Section 1: The main causes of rebellion and disorder

Page 11, Develop the detail
Dynastic rebellions were a cause of unrest throughout the period to a limited extent. This was because the Tudor regime became more secure as the period progressed. There was a lot of dynastic unrest at the start of the period with challenges from the Yorkists and Pretenders. The reign of Henry VII saw the most dynastic unrest as there were attempts to remove the Tudors, with attempts from Lovell and Stafford, and also Simnel and Warbeck, but there was also dynastic unrest under the later Tudor rulers, with Northumberland’s attempt to prevent Mary’s accession, although the challenge was not as serious. There were also attempts to alter the succession, even if it was not to remove the Tudors, as happened with the Pilgrims’ attempt to restore Mary to the succession.

Page 11, Turning assertion into argument
Dynastic problems were a major cause of unrest during the reign of Henry VII because of Henry VII’s weak claim to the throne and the survival of a number of Yorkists with stronger claims. However, their importance declined as the period progressed because the Tudors were able to remove the Yorkists.

Although dynastic issues were still a cause of unrest in Elizabeth I’s reign as she was seen as illegitimate by some Catholics who wanted Mary Queen of Scots to rule.

Page 13, Spot the mistake
It is a mistake because the paragraph deals with only the Yorkshire rebellion. There is no comparison with other taxation rebellions and therefore, even if there is an argument, it cannot get beyond Level 1b. The answer needs to compare the Yorkshire rising with the Cornish and Amicable Grant to show evidence of continuity.

Page 15, Develop the detail
Religion was a cause of rebellion only during the middle part of the period, from 1536 to 1569. It was only when Henry VIII introduced religious changes, such as the Dissolution of the Monasteries, that it became a cause of unrest as before then the country was religiously united. Religion was a particularly important cause of the Pilgrimage of Grace under Henry VIII, as the rebels complained about the closure of the smaller monasteries and the loss of holy days, although there were other causes of this rebellion, such as taxation, as well. It continued to be an important cause of rebellion under Edward VI, most notably in the Western Rebellion, where the rebels wanted to reverse the changes he had introduced, particularly the introduction of a Protestant Prayer Book. However, it was also a minor cause of Kett’s rebellion, where the rebels complained about the clergy and their quality. The last rebellion where religion was important was the rebellion of the Northern Earls, who had similar religious symbols, such as the banner of the Five Wounds, as the Pilgrims and restored traditional practices, with the mass being said in Durham Cathedral. However, after this rebellion religion played no further role in causing unrest, unlike other factors which remained a cause throughout the period.

Page 17, Developing an argument
Factional unrest affected every Tudor monarch. Henry VII faced challenges from the Yorkist faction following his victory at Bosworth. Simnel and his 3000 mercenaries fought Henry at Stoke and there was further factional conflict with Warbeck and Lovell and Stafford. However, although these rebellions sometimes led to battle, the number of rebels was often small and therefore presented a limited threat. There were also taxation rebellions in Yorkshire and Cornwall, which attracted considerable support. These rebellions forced the government to abandon the taxes. Factional unrest continued under Henry VIII; however, faction had become a subsidiary issue as the large-scale rising against the Amicable Grant was mainly aimed at the prevention of further taxes, but it also attacked the king’s chief minister, Wolsey. The 40,000 who rose in the Pilgrimage of Grace were mostly concerned by religious changes but also attacked Cromwell and attempted to restore the influence of Catherine of Aragon’s supporters. Similarly the factional unrest later in the period attracted limited support; Wyatt’s rebellion, which attracted 5000, was a response to the Spanish marriage and fears that courtiers would lose their positions.

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Elizabeth’s reign the Northern Earls rose with 5000 men, but fled when royal forces approached. Essex raised a few hundred men in his protest against his loss of influence. The city of London did not rise to support him. Therefore, although factional unrest continued throughout the period, it did not attract large-scale support and at times was often only a subsidiary cause of unrest.

Page 21, Identify an argument
Sample 1 contains the argument.

Section 2: The frequency and nature of disturbances

Page 27, Develop the detail
Many rebellions throughout the period attempted to seize regional capitals, such as York, Exeter or Norwich. Regional capitals were administrative centres and their seizure presented a direct challenge to the government who would have to send in troops to regain control as happened in 1549 when Norwich was taken by Kett. Regional capitals were often the seats of the local bishops and in religious protests the rebels wanted to control these as happened in both 1536 with York and 1569 with Durham. However, they were not always successful in taking them, even when they laid siege to them as happened with Exeter in 1549. It was not just regional capitals that the rebels attempted to seize, many rebellions, such as Wyatt’s and Essex, attempted to take the capital city itself because it was the centre of government. The situation in Ireland was very different as the rebel tactics were not the same and the seizure of major towns or cities did not occur.

