

3.1 Contextualizing State Building

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

Objective

Build the skills to write the **context** for seventeenth-century state building.

You must be able to:

- name the pressures that pushed rulers to strengthen the state
- explain why war drove administrative change
- state the two models the century produced
- avoid narrating reigns instead of naming conditions

1 Worked examples

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

■ The pressures

Prolonged warfare, religious division within realms, fiscal shortfall, and revolt. Each pushed rulers toward more reliable revenue and more direct control.

■ War and administration

Larger and longer wars required money on a scale that occasional grants could not supply. Permanent taxation required permanent administration, and permanent administration is what distinguishes the century's states from their predecessors.

■ Two models

One route concentrated authority in the crown; another distributed it between crown and representative institutions. The century produced both, in neighbouring realms, from similar pressures.

2 Practice

2.1 Name three pressures that pushed rulers to strengthen the state.

[3]

2.2 Explain why war produced permanent administration. [2]

2.3 Two neighbouring realms respond to similar pressures differently.

(a) State what this shows. [1]

(b) State what an explanation must therefore include. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Permanent taxation required [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** occasional grants
B permanent administration
C fewer officials
D no records

3.2 That similar pressures produced different outcomes shows [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** the pressures were imaginary
B other factors determined which route was taken
C the outcomes were identical
D war was irrelevant

3.3 A context paragraph lists four pressures and stops.

(a) State what is missing. [1]

(b) Explain why it matters. [2]
