

## 2.6 16th-Century Society and Politics

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total: 12 marks**

### Objective

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Build the skills to explain **society and politics** in the sixteenth century.

**You must be able to:**

- describe the effects of population growth and price inflation
- state how religious division affected communities
- explain the position of women in the period's debates
- connect economic strain to political disorder

### 1 Worked examples

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

#### ■ Population and prices

Population recovery increased demand for food and land while output rose more slowly; American silver added to the money supply. The result was sustained inflation that hurt wage earners and those on fixed rents.

#### ■ Division in communities

Where confession divided a town, it divided guilds, marriages, office-holding and charity. Religious difference became a social fact governing everyday transactions, not only a matter of belief.

#### ■ Women

Reform debates touched marriage, clerical celibacy, education and household authority. Some traditions gave women a role in household religious instruction; formal authority in church and state remained closed.

#### ■ Strain and disorder

Rising prices, land pressure and confessional division together produced revolt and disorder in several regions. Naming the combination is stronger than naming any one alone.

## 2 Practice

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**2.1** State two causes of sixteenth-century price inflation. [2]

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**2.2** Explain how confessional division affected everyday life in a town. [2]

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**2.3** A region experiences revolt.

(a) Name two contributing pressures. [2]

(b) State why naming both is stronger than naming one. [1]

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## 3 Exam-style questions

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**3.1** Sustained inflation hurt most [1]

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** landowners charging market rents
  - B** wage earners and those on fixed rents
  - C** merchants trading in bullion
  - D** nobody

**3.2** Religious division became a social fact because it governed [1]

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** belief only
  - B** guilds, marriages, office-holding and charity
  - C** the weather
  - D** foreign policy only

**3.3** Reform debates touched household authority.

(a) State one area in which women's role was discussed. [1]

(b) Explain what remained closed. [2]

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