

Edexcel – AS GCE Unit 1: Historical Themes in Breadth Option B	B1 Luther, Lutheranism and the German Reformation, 1517–55	Essay Question 1
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Examiner's Specific Advice

Points 1–4 below provide a shape for an answer at Level 5.

1. The focus of this question is corruption in the Catholic Church prior to 1517.
2. The question asks you to make a judgement *as to the accuracy of the opinion about the main cause of the German Reformation*. Without this judgement, Level 5 will not be achieved. If you say that there were many causes of the Reformation in Germany prior to 1517 and do not make an evaluation as to which one was the main cause, then Level 5 will probably not be achieved. An evaluation requires you to consider, in this case, the various causes which contributed to the Reformation in Germany. In making this judgement you need to make reference to the level of accuracy of the opinion, and whether over time the opinion is less, or more, accurate. This is the focus for the style of your essay. You must aim to draw firm conclusions on the question.
3. Answers at Level 5 also require you to show:
 - a) explicit understanding of the key issues (causes of the German Reformation)
 - b) a broad balance of reference to the key issues, (e.g. you should evaluate several factors which in your view caused the Reformation in Germany).
4. Finally, Level 5 demands that you show your understanding by using factual information which should be:
 - a) accurate
 - b) relevant
 - c) appropriately selected – you have a limited amount of time so you cannot expect to include everything.

In this context, you should beware of straying beyond 1517 and Germany. A successful answer will only focus on the causes of the Reformation in Germany.

Tips for your plan: The key words in the question are '*corruption in the Church*' and '*German Reformation*'.

Introduction: This needs to reflect the timeline, individuals, key issues and style of the question.

Main body of the essay: Each paragraph ideally should offer some analysis/evaluation of the information in terms of the question. Try to select at least three relevant points/large topics which can be used to illustrate your understanding of the question.

The conclusion should pull the essay together with an evaluation of the relative importance of the various issues discussed.

Exemplar Question

How accurate is it to say that corruption in the Church was the main cause of the German Reformation? **[30 marks]**

Planning Your Response

To achieve Level 5 in the mark scheme your answer must *directly address* the focus of the question.

Plan

- Introduction: reference to the beginning of the German Reformation and other relevant factors, reference to the question
- A range of relevant factors: role of Martin Luther and 95 Theses; intellectual challenge of Humanists; role of the Papacy; anti-clericalism; treatment of Germany by Roman Catholic Church
- Conclusion: assessment of the causes of the German Reformation in terms of their relative importance

Examiner's Exemplar Answer 1

The German Reformation began when Martin Luther pinned his 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg. He was angered by Friar Tetzel who was selling Indulgences on behalf of the Pope in 1517. Martin Luther was complaining about corruption in the church and Tetzel's visit just brought things to a head for him. It would be accurate to say that it was corruption that was the main cause of the reformation (1).

Johann Tetzel was a Dominican friar and he is a famous name in the birth of the German Reformation. He had been given permission by Pope Leo X to sell Indulgences to make some money for the repairs needed for St Peter's in Rome. These were a bit like paper certificates which told the purchaser that their sins would be forgiven. Tetzel appeared to be selling these documents to anyone who was prepared to buy one and in so doing he appeared to be paying less attention to whether or not the person was genuinely sorry for the sin they had committed. This was a decline in church standards for some observers including Martin Luther. Friar Tetzel entered towns amidst great pomp and ceremony and gave a passionate sermon which seemed to be more a clever sales pitch designed to get people to part with their money rather than a spiritual moment which would shorten a person's stay in purgatory. Despite his questionable practices in 1517 he was appointed as a doctor of Theology at Frankfurt University the following year. His influence came to an end in 1519 when he died (2).

Martin Luther trained as a lawyer and he then switched to the priesthood after surviving a terrible thunderstorm. He had promised to do this if his life was spared. As a priest he found that the church's rituals were tiresome. He retreated to read the Bible and experienced what has been called a 'tower moment'. The tower moment came when he read St Paul's Letter to the Romans and he was struck by the phrase 'The righteous shall live by faith'. Luther's views shifted and he began to believe that 'sola fide' was the route for a soul to reach heaven. This challenged the traditional teachings of the church with regard to good works such as pilgrimages, charitable donations such as buying an indulgence and worshipping saints. Luther now saw these practices as corrupt (3).

Many people felt that the Catholic Church was riddled with corruption. Priests were not well educated and spent their time trying to make money for themselves by taxing their parishioners. This was probably because they were expected to pay large sums of money to the Pope –

(1) The introduction needs to reflect the timeline, individuals, key issues and style of the question. This introduction is focused on the question.

(2) A relevant factor is introduced: Friar Tetzel and the Sale of Indulgences. The style is descriptive about the sale of Indulgences and it does not link explicitly to the question.

(3) Another relevant factor: Martin Luther and his 'tower moment'. The link back to the question is implicit at best.

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especially Annates which were the first year's income in full. The abuses which surfaced most were simony – the sale of church posts or sacred objects to the highest bidder rather than the best qualified; nepotism – giving posts to friends and family rather than the best candidates; pluralism, whereby priests held more than one post at a time; and absenteeism which meant that priests were absent from their post for extended periods. The people of Germany were no exception in being opposed to these abuses so it would be accurate to say that they were a main cause of the German Reformation (4).

The Papacy did not really set a good example either. For example, the integrity of the church was dragged down by three Popes in particular. Rodrigo Borgia became Alexander VI (1492–1503) and he invited prostitutes to parties at the Vatican and he had a son called Cesare Borgia and a daughter called Lucrezia which is a sign of corruption as Catholic Churchmen were supposed to be celibate. Giuliano Della Rovere became Julius II (1503–13); he was also known as the 'Warrior Pope' because he was addicted to war. He was also rumoured to be homosexual. Finally, Giovanni de Medici became Leo X (1513–21) and he used simony to great effect and he was very keen on the Sale of Indulgences to make masses of money to repair St Peter's in Rome. It was this abuse which fuelled Luther's complaints in 1517 and many other Germans agreed that this widespread abuse had to stop. This was a main reason for the Reformation in Germany (5).

People in Germany were also getting fed up with the Pope always being Italian and nearly all the Cardinals were too. People in Germany began to feel that foreigners were running Germany especially when almost one-fifth of Germany was controlled by virtually independent bishops and archbishops (6).

So there were many reasons why corruption in the Catholic Church was the main cause of the German Reformation (7).

Examiner's Assessment

This answer is patchy as it is not entirely descriptive but it does not relate sufficiently well to the focus of the question to put it safely into Level 4. There is an attempt to analyse which is consistent with mid to high Level 3. Some of the paragraphs do not link explicitly to the question. However, it does show some awareness of the question and the information is relevant and accurate.

(4) Another relevant factor: corruption in the church. You are required to include relevant and accurate information to demonstrate your understanding. There are some attempts to link back to the question. The style of the answer is descriptive.

(5) This is a descriptive paragraph. The topic is relevant and could be turned to focus on the question. In this instance there is an attempt to link to the question but the development is weak.

(6) This is a weak paragraph. It raises a valid factor about Italian domination of the Church, but it is not developed in terms of the question.

(7) The conclusion does not really tie up the points of the question that have been raised in the essay. The judgement is far too brief.

There is a lack of depth and range of factors which keep this answer at Level 3.

Examiner's Exemplar Answer 2

The German Reformation was triggered when the priest Martin Luther pinned a document to the church door of the University of Wittenberg in 1517. This document was The 95 Theses which became a symbol of the German Reformation, triggered theological debate in the Empire and catapulted Luther onto a collision course with the Pope and the Holy Roman Emperor. The 95 Theses were in effect a list of 95 complaints about Catholic Church corruption, the intention of Luther was to stimulate debate and he certainly achieved that. Corruption in the church, in the shape of the Sale of Indulgences by Friar Tetzel, caused Luther to make a personal protest in 1517 but this may be a simplistic interpretation of the main cause of the German Reformation. Other factors such as the political make-up of the Holy Roman Empire and the climate of intellectual challenge to the teachings of the Catholic Church should also be considered as causes of the German Reformation (8).

