

History: Stuart Britain and America Summer Assignment

*Your summer assignment must be submitted in the **first lesson for this subject in September**. The completion of this assignment is compulsory and we expect you to put every effort into completing it to the best of your ability. Failure to submit this assignment will jeopardise your place on this course.*

How to approach the LSU/ABS History Summer Assignment

This assignment is designed to give you an idea of what will be expected of you in the A Level course and to help us to assess how we can support you when you begin in September. If you have done History at GCSE you will see that the questions are quite familiar, but the sources are more difficult. Don't let this put you off! We are more interested in how you *approach* this task and how you cope with any difficulties. If you have not done GCSE History, use your skills from English and other subjects to help you. *You are not expected to have any prior knowledge or do any other research*

NB: The sources introduce one part of your A Level course – the reign of James I but you will be using your skills of source analysis in ALL parts of your A Level course.

1. Read the sources carefully to ensure that you get the *sense* of what they are saying. Think about how you have coped in the past when you don't understand every word (eg: Shakespeare)
2. You may hand-write or word-process your work
3. Read over your work to ensure high quality and accuracy – this is an important part of success at A Level
4. This assignment is marked out of 40 (Mark Scheme at the end of assignment)
5. We will be marking this work together in one of your first lessons

Would James I make a good king of England?

Study the background information and the sources carefully:

Background information



James I succeeded the last Tudor monarch, Elizabeth I, in 1603. At the time of Elizabeth's death James was king of Scotland. He was also the nearest blood relative to Elizabeth. James was a Stuart – so Tudor England died on March 24th 1603 while the accession of James ushered in the era of the Stuarts.

James was proclaimed king of Scotland in 1567 – aged 1 – after the enforced abdication of his mother, Mary, Queen of Scots. His childhood had been lonely and full of violence; his mother's secretary had been murdered by his father when Mary was pregnant with James; his father had been murdered and he was subject to several kidnap attempts. At the age of 17 his mother was executed by Elizabeth.

He married Anne of Denmark in 1589. She proved to be a shallow and frivolous person and James found respite from her by surrounding himself with young men.

Source A Sir Anthony Weldon's character of James I

He was of a middle stature, more corpulent through his clothes than in his body, yet fat enough. His clothes (were) ever made large and easy, the doublets quilted for stiletto proof, his breeches in great pleats and full stuffed. He was naturally of a timorous disposition, which was the reason of his quilted doublets: his eyes large, ever rolling after any stranger that came into his presence. His beard was very thin; his tongue too large for his mouth...which made him drink very uncomely as if eating his drink, which came out into the cup of each side of his mouth; his skin was as soft as silk, which felt so because he never washed his hands, only rubbed his finger ends slightly with the wet end of his napkin. His legs were very weak, having had some foul play in his youth that he was not able to stand at seven years of age, that weakness made him ever leaning on other men's shoulders; his walk was ever circular, his fingers ever in that walk fiddling about his cod-piece.

Corpulent – fat

Timorous – nervous

Doublet – close-fitting jacket

Cod-piece – a pouch attached to a man's clothing to cover the genitals

Stiletto – long sharp knife

Source B Report on England to the Government of Venice, Nicolo Molin

He is sufficiently tall, of a noble presence, his physical constitution robust and he is at pains to preserve it by taking much exercise at the chase, which he passionately loves. For this he throws off all business, which he leaves to his Council and his ministers. And so one may truly say that he is King in name and appearance rather than in substance. This is the result of his deliberate choice, for he is capable of governing, being a prince of intelligence and culture. His Majesty is by nature placid, hates cruelty...he loves quiet and repose, has no inclination to war, nay is opposed to it, a fact that little pleases many of his subjects. He does not caress the people nor make them that good cheer the late Queen (Elizabeth) did, whereby she won their loves: the King shows no taste for them but rather contempt and dislike. The result is he is despised and almost hated.

The chase – hunting on horseback

Source C A note on King James. Sir John Oglander, contemporary

King James I of England was the most cowardly man that I ever knew. He could not endure a soldier, to hear of war was death to him, and how he tormented himself with fear of some sudden mischief may be proved by his great quilted doublets, pistol-proof, as also his strange eying of strangers with a continual fearful observation. Otherwise, he was abundantly the best scholar and wisest prince for general knowledge that England ever had, very merciful and passionate, liberal and honest. He was wondrous just between parties and had a very tender conscience. He loved to be accounted good. He hated all men that spoke ill of others. A great politician and very sound in reformed religion. His only faults were that he was infinitely impatient. He was not popular with his subjects who desired to see him. He could not endure to be seen by the commons, especially at his sports.

Source D Letter to James' mother, Mary, Queen of Scots when he was 17

He understands everything. He judges reasonably. He carries much in his memory and for a long time. In his questions he is lively and perceptive, and sound in his answers. In any matter being debated, be it religion or any other thing, he believes and always maintains what is true and just. He is learned in many tongues, sciences and affairs of state, more so, I dare say than any others in his realm. In brief he has a marvellous mind, filled with virtue and a good opinion of himself. I have noted in him defects which may possibly be harmful. The first is his failure to appreciate his poverty and lack of power. Further, that he is too idle and too little concerned with business, too addicted to pleasure, principally that of the chase, leaving the conduct of business to others. I know very well that this is pardonable in one of his youth but there is a fear it will become a habit. For the rest, that he is feeble in frame, and that he cannot work for a long time at business, though when he puts himself to it he will achieve more than six other men together.

Task:

Answer these questions in relation to the sources above.

