DOCUMENT A - Second Bill to Exclude the Duke of York, 1680

Whereas James, Duke of York, is notoriously known to have been perverted from the Protestant to the popish religion, whereby not only great encouragement hath been given to the popish party to enter into and carry on most devilish and horrid plots and conspiracies for the destruction of His Majesty's sacred person and government, and for the extirpation of the true Protestant religion; but also if the said duke should succeed to the imperial crown of this realm, nothing is more manifest than that a total change of religion within these kingdoms would ensue. For the prevention whereof, be it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons … assembled, and by the authority of the same, that the said James, Duke of York, shall be, and is, by the authority of this present Parliament, excluded, and made for ever incapable to inherit, possess or enjoy the imperial crown of this realm, and of the kingdom of Ireland, and the dominions and territories to them, or either of them belonging; or to have, exercise or enjoy and dominion, power, jurisdiction or authority in the same kingdoms, dominions, or any of them.

DOCUMENT B - Declaration of Indulgence of King James II, April 4, 1687

We cannot but heartily wish, as it will easily be believed, that all the people of our dominions were members of the Catholic Church. Yet we humbly thank Almighty God, it is and has of long time been our constant sense and opinion … that conscience ought not to be constrained nor people forced in matters of mere religion; it has ever been directly contrary to our inclination, … And in this we are the more confirmed by the reflections we have made upon the conduct of the four last reigns. For after all the frequent and pressing endeavours that were used in each of them to reduce this kingdom to an exact conformity in religion, it is visible the success has not answered the design, and that the difficulty is invincible.

In the first place we do declare, that we will protect and maintain the archbishops, bishops, and clergy, and all other our subjects … in the free exercise of their religion, as by law established, and in the quiet and full enjoyment of all their possessions, without any molestation or disturbance whatsoever.

We do likewise declare, that it is our royal will and pleasure, that from henceforth the execution of all and all manner of penal laws in matters ecclesiastical, for not coming to church, or not receiving the Sacrament, or for any other nonconformity to the religion established, or for or by reason of the exercise of religion in any manner whatsoever, be immediately suspended; and the further execution of the said penal laws and every of them is hereby suspended.

And to the end that by the liberty hereby granted, the peace and security of our government in the practice thereof may not be endangered, we have thought fit, and do hereby straightly charge and command all our loving subjects, that as we do freely give them leave to meet and serve God after their own way and manner, be it in private houses or in places purposely hired or built for that use, so that they take especial care, that nothing be preached or taught amongst them which may any ways tend to alienate the hearts of our people from us or our government; and that their meetings and assemblies be peaceably, openly, and publicly held, and all persons freely admitted to them;
1. What type of source is document A and B (primary/secondary + act of parliament, speech, diary, newspaper article, court records …)? /I

Primary act of parliament + royal declaration/speech

2. Who are the authors of document A and B? /I

Parliament + King

3. Sum up briefly the political context of 1680 and 1687. /2

1680: Restauration

4. Who is James, the Duke of York? /I
5. What is the “popish religion”? /I
6. What is the purpose of document A? /I
7. Who are “the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons”? /I
8. DOC B : What does the author mean by “to reduce this kingdom to an exact conformity in religion”? /2
9. Who does the author refer to by saying “we”? /I
10. Which religion does he want to protect by maintaining “the archbishops, bishops, and clergy, and all other our subjects … in the free exercise of their religion as by law established”? /I
11. Which religion is concerned by the penal laws “for not coming to church, or not receiving the Sacrament, or for any other nonconformity to the religion established”? /I
12. What does he mean by “to meet and serve God after their own way and manner”? Give examples. /2
13. Contrast the 2 documents: why do you think the authors of document A passed that bill? Was it successful? Were they right to be precautious? /2