In essence The 95 Theses were complaining about corruption in the Catholic Church. The focus of Luther's ire was Friar Tetzel's visit in 1517 to sell Indulgences on behalf of the Pope to raise money for the rebuilding of St Peter's in Rome. However, Luther's religious views had begun to challenge established Catholic teachings as a result of personal circumstances – surviving a terrifying thunder storm in 1505, entry into the priesthood in 1507 and a period of theological study which brought him to his 'tower' moment in 1516. The emergence of Luther's belief that 'faith alone' aided a soul on its way to heaven was caused by his reading of St Paul's Epistle to the Romans and his interpretation of the phrase 'The righteous shall live by faith alone'. Having reached this conclusion, it was then the logical next step for Luther to question pilgrimages, charitable donations, worshipping Saints i.e. good works. The timing of Tetzel's visit came at a point when Luther had begun to put his thoughts into words. So it is accurate to say that corruption triggered Luther's personal actions in 1517 but corruption had not caused Luther's original thinking about 'sola fide' (9).

It is important to consider the state of the Catholic Church prior to 1517. The average man was relatively content with the teachings of the Catholic Church. There seemed to be widespread acceptance of papal authority and the seven sacraments and the purchase of

(8) The introduction needs to reflect the timeline, individuals, key issues and style of the question, as shown here.

(9) This paragraph looks at the trigger for the German Reformation: Luther's 95 Theses and the link to corruption. The level of detail is appropriate for Level 5 with an explicit link to the question.

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Indulgences to reduce the time spent in Purgatory. In other words, at this level at the time of Luther's personal protest there was no widespread condemnation of corruption in the Catholic Church. The evidence for this comes from the fact that despite Huss and Wycliffe making criticism public, it did not grip the wider public's imagination. Maybe the fear of what might happen to one's soul if the Pope was criticised was an effective block to challenge at this level.

Having said this, by 1517, a climate of intellectual challenge to the teachings of the Church was certainly building up as a result of the work of Wycliffe, Huss and humanists such as Erasmus. Certainly in academic circles it is possible to see criticism of corruption in the Catholic Church taking hold. In this respect, Luther did not lead the way. Scholars like Wycliffe and Huss had already been branded as heretics by the Catholic Church before 1517. The nature of their heresy was more of opening up theological debate on the Bible and to place more emphasis on the individual's need for inward reflection rather than an attempt to shatter Rome's position because of corruption. Certainly common strands with Luther's personal protest were evident – Huss, like Luther, challenged the spiritual value of Indulgences and Devotio Moderna also stressed the significance of inward reflection for the individual. If anything, the challenges posed by humanists such as Erasmus were an attempt to encourage the Catholic Church to go 'back to basics' which at face value could be seen as a force for good. However it was the response of the Church, led by the Papacy, which propelled these debates into 'heretical thoughts'. It might be fair to say that the Papacy itself was less robust and sure in defence of its practices than heretics had expected. Hence the Papacy could be held accountable for creating a toxic atmosphere between Rome and would-be reformers. In this context it is accurate to say that it was not corruption in itself that was a long-term cause of the Reformation but rather the defensive and negative position initially taken by the Church, led by the Papacy, to theological debate about Church rituals (10).

With Papal rebuttal of theological debate it is easy to see why the critical gaze then zoomed in on the Papacy itself. It is this gaze which revealed the 'corruption' of Leo X (1475-1521) for example. As a result of the observations of the Venetian Ambassador, who had privileged access to the Papacy, the stories about Leo's 'pleasure-seeking' began to circulate. They were substantiated by the visual evidence of his parades around Rome with jesters and a pet white elephant. Questions would then follow about how such a lifestyle was paid for. The concluding view

(10) This paragraph is about intellectual challenge: another cause of the German Reformation. The assessment of the accuracy of the stated factor in comparison with others as being responsible for the German Reformation is made, so it achieves Level 5. This directly addresses the focus of the question.

was that the lifestyle was maintained through the Sale of Indulgences along with the auctioning of church offices. It is the linkage of the theological debate regarding the Sale of Indulgences as an effective means to aid salvation and the apparently corrupt behaviour of Leo X which fuelled the momentum for attack to a more widespread level, rather than corruption itself. It is accurate to say that Papal corruption alone was not sufficient to be a main cause of the German Reformation as it was removed from the experience of most people in Germany, but when harnessed to the issue of the Sale of Indulgences and their spiritual value, it is possible to identify another long-term cause of the German Reformation which is linked to corruption (11).

It was the behaviour of the Papacy towards Germany as part of the Holy Roman Empire which sharpened nationalistic feelings and caused the German Reformation to develop political dimensions. Power was shared between the Pope through what was termed his 'religious sword' and the Emperor who would involve himself in politics – the 'secular sword'. However the situation was complicated by the fact that Germany, as part of the Holy Roman Empire, was actually a network of free towns and Imperial cities. Many were controlled by powerful magnates and they sat alongside the seven Electors many of whom were Bishops. It was clear to many by 1500 that because of the political jigsaw in Germany that the Church was exploiting Germany more than anywhere else in Europe. Taxation was high, nepotism was rife and deals between the Elector Archbishops of Cologne, Mainz and Trier with Rome were not unknown. Many in Germany began to feel that the Church was full of Italian dignitaries and at the Diet of Augsburg in 1518 the Pope was referred to as a 'hellhound'. It is not surprising that as Luther began to take on the Papacy through theological debate that others could see how his ideas could legitimise political change in Germany. If corruption was a cause of the German Reformation it would be more accurate to say that it was the German experience rather than stories from Rome which stiffened resolve (12).

Prior to 1517, anti-clericalism in Germany was evident as a response to corruption and abuse of power at parish level and it was certainly a cause of the birth of the German Reformation for some. For the ordinary man, the parish priest was probably the most important person he would meet from the Catholic Church. The role of the priest was crucial for a man to ensure that his parishioners would avoid hell. The price the priest extracted from his parishioners for this was high – he could charge a tenth of income (tithe) from a man each year. It was unfortunate that these parish priests also

(11) This shows another factor: the corruption of Pope Leo X. Level 5 also requires that you show explicit understanding of key issues. Here, it is the link between Papal corruption and the Sale of Indulgences. You must aim to draw firm conclusions on the question as you progress through the essay.

(12) Another factor is written about: the behaviour of the Papacy towards Germany. Level 5 requires you to include relevant and accurate information to demonstrate your understanding. In this answer, explicit reference is made to the division of power in Germany and this is developed to directly address the question. You must aim to draw firm conclusions on the question as you progress through the essay.

allowed all sorts of abuses to occur e.g. simony, nepotism, pluralism and absenteeism were the most common. The result was a growing anti-clericalism at parish level. The lack of response by the Papacy to these abuses, mainly because of the political costs linked to the increasingly political role of the Papacy, meant that anti-clericalism at local level was evident at the time when Luther made his personal protest in 1517. So in that sense it is accurate to say that parish corruption was a reason why ordinary people connected to Luther's 95 Theses and helped the birth of the German Reformation. It is also worth noting that anti-clericalism was more prevalent than heresy in 1517, so it was a more important factor in causing the German Reformation to spread at parish level (13).

It is clear that by 1517 there was recognition by those in power in Germany that corruption in the Catholic Church was widespread and that Germans were bearing much of the financial burden. The personal protest of Martin Luther was a trigger which offered a religious alternative. This was coupled with the inability of the Papacy to react positively to criticism which fuelled the anger. Together they set the underlying sentiments in motion to bring about the Reformation in Germany. Corruption in the church was seen as the root of the problems and there seemed to be little prospect of change, so in this sense it would be accurate to say it was the main cause of the Reformation in Germany (14).

Examiner's Assessment

This essay reaches Level 5 because:

- it addresses the question directly throughout
- it is analytical in its approach
- it is broadly balanced in its references to corruption and the other causes of the German Reformation – although the range of factors is slightly limited
- it attempts to make an assessment of whether 'corruption alone' is the main cause, or whether corruption needs to be linked to other factors such as the Sale of Indulgences – this shows an attempt to link the factors
- it includes accurate material which has been appropriately selected (it does not try to include everything) and is linked to the question
- it shows an argument running through the essay – a range of factors are considered with detailed and precise supporting material.

(13) This shows another factor: anti-clericalism at parish level. There is some assessment of this factor, which is linked directly to the question.

(14) This conclusion pulls the essay together with an assessment of the accuracy of the statement about corruption being the main cause of the German Reformation.

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This essay would gain a mark in low to mid Level 5 because of the slightly limited range of factors discussed.

The information is kept tightly on track to create a focused answer through careful wording which often includes the key words from the question, for example in paragraph 4: 'In this context it is accurate to say that it was not corruption in itself that was a long-term cause of the Reformation but rather the defensive and negative position initially taken by the Church, led by the Papacy, to theological debate about Church rituals'.

Each paragraph ideally should offer some analysis/evaluation of the information in terms of the question, for example in paragraph 6: 'If corruption was a cause of the German Reformation it would be more accurate to say that it was the German experience rather than stories from Rome which stiffened resolve'.