Page 29, Delete as applicable
To a fair extent 1549 was the most important turning point in the nature of Tudor rebellions from 1485 to 1603. Some rebellions in the period before 1549 lasted a few months. This was particularly noticeable with the Pilgrimage of Grace which lasted two months and was similar to the major disturbances of Kett and the Western Rebellion in 1549. The Oxfordshire rising of 1596 and Essex rebellion in 1601 were much shorter in length. However, Irish rebellions, which became more frequent in the period after 1549, challenge this view as they sometimes lasted for a number of years. In this way, to a fair extent 1549 was the most important turning point in the nature of Tudor rebellions from 1485 to 1603 because in England the duration of rebellions generally declined, but this was not the case in Ireland.

Page 21, Turning assertion into argument
Enclosure was a significant cause of social and economic unrest because it led to widespread unrest across many counties as in 1549.

However, in many social and economic rebellions enclosure was often just the trigger because there were underlying causes such as the rise in prices or exploitation by the landlord.

Also, enclosure unrest often failed to raise large numbers because they were often protests in response to localised events, as with Oxfordshire in 1596.

Page 29, Turning assertion into argument
During the first half of the period the Tudor monarchy had been challenged by the Yorkists, but in the second half of the period this threat had been removed because most of the Yorkists had been killed.

During the period after 1536 religious changes had caused unrest but after 1559 this declined because of the moderate nature of Elizabeth’s Church Settlement.

Also the increased use of parliament meant that unrest was reduced because legislation was passed that dealt with many of the causes of social and economic disquiet.

Page 31, Complete the paragraph
Although many nobles were more reluctant to engage in rebellion, there were those for whom rebellion was their only way of restoring their position and economic fortune. This point is supported by the fact that during the reign of Elizabeth individual nobles such as Westmorland, Northumberland and Essex led rebellions against the monarch. These nobles felt they were losing power and had little to lose; the Northern Earls had lost control of the wardships of the Marches and Essex had lost his monopoly over sweet wine. Although they were able to attract support from some other nobles such as Southampton and Rutland, they were not able to attract popular support with the Northern Earls raising only 5000 men. In comparison,
the government was able to rely on the support of most of
the nobility. In the Northern Earls rebellion, Hunsdon,
Huntingdon and Sussex were able to raise troops, which
forced the Northern Earls to flee and this can be
contrasted with the Pilgrimage of Grace earlier in the
period. Although there was something of a change in
the number of nobles involved in rebellion and the scale of
those risings, the later period still witnessed noble unrest.

Page 33, Identify an argument
Sample 2 contains the argument.

Page 35, Spot the mistake
There is no synthesis within the paragraph; although two
religiously motivated rebellions are mentioned they are
not compared for similarity or difference.

Page 35, Eliminate irrelevance
Many Tudor rebellions wanted to reverse government
policies. This was particularly true of religiously
motivated rebellions where the rebels wanted to stop religious
innovation, such as in the Pilgrimage of Grace where they
wanted to preserve traditional religious practices, for
e.g., saints’ days and holy days. This was similar in
the Western Rebellion which was caused by the
introduction of the new Prayer Book. Similarly, the rebels
in the rebellion of the Northern Earls were concerned by the
establishment of a Protestant regime in the north. However, in
contrast Kett’s rebels wanted to increase the moves
towards Protestantism and wanted the government to
ensure priests were resident and could teach the people.

Page 37, Delete as applicable
Some Tudor rebellions were badly organised. For
example, the leadership of the Northern Earls rebellion
was similar to that of all rebellions to a fair extent in that
it lacked commitment from the rebels and was poorly
informed. In contrast, Aske was similar to some of the
other rebel leaders in ensuring that the Pilgrim rebels did
not disperse and that order was maintained within the
forces assembled. In Kett’s rebellion he was able to exert a
considerable degree of control through the issuing of
warrants. In conclusion, the examples of the Northern
Earls, Aske and Kett show that organisation of Tudor
rebellions was sometimes poor in the sense that whilst
some were poorly organised others were very well
organised and controlled.

Section 3 The impact of disturbances on
Tudor governments

Page 45, Develop the detail
When the government discovered that there was trouble,
talks were often held between the monarch and
councillors to decide what action to take and this could
delay their response to the unrest. Henry VII consulted
his trusted household servants or called a meeting of
nobles in a Great Council to decide what to do about
the invasion of Simnel; this was different to Elizabeth
and Mary who relied on secretaries and councillors
to devise strategy. However, Henry VIII also left
similar problems for his ministers, such as Wolsey and
Cromwell, to deal with. Somerset on the other hand
adopted a different approach and failed to consult his
councillors. Consultation and information gathering
were lengthy processes, as the government wanted to
know all the details about the unrest in order to decide
what action to take. There were often delays in gathering
information and this made the government appear slow.

Page 45, Turning assertion into
argument
Some Tudor governments had problems gathering
information because communication with peripheral
regions was slow.

However, Henry VII’s use of spies was successful because
he had spies in European courts.

Also the significant use of spies under Elizabeth helped as it
kept her informed of the movements of Mary
Queen of Scots and led to a decline in unrest.

