

2.2 Luther and the Protestant Reformation

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 11 marks

KEY WORDS protestant reformation 新教改革

Objective

Build the skills to explain the **Protestant Reformation** 新教改革 in Germany.

You must be able to:

- state the central doctrinal claims at issue
- explain why the dispute could not be contained
- describe the political response of German rulers
- distinguish a doctrinal cause from a political one

1 Worked examples

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

■ The doctrinal claims

Justification by faith rather than works; the authority of scripture over church tradition; and the priesthood of all believers. Each denies a power the institutional church had exercised.

■ Why it spread

The arguments were printed in the vernacular, addressed grievances many already held, and once dispersed in quantity could not be suppressed. Condemnation gave them further publicity.

■ The rulers' response

Some German princes adopted the reform, gaining ecclesiastical authority and church property within their territories, and gaining a principled ground for resisting imperial power.

■ Two kinds of cause

A doctrinal cause explains why an argument was made; a political cause explains why it prevailed in a particular territory. A full answer needs both.

2 Practice

2.1 State two central doctrinal claims of the reform. [2]

2.2 Explain why condemnation could increase a printed argument's reach. [2]

2.3 A prince adopts the reform in his territory.

(a) State one gain. [1]

(b) State whether this makes his motive purely political. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 "Justification by faith" denies the sufficiency of [1]

- **A** scripture
 - **B** works performed through the church
 - **C** preaching
 - **D** printing
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3.2 A doctrinal cause explains [1]

- **A** why the argument prevailed in one territory
 - **B** why the argument was made
 - **C** the price of printing
 - **D** the emperor's title
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3.3 A full explanation of the Reformation's spread requires both doctrinal and political causes.

(a) State what each explains. [2]

(b) Explain why one alone is insufficient.

[1]

Solutions

2.1 any two of: justification by faith rather than works; the authority of scripture over tradition; the priesthood of all believers.

2.2 condemnation drew attention to the text, and copies already dispersed could not be recalled.

2.3 (a) ecclesiastical authority and church property in his territory. (b) no — a political gain does not establish that the conviction was insincere.

3.1 B. faith rather than works performed through the church.

3.2 B. doctrine explains the content of the claim.

3.3 (a) doctrine explains why the argument was made; politics explains why it prevailed where it did. (b) doctrine alone cannot explain the territorial pattern, and politics alone cannot explain the content.