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Mark Scheme

How accurate is it to say that corruption in the Church was the main cause of the German Reformation? **[30 marks]**

Target: AO1a and AO1b (13%)

Essay – to present historical explanations and reach a judgement.

<p>Level 1</p>	<p>Candidates will produce mostly simple statements. These will be supported by limited factual material which has some accuracy and relevance, although not directed at the focus of the question. The material will be mostly generalised. There will be few, if any, links between the simple statements.</p> <p><i>The qualities of Level 1 are securely displayed; material is convincing in range and depth consistent with Level 1. The writing may have limited coherence and will be generally comprehensible, but passages will lack both clarity and organisation. The skills needed to produce effective writing will not normally be present. Frequent syntactical and/or spelling errors are likely to be present.</i></p> <p>Low Level 1: 1–2 marks The qualities of Level 1 are displayed, but material is less convincing in its range/depth and the quality of written communication does not conform.</p> <p>Mid Level 1: 3–4 marks The qualities of Level 1 are displayed, but material is less convincing in its range/depth or the quality of written communication does not conform.</p> <p>High Level 1: 5–6 marks The qualities of Level 1 are securely displayed.</p>	<p>(1–6)</p>
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<p>Level 2</p>	<p>Candidates will produce a series of simple statements supported by some mostly accurate and relevant factual material. The analytical focus will be mostly implicit and there are likely to be only limited links between the simple statements. Material is unlikely to be developed very far.</p> <p><i>The writing will have some coherence and will be generally comprehensible, but passages will lack both clarity and organisation. Some of the skills needed to produce effective writing will be present. Frequent syntactical and/or spelling errors are likely to be present.</i></p> <p>Low Level 2: 7–8 marks The qualities of Level 2 are displayed, but material is less convincing in its range/depth and the quality of written communication does not conform.</p> <p>Mid Level 2: 9–10 marks The qualities of Level 2 are displayed, but material is less convincing in its range/depth or the quality of written communication does not conform.</p> <p>High Level 2: 11–12 marks The qualities of Level 2 are securely displayed.</p>	<p>(7–12)</p>
<p>Level 3</p>	<p>Candidates' answers will attempt analysis and will show some understanding of the focus of the question. They will, however, include material which is either descriptive, and thus only implicitly relevant to the question's focus, or which strays from that focus. Factual material will be accurate but it may lack depth and/or relevance in places.</p> <p><i>The writing will be coherent in places but there are likely to be passages which lack clarity and/or proper organisation. Only some of the skills needed to produce convincing extended writing are likely to be present. Syntactical and/or spelling errors are likely to be present.</i></p> <p>Low Level 3: 13–14 marks The qualities of Level 3 are displayed, but material is less convincing in its range/depth and the quality of written communication does not conform.</p> <p>Mid Level 3: 15–16 marks The qualities of Level 3 are displayed, but material is less convincing in its range/depth or the quality of written communication does not conform.</p> <p>High Level 3: 17–18 marks The qualities of Level 3 are securely displayed.</p>	<p>(13–18)</p>

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<p>Level 4</p>	<p>Candidates offer an analytical response which relates well to the focus of the question and which shows some understanding of the key issues contained in it. The analysis will be supported by accurate factual material which will be mostly relevant to the question asked. The selection of material may lack balance in places.</p> <p><i>The answer will show some degree of direction and control but these attributes may not be sustained throughout the answer. The candidate will demonstrate the skills needed to produce convincing extended writing but there may be passages which lack clarity or coherence. The answer is likely to include some syntactical and/or spelling errors.</i></p> <p>Low Level 4: 19–20 marks The qualities of Level 4 are displayed, but material is less convincing in its range/depth and the quality of written communication does not conform.</p> <p>Mid Level 4: 21–22 marks The qualities of Level 4 are displayed, but material is less convincing in its range/depth or the quality of written communication does not conform.</p> <p>High Level 4: 23–24 marks The qualities of Level 4 are securely displayed.</p>	<p>(19–24)</p>
<p>Level 5</p>	<p>Candidates offer an analytical response which directly addresses the focus of the question and which demonstrates explicit understanding of the key issues contained in it. It will be broadly balanced in its treatment of these key issues. The analysis will be supported by accurate, relevant and appropriately selected factual material which demonstrates some range and depth.</p> <p><i>The exposition will be controlled and the deployment logical. Some syntactical and/or spelling errors may be found but the writing will be coherent overall. The skills required to produce convincing extended writing will be in place.</i></p> <p>Low Level 5: 25–26 marks The qualities of Level 5 are displayed, but material is less convincing in its range/depth and the quality of written communication does not conform.</p> <p>Mid Level 5: 27–28 marks The qualities of Level 5 are displayed, but material is less convincing in its range/depth or the quality of written communication does not conform.</p> <p>High Level 5: 29–30 marks The qualities of Level 5 are securely displayed.</p>	<p>(25–30)</p>

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Examiner's Specific Advice

Points 1–4 below provide a shape for an answer at Level 5.

1. The focus of this question is the spread of Lutheranism in Germany up until 1555 and the role of the German princes in this.
2. The question is asking you to make a judgement *as to the accuracy of the opinion about the main reason for the spread of Lutheranism in Germany*. Without this judgement a Level 5 will not be achieved. If you say that the German princes spread Lutheranism in Germany and you do not attempt to make an evaluation as to whether or not they were the main reason, then Level 5 will probably not be achieved. An evaluation requires you to consider, in this case, the various factors which contributed to the spread of Lutheranism in Germany. In making this judgement you need to make reference to the level of accuracy of the opinion and may find that over time the opinion may be less, or more, accurate. This is the focus for the style of your essay. You must aim to draw firm conclusions on the question.
3. Answers at Level 5 also require you to show:
 - a) explicit understanding of the key issues (reasons for the spread of the German Reformation)
 - b) a broad balance of reference to the key issues (e.g. you should evaluate several factors which spread Lutheranism in Germany).
4. Finally, Level 5 demands that you show your understanding by using factual information which should be:
 - a) accurate
 - b) relevant
 - c) appropriately selected – you have a limited amount of time so you cannot expect to include everything.

In this context, you should beware of straying beyond 1555 and Germany. A successful answer will only focus on the reasons for the spread of Lutheranism in Germany.

Tips for your plan: The key words in the question are '*spread of Lutheranism*' and '*in Germany*'.

Introduction: This needs to reflect the timeline, individuals, key issues and style of the question.

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Main body of the essay: Each paragraph ideally should offer some analysis/evaluation of the information in terms of the question. Try to select at least three relevant points/large topics which can be used to illustrate your understanding of the question.

The conclusion should pull the essay together with an evaluation of the relative importance of the various issues discussed.

Exemplar Question

How accurate is it to say that support from the German princes was the main reason for the spread of Lutheranism in Germany in the years to 1555? **[30 marks]**

Planning Your Response

To achieve Level 5 in the mark scheme your answer must *directly address* the focus of the question.

Plan

- Introduction: reference to Martin Luther and 95 Theses along with other relevant factors; reference to the question
- A range of relevant factors: Luther's public debates; Luther's pamphlets; role of Frederick of Saxony; conversion of German territorial leaders; role of Charles V; anti-clericalism; role of Philip of Hesse; level of faith among Germans
- Conclusion: assessment of the accuracy of the statement from 1517 to 1555 and make judgement clear.

Examiner's Exemplar Answer 1

In 1555 the Emperor Charles V accepted that Lutheranism should be allowed to legally exist in Germany. The relationship between Rome and the people of Germany had changed for ever. This agreement came about almost 40 years after Martin Luther had publically challenged the teachings of the Catholic Church by pinning his 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg. Little did he realise what forces he had unleashed when he attempted to stimulate debate on the sale of Indulgences, a much criticised practice of the Catholic Church. It is unrealistic to expect that a relatively unknown priest could have driven his religious ideas so far to the top of the political agenda, without the help of other forces (1).

Lutheranism challenged the practices of the Catholic Church. For example, when he was excommunicated he retaliated with a pamphlet called 'Against the Bull of the Anti-Christ' in which he claimed that the Pope was the devil. When he was in Wartberg Castle he began to translate the Bible into German which meant that ordinary men would hear God's message and understand it. The New Testament was printed in 1522 and the rest followed in 1534. These translations were to fit in with Luther's ideas on 'sola scriptura' but they challenged the power of the papacy. This argument became very acrimonious when Luther started to say that Catholic rituals that did not appear in the Bible should be scrapped. An example of this affected the seven sacraments as taught by the Catholic Church. Luther claimed that baptism, penance and the Eucharist were the only three sacraments mentioned in the Bible. The rest – confirmation, marriage, last rites and ordination should be discarded. For Luther, his ideas would spread because of the strength of his argument (2).

