine and increasing food prices.

The required timeframe – make sure you utilise details from across the timeframe. The following is an example of some events you may wish to include. However, other information can be used in addition to, or instead of, this material.

1489	Yorkshire rebellion
1497	Cornish rebellion
1509	Accession of Henry VIII
1536-7	Pilgrimage of Grace
1547	Accession of the boy-king Edward VI, a Protestant
1549	Western and Kett rebellions
1553	Accession of Mary I, a Roman Catholic; Lady Jane Grey
1554	Wyatt rebellion
1558	Accession of Elizabeth I, a Protestant
1568	Mary, Queen of Scots seeks political asylum in England
1569-70	Rebellion of the Northern Earls
1596	Oxford rebellion/protest
1601	Essex rebellion