

Exercise walk-through

Luther and the Protestant Reformation ■ 2.2

eXercise

You must be able to

- state the central doctrinal claims at issue
- explain why the dispute could not be contained
- describe the political response of German rulers
- distinguish a doctrinal cause from a political one

Method — The doctrinal claims

Justification by faith rather than works; the authority of scripture over church tradition; and the priesthood of all believers. Each denies a power the institutional church had exercised.

Method — Why it spread

The arguments were printed in the vernacular, addressed grievances many already held, and once dispersed in quantity could not be suppressed. Condemnation gave them further publicity.

Method — The rulers' response

Some German princes adopted the reform, gaining ecclesiastical authority and church property within their territories, and gaining a principled ground for resisting imperial power.

Method — Two kinds of cause

A doctrinal cause explains why an argument was made; a political cause explains why it prevailed in a particular territory. A full answer needs both.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State two central doctrinal claims of the reform.

Solution 2.1

Method: The doctrinal claims

Worked steps

any two of: justification by faith rather than works; the authority of scripture over tradition; the priesthood of all believers **B2**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain why condemnation could increase a printed argument's reach.

Solution 2.2

Method: Why it spread

Worked steps

condemnation drew attention to the text **B1**, and copies already dispersed could not be recalled **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

A prince adopts the reform in his territory.

(a) State one gain.

(b) State whether this makes his motive purely political.

Solution 2.3

Method: Two kinds of cause

Worked steps

(a) ecclesiastical authority and church property in his territory **B1**. (b) no — a political gain does not establish that the conviction was insincere **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

“Justification by faith” denies the sufficiency of

- A** scripture
- B** works performed through the church
- C** preaching
- D** printing

Solution 3.1

Method: The doctrinal claims

- A scripture
- B works performed through the church 
- C preaching
- D printing

Worked steps

- B. faith rather than works performed through the church.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A doctrinal cause explains

- A** why the argument prevailed in one territory
- B** why the argument was made
- C** the price of printing
- D** the emperor's title

Solution 3.2

Method: Two kinds of cause

- A why the argument prevailed in one territory
- B why the argument was made** 
- C the price of printing
- D the emperor's title

Worked steps

- B. doctrine explains the content of the claim.**

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 2 marks

A full explanation of the Reformation's spread requires both doctrinal and political causes.

- (a) State what each explains.
- (b) Explain why one alone is insufficient.

Solution 3.3

Method: Two kinds of cause

Worked steps

(a) doctrine explains why the argument was made **B1**; politics explains why it prevailed where it did **B1**. (b) doctrine alone cannot explain the territorial pattern, and politics alone cannot explain the content **B1**.