Luther had a personal charisma which helped his ideas to spread. People were won over by the force of his arguments and local leaders also liked what they heard. In this way Luther was able to build up a band of devoted followers from all sections of society. Luther as a German favoured carefully planned change which would occur in stages. When he wrote the pamphlet 'The Address to the Christian Nobility' Luther was indicating that Lutheranism would spread through the leadership of city magistrates. Unfortunately, in 1525 peasant discontent in Germany due to heavy taxation turned nasty and became the Peasants' War. Hundreds of castles and towns were ransacked and the peasants claimed that it was a legitimate rebellion because it was God's Will. Luther was horrified and wrote a pamphlet called 'Against the

(1) The introduction needs to reflect the timeline, individuals, key issues and style of the question. The introduction is focused on the question.

(2) A relevant factor: Luther's beliefs. There is an attempt to link to the question but the style of the paragraph is descriptive.

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Thieving, Murdering Hordes of Peasants’ in which he urged the princes to stop the rebellion as a matter of holy duty. Over 100,000 peasants were executed at the hands of the princes so putting a brake on the spread of Lutheranism for a time (3).

The geographical location of Saxony helped Luther spread his ideas. From Wittenberg, his message would spread easily to the thickly populated areas of Germany in the north, east, west and south west. Luther’s ideas were often spread by word of mouth and printed material was distributed by those travelling on foot. By the time the Emperor tried to do something about Lutheranism, it had established itself as the Protestant orthodoxy of northern and eastern Germany (4).

Luther was protected after his excommunication and being made an outlaw by Frederick Elector of Saxony at his castle in Wartberg. Luther had no choice but to accept his hospitality because he was kidnapped for his own good by his supporters. Luther now had the time and space to write which meant that thanks to the help of Frederick, Lutheranism continued to spread (5).

More and more princes began to adopt Lutheran ideas such as Philip of Hesse and Count Mansfeld. They even formed the Schmalkaldic League to protect themselves from the Emperor. This meant that Luther’s ideas could continue to spread in Germany. Eventually, by 1552 Charles V could see how widespread Lutheran ideas were and how devoted many princes were to remaining outside the Catholic Church. He defeated the princes at Muhlberg in 1547, but in order to avoid a major war Charles called a Diet of Augsburg. Charles felt isolated because the Papacy did not seem keen to follow up on the Council of Trent at which the Catholic Church had concluded that there was not a great chance of reconciliation between Catholics and Protestants. Charles seemed to agree and he decided to try and sort out the political and religious situation once and for all. He established ‘Cuius Regio:Eius Religio’ which meant that a Lutheran prince could legally say that his state was Lutheran. In this way German princes helped the spread of Lutheranism up until 1555, but there were other factors such as the printing press and Luther himself to be taken into account (6).

(3) Another relevant factor: strength of Luther’s ideas.

The answer attempts to say the princes stopped the spread of Lutheranism at the end of the paragraph – so giving an overall mixed message. Mainly descriptive in style.

(4) Another relevant factor: location of Saxony. This answer lacks development in terms of the question.

(5) This is a descriptive paragraph only. The topic is relevant and could be turned to focus on the question. In this instance there is a weak link to the question and it needs more development.

(6) The conclusion does not really tie up the points which have been raised in the essay. Several new ideas are introduced.

Examiner's Assessment

This answer would be marked at mid Level 3. The essay has a narrow range of relevant factors, which is common at Level 3. There are passages where the style is descriptive and the paragraphs do not always link to the question. However, it does show some awareness of the question. The supporting depth of knowledge is thin in places but where there is more depth, the information begins to stray from the focus of the question. The last paragraph introduces many factors, some of which should have been developed within the essay and linked explicitly to the question.

Examiner's Exemplar Answer 2

In 1517 when Martin Luther pinned his 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg, relatively few people had heard of this man and exposure to his theological ideas was limited to his students. In essence it was a personal protest, timed, for maximum impact, to coincide with the visit of Friar Tetzel as he sold Indulgences for the Pope. By 1555, at the Peace of Augsburg, the Emperor Charles V accepted the principal of 'Cuius Regio: Eius Religio' which meant that a German prince was entitled to determine the religion of his state even if that religion was Lutheranism. This compromise had been hard won, both by the sword and in debate over this period. There were many contributory factors which gave rise to this historic decision which formally recognised the spread of Lutheranism – the abuses in the Catholic Church, the quality of Luther's debate, the printing press and the role of the Emperor (7).

The reaction of the Church to Luther's protest certainly improved the notoriety of the issues surrounding corruption in the Church. Luther's ideas spread beyond Wittenberg in the first instance because Luther was called to a public meeting with Cardinal Cajetan. He refused to attend which made the quarrel serious. Luther certainly believed in the power of debate and he was a confident debater. He then debated in Leipzig with John Eck which was designed to bring Luther's ideas to an end. Unfortunately for the Catholic Church, Luther was able to successfully defend his ideas on 'sola fide' in Leipzig. The debate also gave him the platform to publically introduce the idea of 'sola scriptura'. It was this insistence of the Catholic Church to have a public debate which allowed Lutheran ideas to spread prior to his excommunication in 1520. The German princes were not actively involved at this stage (8).

(7) The introduction needs to reflect the timeline, individuals, key issues and style of the question, as shown here.

(8) Relevant factor: spread of Lutheranism but not because of the princes – this shows an explicit understanding of the key issue and an analytical link to the question.

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Luther burnt the papal bull of excommunication which gained him some publicity. However, once he was excommunicated it became more difficult for Luther to spread his ideas in person. The result of the excommunication meant that Luther retaliated in the only way he knew how. He produced several pamphlets to support his arguments. For example, in 1520, his pamphlet entitled 'Against the Bull of the Anti-Christ' declared that the Pope was in fact the devil. He then went on to write 'The Babylonish Captivity of the Church' which denied the holiness of four sacraments and that sola fide severely challenged the Catholic teaching of free will. He then went on to write 'The Liberty of a Christian Man' which stressed the limitations of good works and 'The Address to the Christian Nobility' emphasised the priesthood of all believers. These documents soon were being circulated all over Europe courtesy of the printing press. Luther's pamphlets of the 1520s numbered twenty-four, so at this stage it was the printing press which contributed significantly to the spread of Lutheranism and not the princes (9).

Luther was then summoned to the Diet Worms to appear in front of the Emperor in 1521. This was a political forum and again Luther projected his ideas publically in an attempt to avoid being declared an outlaw. The Edict of Worms outlawed Luther so for his personal safety his supporters kidnapped him and put him in Wartberg Castle under the protection of Frederick the Elector of Saxony. It is from this time onwards that Lutheranism and the German princes become entwined. Frederick led the way, not because he was a Lutheran but because he had a keen sense of justice and he did not want the University of Wittenberg, which he had founded, to become tainted with the accusation of heresy. It perhaps was no coincidence that Frederick's younger brother was a Lutheran. Certainly, without Frederick's protection Luther would have been executed, so from 1521 Lutheranism owed its continued existence to one of Germany's Elector Princes. From this time onwards, Luther was not on the public stage and he had to rely on other agencies to spread his word. He lost some control and so Lutheranism spread in ways that Luther himself did not always agree with. It is accurate to say that the princes began to play a key role in the spread of Lutheranism from 1521 (10).

Many territorial rulers became committed to Luther's teachings in the 1520s – the first to take this step in 1525 was Albrecht von Hohenzollern of the Teutonic Knights. Philip of Hesse in 1526 and John Frederick of Saxony (Frederick the Wise's successor) and Count of Mansfeld in 1527 soon followed in their conversion to

(9) Another relevant factor: spread of Lutheranism because of Luther's pamphlets/ printing press. Awareness of time being a significant factor in the assessment of the reason for the spread of Lutheranism. Directly addresses the focus of the question. You must aim to draw firm conclusions on the question as you progress through the essay.

(10) Another factor: Frederick of Saxony's support for Luther. Awareness of time is a significant factor for the princes to play a part in the spread of Lutheranism and how things changed. This paragraph directly addresses the focus of the question and reaches Level 5.

