

# 2.4 Wars of Religion

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ **Total: 11 marks**

**KEY WORDS** wars of religion 宗教战争

## Objective

Build the skills to explain the **wars of religion** 宗教战争.

**You must be able to:**

- state how religious division became armed conflict
- explain the role of dynastic and territorial interests
- describe how the wars were eventually settled
- avoid explaining the wars by religion alone

## 1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

### ■ From division to war

Where a ruler's religion differed from a substantial part of his subjects', or where neighbouring rulers differed, religion supplied both a grievance and a means of recruiting support across borders.

### ■ Dynastic interest

Claims to succession, territorial ambition and the balance between crowns ran alongside confession throughout. Alliances that crossed confessional lines are the clearest evidence that religion was not the only motive.

### ■ Settlement

Wars were ended by treaties that fixed which confession would prevail where, and by a principle of state sovereignty over religion within borders. The settlement solved the war by conceding the division.

## 2 Practice

**2.1** Explain how religious division supplied a means of recruiting support. [2]

**2.2** State the clearest evidence that religion was not the only motive. [2]

**2.3** A treaty fixes which confession prevails in each territory.

(a) State what the settlement conceded. [1]

(b) State what it achieved. [1]

## 3 Exam-style questions

**3.1** An alliance between rulers of different confessions indicates that [1]

- **A** religion was the only motive
- **B** dynastic or territorial interest also operated
- **C** the war had ended
- **D** neither ruler was sincere

**3.2** The settlement of the religious wars solved them by [1]

- **A** imposing one confession everywhere
- **B** conceding the division and fixing it territorially
- **C** abolishing religion
- **D** returning to 1500

**3.3** A student explains the wars entirely by doctrine.

(a) State one thing the account cannot explain.

[1]

(b) Explain what should be added.

[2]

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## Solutions

**2.1** co-religionists across borders shared a grievance, so support could be recruited beyond a ruler's own territory.

**2.2** alliances that crossed confessional lines, which cannot be explained by religion alone.

**2.3** (a) that Europe would not be religiously united. (b) it ended the fighting by making the division territorial rather than contested.

**3.1 B.** cross-confessional alliance requires another motive.

**3.2 B.** the division was fixed rather than resolved.

**3.3** (a) alliances and conflicts that cut across confessional lines. (b) dynastic and territorial interests, which operated alongside confession throughout.