

Exercise walk-through

16th-Century Society and Politics ■ 2.6

eXercise

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

Method — 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.

Method — 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.

Method — 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.

Method — 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.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State two causes of sixteenth-century price inflation.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

any two of: population recovery raising demand faster than output; American silver adding to the money supply; pressure on land **B2**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain how confessional division affected everyday life in a town.

Solution 2.2

Method: Division in communities

Worked steps

it divided guilds, marriages, office-holding and charity **B1**, so confession governed ordinary transactions rather than belief alone **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

A region experiences revolt.

- (a) Name two contributing pressures.
- (b) State why naming both is stronger than naming one.

Solution 2.3

Method: Strain and disorder

Worked steps

(a) any two of: rising prices; pressure on land; confessional division **B2**. (b) the combination explains the timing and location better than any single pressure **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Sustained inflation hurt most

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

Solution 3.1

Method: Population and prices

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



Worked steps

B. incomes fixed in money lose value as prices rise.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Religious division became a social fact because it governed

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

Solution 3.2

Method: Division in communities

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

Worked steps

- B. it governed the institutions of daily life.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

Reform debates touched household authority.

- (a) State one area in which women's role was discussed.
- (b) Explain what remained closed.

Solution 3.3

Method: Women

Worked steps

(a) household religious instruction, marriage, or education **B1**. (b) formal authority in church and state **B1**, which remained closed to women throughout the period **B1**.