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Lutheranism. John Frederick had committed the whole of Saxony to Lutheranism in 1527. Also, by the end of the 1520s the number of Imperial cities which had converted to Lutheranism numbered about 50 out of a total of 85. This gave Lutheranism a strong base which would not be easy to roll back. The Imperial cities and the princes also had political reasons to support Lutheranism. The idea of a 'priesthood of all believers' seemed to legitimise a rejection of imperial government and papal authority in Germany. So with the exception of the Revolt of the Imperial Knights in 1522-3, it is true to say that the princes were important in the spread of Lutheranism, but they were far outnumbered by the 50 Imperial cities which also supported Lutheranism. It was at this stage that the Imperial cities were mainly responsible for the spread of Lutheranism, but Philip of Hesse also did provide political leadership for the Protestant cause for the next twenty years (11).

The role of Charles V as Emperor cannot be discounted when making an assessment as to the main reason for the spread of Lutheranism. Charles had a vast Empire and he had conflicting priorities. It is interesting to note that he left Germany after the Diet of Worms in 1522 until 1530. It is during this time that the Protestant princes ensured that the only way to root out Lutheranism would be by warfare. It was no coincidence that during Charles' absence, Lutheranism had spread significantly and taken root in Germany. This situation was compounded by the lack of support for Charles from his Catholic princes. They feared that any increase in the Emperor's power which might result from their help would weaken their position in their own territories. This lack of support for the Emperor compounded the situation and it meant that Lutheranism was able to spread. It is accurate to say that the spread of Lutheranism during the 1520s was due to a combination of the numerical strength and political delaying tactics used by the Protestant princes and the lukewarm response of the Catholic princes to the Emperor's requests for help (12).

It should also be said that Lutheranism spread in German towns and cities at parish level. This was partly because priests and scholars were won over by the strength of Luther's arguments. There was also evidence of anti-clericalism at parish level which helps to explain why people left the Catholic Church and joined the Lutherans. People witnessed at first hand how parish priests became involved in simony, nepotism and pluralism and they were also burdened by requests for taxation from their priest, which it seemed they were told would help the journey to salvation. There was also a 'hero' element to

(11) Another factor: conversion of territorial leaders and cities to Lutheranism. This answer shows an appropriate level of analysis and depth for Level 5.

Level 5 also requires that you show explicit understanding of the key issues, for example the variation of support within Germany.

(12) Another factor: role of Charles V. Awareness of the relationship between the Emperor and German princes – Catholic and Lutheran. This answer directly addresses the question and shows again the relevance of time in making a judgement.

You must aim to draw firm conclusions on the question as you progress through the essay.

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support from ordinary Germans for their man Martin Luther. For ordinary people the adoption of Lutheran beliefs freed them from the financial demands being made by greedy priests. Much of the spread of ideas at this level was with the sanction of local rulers who feared rebellion if they did not. So this was another way in which the spread of Lutheranism was helped by the princes. The princes themselves were also aware that the Papacy treated Germany badly compared with other European states. This resulted from the make-up of Germany which allowed the Bishop Electors to be very powerful both in the church and in politics and they demanded heavy taxes from German people. The princes witnessed great corruption as deals were struck between the Bishop Electors and the Papacy in order to pay for Papal political activities often in Italy. It is accurate to say that the level of corruption in the Catholic Church partly explains the spread of Lutheranism in Germany (13).

It was at the Diet of Speyer in 1529 when the Lutheran princes and city leaders refused to accept the enforcement of the Edict of Worms – Luther was declared an outlaw. The protest was collective and stated that an enforcement of the Edict of Worms would not be made until after a Church council had been summoned. This challenge to the proposers of the motion – the Catholic princes - became known as the Protest. The princes had helped label their reform movement as Protestant and in so doing they had brought matters to a head. When the princes had begun to adopt Lutheranism they had not anticipated that it might lead to a military confrontation with the Emperor. However after the Diet of Speyer, this looked to be an increasingly likely scenario. Some members of the Protestant princes began to think in terms of preventing their movement from being halted by the military might of the Emperor. The leader for this group was Philip of Hesse. He was regarded as making a distinct contribution to the spread of Lutheranism in two ways (14).

In the first instance he arranged for a Protestant alliance known as the League of Schmalkalden in 1531. It was intended to be a defensive organisation but there is evidence that it also served to strengthen the Lutheran cause by creating unity amongst the princes and city states. In this way it is accurate to say that Philip of Hesse was responsible for strengthening Lutheranism which meant that it was a more powerful force when negotiating with Charles at the Religious Peace of Nuremberg in 1532. At this meeting Charles allowed toleration of Lutheranism until a church council could be held. In this way, Hesse had contributed significantly to

(13) Another factor: support for Lutheranism at parish level and the strength of Luther's ideas. Good integration of various factors. Demonstrates good depth of knowledge about the relationship between the Catholic Church and Germany. Directly addresses the question.

(14) Another factor: the role of Philip of Hesse introduced. Good depth of knowledge appropriate for Level 5.

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the spread to Lutheranism after 1532 because more nervous states now joined the League. A second way in which Philip of Hesse directly helped the spread of Lutheranism came in 1534 with regard to Wurttemberg. This dukedom had been traditionally Catholic under Hapsburg control. The Lutheran duke had been deposed but Philip stepped in with military help and restored Duke Ulrich which meant that the duchy became Lutheran. This was a significant coup for the Lutherans and it represented a meaningful territorial spread of Lutheranism (15).

By the mid-1530s it was clear that Lutheranism was gaining a hold on the majority of Germany. Slowly but surely one state after another turned to Lutheranism – such as Brandenburg in 1535. The balance of power in Germany was swinging towards Protestant domination. However the Protestant alliance was fragile as each state put its own interests first and as Charles V had taken the view by 1541 that the only way to defeat Protestantism was by force. This he did at the Battle of Muhlberg in 1547. The victorious Charles offered the Augsburg Interim as a way forward which was essentially a return to Catholicism with one or two concessions to Lutheranism e.g. marriage of the clergy. The reality on the ground was that Lutheranism was too well entrenched as an organised religion in most of northern and eastern Germany for the Interim to have any meaning. In other words, Lutheranism was here to stay despite the defeat of the Schmalkaldic League, it would be accurate to say that the spread of Lutheranism at this stage was not dependent on the princes. The resistance derived from the winning of hearts and minds at parish level (16).

The Peace of Augsburg in 1555 accepted this reality in Germany and led the way for the Reformation to spread elsewhere in Europe under the leadership of Calvin amongst others. There were many reasons for the spread of Lutheranism in Germany. Until Luther became an outlaw and was hidden at Wartberg Castle, he was mainly responsible for the spread of his ideas through theological debate and the printing press. However, it is accurate to say that the princes were the main reason for the spread of Lutheranism in Germany after 1521 until 1555. Without their support, Lutheranism would not have spread after 1521 to dominate the landscape in Germany. As a result of the support from the princes, Lutheranism, as a force, could not be erased, which meant that it ultimately required a political decision from the Emperor (17).

(15) Another factor: League of Schmalkalden and spread of Lutheranism. Several examples are given. There is evaluation in terms of the question. Without making an evaluation, a Level 5 will not be achieved.

(16) Relevant factor: the reality of the spread of Lutheranism by the mid-1530s. There is evaluation of the role of the princes to directly address the focus of the question and also integration with other relevant factors. Depth of knowledge is appropriate for Level 5.

(17) This pulls the essay together with an assessment of the relative importance of the role of the German princes in the spread of Lutheranism.

Examiner's Assessment

This essay reaches Level 5 because:

- it addresses the question directly throughout
- it is analytical in its approach
- it is broadly balanced in that it makes an assessment of the role of the princes in comparison with other factors, and there is a good range of factors
- it includes accurate material which has been appropriately selected (does not try to include everything) and the paragraphs are linked to the question.

This essay would gain a mark at high Level 5.

You should ensure that there is an argument running throughout the essay. In this example a range of factors is considered with detailed and precise supporting material. There are several examples of integration between the factors and there is also an awareness that the judgement about the role of the princes may change over time.

The information is kept tightly on track – a focused answer – through careful wording which often includes the key words from the question, for example in paragraph 6: 'It is accurate to say that the spread of Lutheranism during the 1520s was due to a combination of the numerical strength and political delaying tactics used by the Protestant princes and the lukewarm response of the Catholic princes to the Emperor's requests for help'.

Each paragraph, ideally, should offer some analysis/evaluation of the information in terms of the question, for example in paragraph 7: 'For ordinary people the adoption of Lutheran beliefs freed them from the financial demands being made by greedy priests. Much of the spread of ideas at this level was with the sanction of local rulers who feared rebellion if they did not. So this was another way in which the spread of Lutheranism was helped by the princes'.

<p>Edexcel – AS GCE Unit 1: Historical Themes in Breadth Option B</p>	<p>B1 Luther, Lutheranism and the German Reformation, 1517–55</p>	<p>Mark Scheme for Question 2</p>
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Mark Scheme

How accurate is it to say that support from the German princes was the main reason for the spread of Lutheranism in Germany in the years to 1555? **[30 marks]**

Target: AO1a and AO1b (13%)

Essay – to present historical explanations and reach a judgement.