1. What can you learn from Source A about James I's physical appearance? (6)
2. Sir Anthony Weldon (author of source A) was sacked by James after he said of the Scottish people that, "to be chained in marriage to one of them were to be tied to a dead carcass and cast into a stinking ditch." Does this mean it can't be trusted? (8)
3. In what ways do Sources B and C agree about James' qualities? (8)
4. What can you learn from source D about James' defects? (6)
5. "The evidence suggests that James would make a very good king of England." Using all the sources explain how far you agree with this statement. (12)

40 marks

Assessment criteria

Marks will be awarded for:

- Understanding the demands of the question
- Understanding the information in the sources – not necessarily every word
- Using evidence to support your arguments
- Cross-referencing between sources
- Quality of written communication

Note that grades go from A-E at A Level. A* is only awarded by the exam boards after grade boundaries have been set at the end of 2 years:

/40	Grade
Below 16	U
16-19	E
20-23	D
24-27	C
28-31	B
32 and above	A

*BRING YOUR SUMMER ASSIGNMENT TO YOUR FIRST HISTORY LESSON

1. What can you learn from Source A about James I's physical appearance? (6)

L1	Repeats information from the source	1-2
L2	Makes inferences from the source but not supported with evidence	3-4
L3	Makes inferences from the source and supports them with evidence; uses quotes to back up arguments (3 good points, well explained)	5-6

2. Sir Anthony Weldon (author of source A) was sacked by James after he said of the Scottish people that, "to be chained in marriage to one of them were to be tied to a dead carcass and cast into a stinking ditch." Does this mean it can't be trusted? (8)

L1	Answers which agree with the statement and say the source is not useful	1-2
L2	Answers which say the source is still useful but do not back it up with evidence	3-4
L3	Answers which say the source is <i>OR</i> isn't useful and uses evidence to back it up (from own knowledge or other sources)	5-6
L4	Answers that cross-reference with other sources, background info or own knowledge to show why the source is <i>AND</i> isn't useful	7-8

3. In what ways do Sources B and C agree about James' qualities? (8)

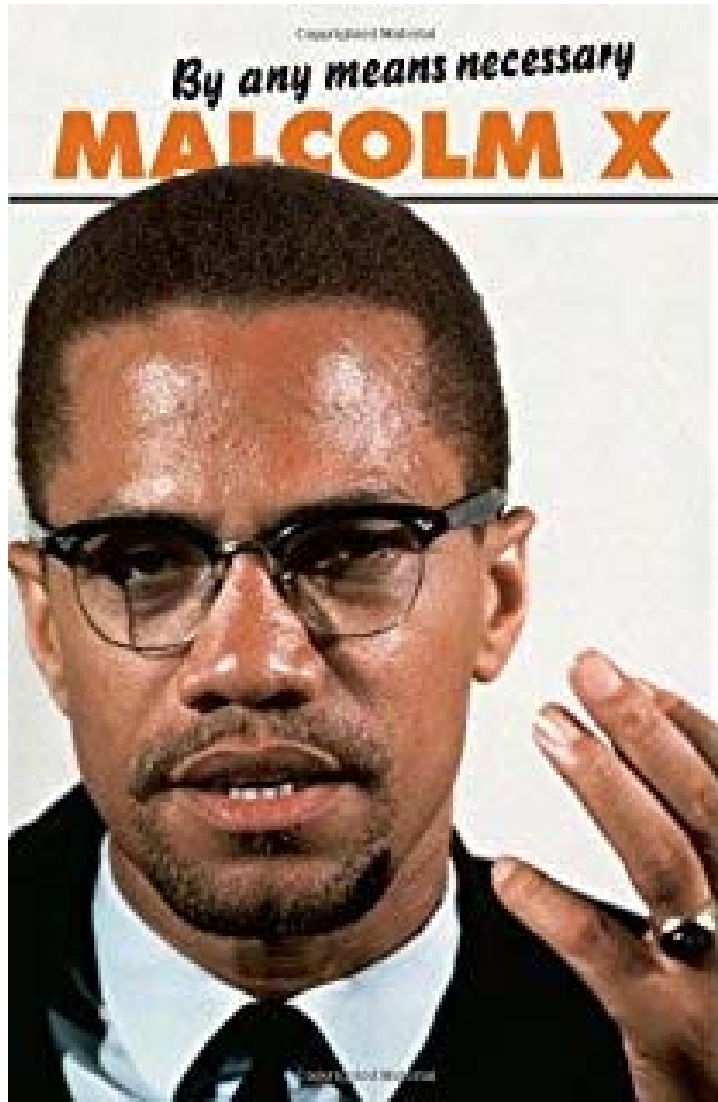
L1	Describes the sources	1-2
L2	Describes the similarities between the sources	3-4
L3	Describes the similarities between the sources, supported by evidence	5-6
L4	Cross-references with other sources, background information or own knowledge to explain the similarities of the sources	7-8

4. What can you learn from source D about James' defects? (6)

L1	Repeats information from the source	1-2
L2	Makes inferences from the source but doesn't support them with evidence	3-4
L3	Makes inferences from the source and supports them with evidence; uses quotes to back up arguments (3 good points, well explained)	5-6

5. "The evidence suggests that James would make a very good king of England." Using all the sources explain how far you agree with this statement. (12)

L1	Answers which don't use the sources	1-2
L2	Answers which talk about 'the sources' but don't use specific references	3-4
L3	Answers which use the sources to agree <i>OR</i> disagree with the question	5-8
L4	Answers which use the sources to agree <i>AND</i> disagree with the question. Bonus marks given for discussion of the reliability	9-12



Summer Assignment Extension Activity

Watch the documentary **Witnessed:
The Assassination of Malcolm X (2015)**

You may want to write notes as you watch the documentary.

Write an answer to the following question:

Was Malcolm X a radical?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AcWciYxStD4>