

2.6 16th-Century Society and Politics

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 12 marks**

Objective

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

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

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

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

2.3 A region experiences revolt.

(a) Name two contributing pressures. [2]

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

3 Exam-style questions

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]