<p>Level 1</p>	<p>Candidates will produce mostly simple statements. These will be supported by limited factual material which has some accuracy and relevance, although not directed at the focus of the question. The material will be mostly generalised. There will be few, if any, links between the simple statements.</p> <p><i>The qualities of Level 1 are securely displayed; material is convincing in range and depth consistent with Level 1. The writing may have limited coherence and will be generally comprehensible, but passages will lack both clarity and organisation. The skills needed to produce effective writing will not normally be present. Frequent syntactical and/or spelling errors are likely to be present.</i></p> <p>Low Level 1: 1–2 marks The qualities of Level 1 are displayed, but material is less convincing in its range/depth and the quality of written communication does not conform.</p> <p>Mid Level 1: 3–4 marks The qualities of Level 1 are displayed, but material is less convincing in its range/depth or the quality of written communication does not conform.</p> <p>High Level 1: 5–6 marks The qualities of Level 1 are securely displayed.</p>	<p>(1–6)</p>
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Access to History Online Edexcel Unit 1 – B1 Luther, Lutheranism and the German Reformation, 1517–55

<p>Level 2</p>	<p>Candidates will produce a series of simple statements supported by some mostly accurate and relevant factual material. The analytical focus will be mostly implicit and there are likely to be only limited links between the simple statements. Material is unlikely to be developed very far.</p> <p><i>The writing will have some coherence and will be generally comprehensible, but passages will lack both clarity and organisation. Some of the skills needed to produce effective writing will be present. Frequent syntactical and/or spelling errors are likely to be present.</i></p> <p>Low Level 2: 7–8 marks The qualities of Level 2 are displayed, but material is less convincing in its range/depth and the quality of written communication does not conform.</p> <p>Mid Level 2: 9–10 marks The qualities of Level 2 are displayed, but material is less convincing in its range/depth or the quality of written communication does not conform.</p> <p>High Level 2: 11–12 marks The qualities of Level 2 are securely displayed.</p>	<p>(7–12)</p>
<p>Level 3</p>	<p>Candidates' answers will attempt analysis and will show some understanding of the focus of the question. They will, however, include material which is either descriptive, and thus only implicitly relevant to the question's focus, or which strays from that focus. Factual material will be accurate but it may lack depth and/or relevance in places.</p> <p><i>The writing will be coherent in places but there are likely to be passages which lack clarity and/or proper organisation. Only some of the skills needed to produce convincing extended writing are likely to be present. Syntactical and/or spelling errors are likely to be present.</i></p> <p>Low Level 3: 13–14 marks The qualities of Level 3 are displayed, but material is less convincing in its range/depth and the quality of written communication does not conform.</p> <p>Mid Level 3: 15–16 marks The qualities of Level 3 are displayed, but material is less convincing in its range/depth or the quality of written communication does not conform.</p> <p>High Level 3: 17–18 marks The qualities of Level 3 are securely displayed.</p>	<p>(13–18)</p>

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<p>Level 4</p>	<p>Candidates offer an analytical response which relates well to the focus of the question and which shows some understanding of the key issues contained in it. The analysis will be supported by accurate factual material which will be mostly relevant to the question asked. The selection of material may lack balance in places.</p> <p><i>The answer will show some degree of direction and control but these attributes may not be sustained throughout the answer. The candidate will demonstrate the skills needed to produce convincing extended writing but there may be passages which lack clarity or coherence. The answer is likely to include some syntactical and/or spelling errors.</i></p> <p>Low Level 4: 19–20 marks The qualities of Level 4 are displayed, but material is less convincing in its range/depth and the quality of written communication does not conform.</p> <p>Mid Level 4: 21–22 marks The qualities of Level 4 are displayed, but material is less convincing in its range/depth or the quality of written communication does not conform.</p> <p>High Level 4: 23–24 marks The qualities of Level 4 are securely displayed.</p>	<p>(19–24)</p>
<p>Level 5</p>	<p>Candidates offer an analytical response which directly addresses the focus of the question and which demonstrates explicit understanding of the key issues contained in it. It will be broadly balanced in its treatment of these key issues. The analysis will be supported by accurate, relevant and appropriately selected factual material which demonstrates some range and depth.</p> <p><i>The exposition will be controlled and the deployment logical. Some syntactical and/or spelling errors may be found but the writing will be coherent overall. The skills required to produce convincing extended writing will be in place.</i></p> <p>Low Level 5: 25–26 marks The qualities of Level 5 are displayed, but material is less convincing in its range/depth and the quality of written communication does not conform.</p> <p>Mid Level 5: 27–28 marks The qualities of Level 5 are displayed, but material is less convincing in its range/depth or the quality of written communication does not conform.</p> <p>High Level 5: 29–30 marks The qualities of Level 5 are securely displayed.</p>	<p>(25–30)</p>

Chronology: Key events in *Luther, Lutheranism and the German Reformation 1517-55, Luther’s Revolt*

Year	Month	Event
1505		Luther becomes an Augustinian monk at Erfurt
1510		Luther visits Rome and is shocked by the immorality of the clergy
1511		Luther appointed lecturer in Biblical theology at Wittenberg University
c.1515		Luther is lecturing on St Paul’s Letter to the Romans: clearly struck by the concept that one is saved by ‘Faith Alone’ [1]
1517		Friar Johan Tetzal sells Indulgences on the border of Electoral Saxony [2]
		Luther pins his 95 Theses against the sale of Indulgences on the door of Wittenberg Cathedral [3]
1518		Luther dedicates his ‘Explanations of The 95 Theses’ to Leo X
		Frederick the Wise refuses all papal demands for Luther to be sent for trial in Rome
		Luther at Augsburg in debate with Cardinal Cajetan [4]
1519		Luther debates with Eck (Dominican) at Leipzig University [5]
		Death of Maximilian
		Charles V elected Holy Roman Emperor
1520	June	Luther is provisionally excommunicated by Leo X in the bull Exsurge Domine (he has six months to recant his views otherwise he will be declared a heretic) [6]
	Dec	Luther burns this Bull of Excommunication
		Luther also retaliates with a vicious pamphlet ‘Against the Bull of the Anti-Christ’ in which he claims the Pope is the devil
1521		Lucas Cranach produces influential woodcuts contrasting purity of Christ with the evils of the Pope [7]
	April	Diet of Worms: Luther defends his beliefs in front of the Emperor [8]
	May	Luther imprisoned and protected on the orders of Frederick the Wise [9]
		Edict of Worms: Luther completely excommunicated by the Bull Decet Romanum; Luther is declared an outlaw and kidnapped by Frederick the Wise and kept safe in Wartburg Castle [10]
1522		Luther’s German translation of the New Testament printed [11]
		Charles V leaves Germany; he will not return until 1530
		Ferdinand appointed Charles’ regent in Germany
		Luther returns to Wittenberg which is in the grip of radical Reformation and urges cautious reform [12]
1522–23		Revolt of the Imperial Knights [13]
1524		League of Regensburg formed by Ferdinand of Austria, Bavaria and the south German bishops (Catholic) to enforce the Edict of Worms
1525		Peasants’ Rising [14] – Luther attacks the rising in his book ‘Against the Murdering, Thieving Hordes of Peasants’
		Luther marries an ex-nun Katherine von Bora [15]
		Albrecht of Hohenzollern, Grand Master of the Teutonic Knights, converts to Lutheranism [16]