Page 49, Complete the paragraph
Henry VII’s treatment of rebels was similar to that of
Mary Tudor. Although rebels who engaged in treasonous
activities knew that the penalty was death, not all rebels
were put to death. As a consequence some potential rebels
had bonds and recognisances imposed upon them. Mary
Tudor was also lenient in her treatment of rebels after
Wyatt’s rebellion, pardoning over 600. However, Henry
VIII, Edward VI and Elizabeth I were harsh in their
treatment of rebels. After both the Pilgrimage of Grace in
1536 and the Western Rebellion of 1549 over 100 rebels
were put to death, but after the rising of the Northern
Earls in 1569 over 450 rebels were hanged and, even after
the minor Oxfordshire rising of 1596, Elizabeth put all
five ringleaders to death. It would therefore be fair to
conclude that some monarchs were harsh in their
treatment of rebels, with Henry VIII and
Elizabeth particularly harsh, whereas Henry VII
and Mary were more lenient.
Page 49, Identify an argument
Sample 1 contains the argument.

Page 51, Spot the mistake
The answer considers only developments in the reign of Henry VII, but as this is a synoptic paper examples must be drawn from across the period and comparisons made.

Page 53, Develop the detail
Perhaps the most notable area where royal authority was strengthened in response to rebellion was in the peripheral counties of the north. The north was a dangerous area for the Tudors. This was clearly seen in the reigns of both Henry VIII and Elizabeth I who took action to improve royal control by reforming the Council of the North after the Pilgrimage of Grace and the rebellion of the Northern Earls. The monarchs were concerned to bring in men who they could trust. Elizabeth brought in the Earl of Huntingdon who had no connections with the area and remove those who were less reliable, particularly Catholic JPs, even if they had not been involved in unrest, and this was done in a number of areas of local government. This often meant that men of a lower social status, who owed their power to the monarch, were brought in, most notably under Henry VIII as deputy wardens to replace those who had influence in the area. Some monarchs went even further and visited it, as Henry VIII did after the Pilgrimage of Grace, but this was not a regular feature.

Page 55, Turning assertion into argument
Rebellions were a threat to Tudor governments in so far as some rebellions were able to raise large numbers and attract foreign support.

However, it was dynastic rebellions that were the greatest threat because their ultimate aim was the removal of the monarch.

Moreover, foreign support made these challenges greater because mercenaries or trained soldiers were supplied by the foreign powers.

Section 4 The maintenance of political stability

Page 59, Identify an argument
Sample 2 contains the argument.

Page 59, Turning assertion into argument
The institution of the monarchy was important in the maintenance of political stability because they had ultimate authority as they were appointed by God and any rebellion against them was a sin.

Moreover, monarchs worked hard to enhance their respect and aura because they relied on patronage and rewards to maintain support.

However, they were also dependent upon the support of the nobility because the nobles were able to raise forces to help put down unrest.

Page 61, Develop the detail
The Church was an important institution in the maintenance of stability. At the coronation of every monarch they were anointed with holy oil; a clear sign of the link between the Church and state. This link continued as many Tudor monarchs used bishops as administrators and for advice; Henry VII used Fox and Warham, whilst Henry VIII used Cuthbert Tunstall. Some monarchs appointed bishops to very high office, with Henry VIII using Rowland Lee to run the Council of Wales, a clear sign of their dependence on them in the government of the kingdom. This process continued for much of the period, although the second half of the period saw less use made of bishops as administrators. The Church was also able to support the monarch by threatening or actually excommunicating any who fought against the king at the Battle of Stoke or those involved in Simnel’s invasion or the Cornish fight at Blackheath.

Page 67, Complete the paragraph
The nobility were important in maintaining stability in the peripheral regions of the country, particularly the north. Some families, such as the Percys, owned large amounts of land and were therefore able to rule as petty kings. With the number of tenants they were able to raise considerable forces, making them indispensable in the maintenance of order. Successive monarchs sought to bring such families under control through Acts against livery and maintenance or by appointing local gentry, who owed their office to the crown, to key jobs. As Lord Lieutenants or as presidents of regional councils the nobility were vital, acting as the principal upholders of order. The nobility were therefore important throughout the period in the maintenance of stability in the peripheral areas, whether in raising troops to keep order or ensuring that disorder did not develop.
Page 67, Delete as applicable

To a limited extent, the importance of the nobility changed in the maintenance of stability in the period. Henry VII was to a fair extent reliant upon his nobility for the maintenance of stability. The nobility were very important in putting down unrest as was seen by both the Simnel and Cornish risings. This pattern stayed the same under Henry VIII when dealing with the Pilgrimage of Grace where nobles such as Norfolk were important in negotiating with the rebels. During the reigns of Edward and Elizabeth the role of the nobility in putting down disorder stayed the same with the use of Russell in 1549 and Sussex in 1569. However, the nobility were also a cause of unrest; seen most noticeably in the reigns of Henry VII and Elizabeth when they led rebellions. Overall, to a fair extent, the importance of the nobility changed in the maintenance of stability in the period because they became involved in rebellions only when they were desperate and were more likely to be involved in their suppression.

Page 71, Turning assertion into argument

Respect for authority was important to Tudor governments because they did not have a standing army or police force. Changing attitudes to disorder were also essential in maintaining stability because they encouraged people to use litigation rather than disorder to settle disputes.