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		League of Torgau: a Lutheran league aiming to stop the enforcement of the Edict of Worms
		Charles V defeats Francis I at the Battle of Pavia
1526		Treaty of Madrid between Francis and Charles, but Francis immediately abandons it forming the League of Cognac against Charles
		First Diet of Speyer: German princes and cities refuse to enforce the Edict of Worms and call for a General Council to decide upon the religious problems in Germany [17]
		Conversion of influential Philip of Hesse to Lutheranism [18]
1527		Conversions of John Frederick of Saxony (Frederick the Wise's successor) and Count of Mansfeld to Lutheranism
1529		Luther and Zwingli fail to reach a common understanding on the Eucharist at Marburg Colloquy [19]
		Second Diet of Speyer: Ferdinand re-imposes Edict of Worms
		In response the 14 Lutheran cities and a small number of princes issue their Protestation and refuse to comply [20]
		Ottoman Turks turned back from Vienna
1530		Habsburg/Valois peace established at Cambrai
		Charles crowned Emperor by the Pope at Bologna
		Charles attends Diet of Augsburg, after much discussion Edict of Worms re-imposed
		Lutheran cities and princes establish the Schmalkaldic League for purposes of self defence [21]
		Diet of Augsburg attended by Charles [22]
1531		Ferdinand elected King of the Romans
1532		Religious Peace of Nuremberg: Charles grants toleration to Lutheranism until a General Council of the Church is convened in return for military help against the Turks [23]
1532–41		Charles absent from Germany [24]
1534		Schmalkaldic League uses its military muscle to restore Duke Ulrich to the large Duchy of Wurttemberg
		Luther's translation of the Old Testament printed
1535		Charles captures Tunis from the Barbary Corsairs
		Conversion of the Elector of Brandenburg to Lutheranism
1536		Wittenberg Concord: South German towns adhere to Lutheranism [25]
1536–38		Charles V at war with the Valois
1543		Conversion of the Archbishop Elector of Cologne to Lutheranism
1544		Peace of Crespy restores peace with the Valois
		Conversion of Elector Frederick II of the Palatinate (the Lutherans now have a majority among the seven Electors)
1545–47		Council of Trent convened: confirms the impossibility of bridging divisions between Catholicism and Lutheranism [26]
1546		Death of Luther
		Maurice of Saxony abandons his Protestant allies and joins Charles V
		Charles promises him the Electoral title of Saxony for switching sides

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1547		Charles V achieves a crushing victory over the Schmalkaldic League at the Battle of Muhlberg
		Imprisonment of John Frederick of Saxony and Philip of Hesse
1547–48		Diet of Augsburg: Charles tries to solve religious divisions by the imposition of the unpopular Interim [27]
		Charles' plans for an Imperial League also unpopular since it will reduce the liberties of the empire
		Magdeburg besieged for refusing to fulfil the terms of the Interim
1550		Diet of Augsburg
1551		Maurice of Saxony abandons the siege of Magdeburg and rejoins the Lutheran cause
		The League of Torgau defends German liberties
1552		Treaty of Chambord: Henry II agrees to protect German liberties by providing military support to the League of Torgau
		French occupy Metz, Toul and Verdun
		Charles forced to flee from Innsbruck by Maurice's army
		Charles fails to raise the Siege of Metz, leaves Germany and never returns
		Treaty of Passau restores peace to the Empire
1555		Diet of Augsburg: existence of Lutheranism formally recognised at the Peace of Augsburg – Cuius Regio: Eius Religio [28]
		Abdication of Charles V
1558		Death of Charles V

Chronology: notes

- 1. Faith Alone (Sola Fide):** The main emphasis of Luther's ideas was the importance of Faith Alone – a man should search within himself for faith in God's teachings which was a sign of being one of the Elect. Luther's ideas challenged the Catholic Church's teaching on various fronts: stress on good works led people to become lazy; there was no evidence of purgatory in the Bible. He also challenged the worship of saints saying it distracted people from the teachings of Jesus and the importance of His sacrifice on the Cross. It was these thoughts which were the root of his challenge to the Catholic Church.
- 2. Indulgences:** These were paper certificates which promised forgiveness of sins to the purchaser. The authorisation to sell Indulgences came from the Pope in the first instance. Friar Tetzl, under the authority of Albert of Brandenburg, Archbishop of Mainz, delivered passionate sermons which blackmailed people into parting with their money to save their soul and that of a dead relative from the torments of purgatory. In these sermons he departed from the traditional teachings of the Church by no longer placing an emphasis on 'genuine remorse'. It was said that the money from these Indulgences was to help to rebuild St Peter's in Rome. In reality, The Bishop of Mainz was to take half to reimburse the costs of his election as Archbishop of Mainz which Pope Leo X had authorised. Tetzl was not allowed into Saxony because the sale would be in competition with that of the Elector of Saxony's sale in Wittenberg.

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3. **95 Theses:** Originally in Latin, Luther, as a Professor of Wittenberg University, intended to invite academic debate on the subject of the sale of Indulgences/efficacy of good works. Wittenberg was the capital of Electoral Saxony and the Theses appeared on the church door just a few hours before the Elector of Saxony sold Indulgences to those citizens who visited his collection of holy relics. Luther sent a copy of his Theses to the Bishop of Mainz in the hope that he would halt Tetzel's sale of Indulgences. Once the 95 Theses had been translated into German, printed and widely distributed, many people began to agree with Luther's sentiments.
4. **Debates with Cardinal Cajetan:** Luther refused to go to Rome so Leo X sent Cardinal Cajetan to Germany. The debate took place in Augsburg during which Luther said he had identified mistakes in the Church's teachings. He was prepared to retract his ideas if either evidence could be found in the Bible which proved him wrong or sound argument proved his ideas were unsound. Cajetan argued that the Pope alone interpreted the Bible and decided on the teachings of the Church. In essence the Church had no argument to counter Luther's ideas which left him in a position where support for him could grow.
5. **Luther debates with Dr Johann Eck:** The issues were debated for 18 days in front of a panel of 'neutral academics' in the presence of local officials. These debates forced Luther to take each of his arguments to its logical conclusion. As a result of the debates Luther became more attached to the idea of 'sola scriptura', i.e. that the way of searching for faith was through the scriptures. Luther was now seen as an even greater challenge to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
6. **Exsurge Domine (Lord cast out):** Leo X decided that Luther should be excommunicated after the debates with Eck. This was done by issuing a legal document (a bull) informing him that he was an outcast from the Church. The Bull was read out from the pulpit of every church. This meant that all obedient Christians knew that they should refuse to have any dealings with Luther. Luther was also aware that excommunication meant that his soul was condemned to burn in hell forever.
7. **Woodcuts:** At this time no more than 10 per cent of the German population could read. Hence visual images were a vital product of the printing press. These were known as woodcuts – cartoons carved in wood and printed onto paper in large numbers. Luther promoted this method of relaying messages to 'the simple folk', e.g. an image of the sale of Indulgences set alongside Christ throwing moneylenders out of the temple.
8. **Diet of Worms:** The new Emperor gave Luther a chance to appear at the Diet, contrary to the wishes of the Pope, who just wanted Luther silenced so that he could not publish and distribute any more heretical publications. Luther was summoned to Worms under a promise of 'safe conduct' to protect him from arrest. He attended against the wishes of his supporters who reminded him that according to the Church's teaching there was no need to keep a promise to a heretic, and Jan Huss had been arrested and executed while under a promise of safe conduct. Luther believed it was God's will for him to speak out publicly, so he went to Worms. During the hearing, Luther refused

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to retract anything he had said or written. He was therefore found guilty of heresy.

9. **Luther 'imprisoned':** Before the Edict of Worms was published Luther left the city of Worms on the advice of his supporters. In a well-orchestrated scenario, Luther 'disappeared' while passing through a forest on his way to Wittenberg. The man who organised his 'kidnap' was his supporter The Elector of Saxony, Frederick the Wise. Luther was taken to Frederick's castle at Wartburg where he grew a beard to disguise himself and changed his name to 'Farmer George'.
10. **Edict of Worms:** Issued by Emperor Charles V, the Edict condemned Luther's ideas. Luther and his followers were told they would be punished unless they immediately agreed to accept the teachings and authority of the Church. Luther refused to comply with the terms of the papal bull Exsurge Domine so his excommunication took full effect, i.e. the terms of the papal bull Decet Romanum were carried out. Luther was also declared an outlaw in the Empire. Anyone following Luther was liable to arrest and punishment.
11. **German translation of New Testament:** This translation took Luther three months to complete. It was revised several times as Luther was never satisfied but it was in everyday German which meant that ordinary people would understand God's message. The book became a benchmark for German language. Hundreds and thousands of copies were printed in Luther's lifetime. Along with the 1520 pamphlets, the German Bible and the Catechisms were all important written documents in the development of the Lutheran faith.
12. **Luther returns to Wittenberg:** Many cities followed Wittenberg and began to convert to Lutheranism during the 1520s. Prior to 1524 Nuremberg admitted Lutherans without hesitation and it remained the most Lutheran of the Protestant cities. Strasburg, Ulm, Augsburg and many lesser southern cities followed suit. Between 1528 and 1531 the leading northern cities – including the Episcopal See of Magdeburg – also declared support for religious reform. The Imperial cities numbered about 85, of which well over 50 accepted the Reformation in one form or another. The cities were the centres for trade and finance. They were well able to protect themselves behind impregnable city walls. Regensburg was a notable exception, remaining under the control of the Catholic Wittelsbach Dukes of Bavaria. This solid basis of support for Lutheranism meant that by the late 1520s Protestantism could only be destroyed at the cost of a major civil war.
13. **Revolt of Imperial Knights:** Imperial Knights owed allegiance to the Emperor alone. By the 1500s their military role was relatively insignificant. However, as a group they objected to foreign interference, in particular that of the Pope. This made them natural allies of Luther when he became an enemy of the Pope. Leaders of the group were Ulrich von Hutten and Franz von Sickingen. They interpreted Luther's pamphlet 'The Address to the Christian Nobility' as a justification to rebel against established authority. The Knights' War of 1522–23 was led by von Sickingen who took a band of mercenary knights to attack the lands of the Archbishop of Trier. They were defeated by the princes of the Empire who did not believe the Knights' motive was to spread Lutheranism. It was viewed rather as an attempt to gain political power.

14. Peasants' War: The peasants in Germany were increasingly discontented because landlords and the Church had been gradually increasing taxes and this discontent coincided with the spread of new religious ideas. This was an explosive combination and translated into the peasants viewing their rebellion against the state as God's will. The War lacked leadership and took the form of peasants ransacking hundreds of castles and religious houses. The princes were able re-establish control quite easily through a brutal response which saw an estimated 100,000 peasants executed.

15. Luther marries: Luther (46) married the ex-nun Katherine von Bora (26) and together they raised a family of six children of their own and reared four orphans. The Luther household became a focal point for the Reformation in Germany – there were many visitors and a boarding house for students. The marriage highlighted a problem in Germany for those monks and nuns who left their monastery to return to the real world. The monks had skills or trades such as accounting or farming, but it was more difficult for the nuns to settle into the real world. Many nuns originally came from rich families so it was deemed inappropriate for them to become domestic servants. The best alternative was marriage and it was in smuggling nine nuns out of Saxony (Catholic) into Wittenberg that Luther met his future wife.

In fact family life was at the heart of the practice of Lutheranism. Luther believed that the father as head of the family was responsible for imposing discipline on the whole family and that it was their duty to obey him.

16. Albrecht of Hohenzollern: His conversion to Lutheranism was significant in leading the way for territorial leaders and historically important groups to become committed to Lutheranism. They helped Lutheranism to survive by delaying Imperial action in the years after Worms. The Teutonic Knights were a military order established by the Church in the Middle Ages to capture territory from the pagans who threatened Christendom. Albrecht was Grand Master of the Order and as such was influential. He dissolved the Order and secularised its lands. His conversion was followed by that of other high profile German dignitaries.

17. First Diet of Speyer: Charles V hoped to attend the Diet after recent victories in Italy, but he did not. In his absence they agreed on a Decree of Toleration.

18. Conversion of Philip of Hesse: His conversion to Lutheranism meant that for the next 20 years the Lutheran cause had a political leader. His conversion was followed by that of the Margrave of Brandenburg-Ansbach, the Dukes of Schleswig and Brunswick, and the Count of Mansfeld. In these regions the leader imposed the new order from above.

19. Luther and Zwingli disagree: At the famous Marburg Colloquy, arranged by Philip of Hesse, it was hoped that some of their differing ideas on the Eucharist might be resolved. Zwingli debated with Luther and showed that Luther's ideas were open to question. They did agree that the Eucharist as practised in the Catholic Church was wrong, i.e. the priest only offering bread to the congregation (Communion in One Kind). This was at odds with their idea of a

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'priesthood of all believers' in which everyone was equal before God. In Lutheran and Zwinglian churches the congregation partook of both bread and wine (Communion in Both Kinds). However, Zwingli and Luther disagreed about what actually happened during the Eucharist and the meeting at Marburg ended after four days.

Zwingli had also shown that the Reformation could work outside Germany (in Switzerland) and that Luther's protest was not just a localised revolt.

20. **Second Diet of Speyer:** The Decree of Toleration was repealed and the Edict of Worms was enforced. No more Church lands were to be secularised. Fourteen of the reformed cities signed a protestation in which they affirmed their right to answer to God alone. This is the origin of the name Protestant still used by all Christian groups who are not Roman Catholics. The Lutheran cause was no longer united as several of the reformed cities had abstained.
21. **Schmalkaldic League:** Begun as a defensive league to prevent Imperial force being used to bring the German princes back to the fold, the League was named after a town (Schmalkalden) on the borders of Hesse and Saxony where it was founded and where its meetings were subsequently held. Members included eight princes of the Empire and eleven cities including Magdeburg, Bremen, Lubeck and Strasburg. By the 1530s the princes were requesting that their theologians produce a statement of faith. Luther responded with the Schmalkalden Articles in 1537, although they were never formally adopted. There was evidence of a willingness to resist the Emperor in the cause of the gospel, and the conciliatory tone of the Augsburg Confession was equally evident in the Articles.
22. **Diet of Augsburg 1530:** Charles aimed for reconciliation but he underestimated the conviction of the Lutheran princes on the one hand and the Catholic theologians on the other. The outcome was the famous Confession of Augsburg which was the work of the Lutheran theologian Philipp Melancthon. The Confession was designed to facilitate peace but it frightened the men of conviction. However, it has become the cornerstone of Lutheran theology to this day. The Protestants withdrew from the Diet when the Catholic theologians, led by the papal representative Cardinal Campeggio, ignored Charles' instructions to come up with a conciliatory reply to the Confession. Instead they produced the Confutatio, which in essence attacked the points of difference rather than emphasising points of agreement between Catholicism and Lutheranism.
23. **Religious Peace of Nuremberg:** This proclaimed peace in the Empire, suspended legal proceedings against Protestants and allowed religious toleration in existing Protestant territories until there was a meeting of the general council – in essence the Schmalkaldic League should not expand. Charles had negotiated help from his Protestant princes while under pressure from the Turks. In effect he had surrendered the Augsburg recess for men and money.

24. **Charles V:** His frequent absences from Germany resulted from the conflicting priorities he had as Emperor. He ruled over an extensive and fragmented personal empire which meant that he could not give his full attention to religious developments in Germany so aiding the cause of Lutheranism.
25. **Wittenberg Concord:** This resulted from Martin Bucer's attempt to bring about some unity across the evangelical ranks. The Concord meant that south Germans virtually accepted Luther's doctrinal position.
26. **Council of Trent:** This was part of a General Church Council which had begun in 1545. The proceedings were guided by papal legates who ensured that the powers of the Holy See were preserved. It issued an enormous number of decrees concerning doctrine which meant that the Church emerged with a clearer body of faith, but in so doing the Catholic Church moved away from concessions to Protestantism. Hence, this episode marked an incisive break in the Church's history as in effect it was not only the end of the old universal, comprehensive Latin Church but also the beginning of the emergence of modern Roman Catholicism as one Christian Church among several.
27. **Diet of Augsburg 1547–48:** When he called this Diet Charles had achieved a military success over the Reformers at the Battle of Muhlberg. He opted to try and impose a religious settlement on the whole of the Empire in the form of the Augsburg Interim. This was supposed to be a compromise but in fact was a document based on Catholic Orthodoxy with a few insignificant concessions to the Reformation. He hoped this would resolve matters until a General Council finally settled the disputes. The Interim was almost universally rejected, even in areas where Charles had heavily defeated the princes. The Leipzig Interim drawn up by Melanchthon at the request of the Elector Maurice was also rejected. The Pope complained that matters of faith were being decided without his participation. The opposition came from the people who disagreed over matters of faith and principle, something Charles had not anticipated.
28. **Diet of Augsburg 1555:** Charles realised that Germany wanted peace. It was finally recognised that Christendom would not be reunited. Charles was in Brussels and he did not appear at Augsburg. He left the arrangements to his brother Ferdinand who would shortly become Emperor. The Peace of Augsburg clearly recognised the political and religious reality of Germany. In each state there would be one religion – Catholicism or Protestantism. The government of the state would make the decision and no state was to impose its views on another. The people were free to move to a state where their religion was practised. This demonstrated tolerance and good sense.

Additional Sample Questions

1. To what extent were the weaknesses of its opponents responsible for the survival and spread of Lutheranism in the years 1521–55?
2. How far were prevailing social and economic conditions within Germany responsible for the spread of Lutheranism in the years to 1555?
3. To what extent did Luther's influence on the German Reformation decline after 1525?
4. To what extent did Luther's challenge to the Catholic Church change in the years 1517–21?
5. How far was the political structure of the Holy Roman Empire responsible for Charles V's failure to suppress Lutheranism during his reign?
6. How far was the German Reformation caused by hostility towards the Papacy within the German states?

Resources

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Heinz Shilling, *Religion, Political Culture and the Emergence of Early Modern Society* (Brill, 1992)

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