Task: Using the following sources plus the ones in the textbook design a source question for the Wars of the Roses topic. It must be worded like the questions in the revision guide and contain four sources. It can be on any of the 3 topics. You need to select your sources carefully and make sure to design a question which makes sense. Give the description and contextual details as in the revision guide.

**Using these four sources in their historical context, how far do they support the view that ……. (30)**

**Source A:**

**Source B**

**Source C**

**Source D**

**Sources to use as well as the textbook. Please find at least 1 new source to add to the list below.**

***A London Lawyer and chronicler Robert Bale recorded instances of unrest in south east England during 1450***

In February 1450 a man calling himself William Bluebeard who had laboured to raise a great fellowship aspiring to have had rule among the lords, was drawn through the city and hanged. Then all Englishmen driven out of France, Normandy and Anjou came home in great misery and poverty rode into several parts of the land giving themselves over to theft and misrule. In June the men of Kent arose and chose themselves a captain, a rogue, an Irishman called Jack Cade who came into the city.

***A letter written by Margaret of Anjou after the battle of Wakefield in December 1460 to rally support in London***

The late Duke with extreme malice plotted to destroy the king Henry. He falsely claimed a right to the crown, contrary to his allegiance and several oaths freely sworn by him. He would have deposed the king Henry, had it not been for the unchangeable loyalty of you and others, his true subjects. Out of pure malice, he proposed to continue his cruelty to our utter undoing and that of our son the prince.

**Two farmers are accused of speaking treasonable words against Henry VI:**

John Merfeld and William Merfeld of Brightling in Sussex in the open market on Sunday 26th July falsely said that the king was a fool and would often hold a staff in his hands with a bird on the end, playing therewith as a fool, and that another king must be ordained to rule the land, saying that the king was not a person who was able to rule the land. –

*Adapted from proceedings of the court of King’s bench 1450.*

**A contemporary French chronicler, the monk Jean Chartier described the French victory in taking Normandy from the English in the summer of 1450**

Never had so great a country been conquered in such a short space of time, with such small loss to the populace and soldiery, and with so little killing of people or destruction and damage to the countryside. To do this within the space of only a year and six days was a great miracle and an extraordinary marvel.

**Henry VI gives Maine to the French in 1445.**

Our very dear uncle, we know that you would be very glad we should make deliverance of the city, town and castle of Le Mans and of all that we have and hold within the county of Maine to our very dear father and uncle, the King of Sicily and Charles of Anjou, his brother. You have most affectionately upon your part required us to do so and informed us this is the aptest means to arrive at the blessing of peace between us, favouring also our most dear companion the Queen, who has requested us to do this many times.

*From a letter of Henry VI, 1445*

**A Description of Henry VI by John Blacman, the King’s Confessor.**

A diligent and sincere worshipper of God was this King, more given to God and to devout prayer than to handling worldly things or practising vain sports and pursuits: these he dismissed as trifling and was continually occupied either in prayer or the reading of the scriptures.

*From John Blacman,1484*

**Jack Cade gives his views about the government of England in an appeal to the people**:

The King should surround himself with men of his true blood from his royal realm, that is to say, the high and mighty prince, the Duke of York, exiled from our sovereign lord’s person (the King) by suggestions of those false traitors the Duke of Suffolk and his affinity

*Adapted extract from the demands of Cade’s rebels (1450) according to Stow’s memoranda.*

**Pope Pius II (1458 – 64) expresses his opinion of Henry in his memoirs**

Henry was more timorous than a woman, utterly devoid of wit or spirit who left everything in his wife’s hand. –

*Commentaries of Pius II on the memorable events of his times.*

**A description of Cade’s Rebellion in 1450.**

And this same year arose the men of Kent and made themselves a captain, an Irishman called John Cade, who at the beginning called himself Mortimer for to have the favour of the people. He said England had been ruled by untrue counsel and the commons were sore hurt with taxes and other oppressions and might not live by their handiwork and husbandry for which they grudged sore against those who had governance of the land.

*From An English Chronicle, 1451*

**A Grant made to Suffolk by Henry VI**

Grant to William, Marquis of Suffolk, of the keeping of all the lands, manors, rents and services which descended to Anne, daughter and heir of Henry, late duke of Warwick after the death of Humphrey Duke of Gloucester, to hold during Anne’s minority; and the reversion of the office of constable deputy for life, with the usual wages, fees and profits

*Calendar of parliamentary roles 24th Feb 1447*

***Charges drawn up against York at the Parliament of Devils in November 1459***

“When Richard was in Ireland as your lieutenant there, Jack Cade, your great traitor, led a large insurrection in Kent in 1450. Some of his supporters, when on the point of death, confessed their true intentions and on whose behalf they acted. They intended to have raised the Duke of York, against all reason, law and truth, to the crown of England, which god has ordained that you and your successors should bear”

***The Act of Accord, 24th October 1460***

Richard Duke of York, desiring the peace and prosperity of this land shall take, worship and honour Henry for his sovereign lord. It is agreed that Richard Duke of York be henceforth and very and rightful heir to the crowns and after the death of Henry the duke and his heirs will immediately succeed to the said crowns

***The Attainder (punishment without trial for treason) of Jack Cade 1451***

The traitor John Cade, naming himself John Mortimer, lately called captain of Kent falsely and traitorously plotted your death, destruction and subversion of this your realm, in gathering and raising a great number of your people and stirring them against you.

***The Demands of Cades Rebels 1450***

The Law serves for naught else these days but to do wrong and the courts show no justice. Also we say that our sovereign lord may understand that his false council has lost his law, his merchandise lost and the common people destroyed. France is lost, the sea is lost and Henry so beset that he owes more than any king of England should. Daily his traitors about him take what should be his by law. The commons desire that he shall dismiss the false Duke of Suffolk and that they be punished by the law of the land and he shall take about his noble person his true blood the high and mighty prince the Duke of York and exile the false traitor Suffolk.

***Extract from a warning to Henry a poem complaining about the impoverishment of the King, blamed on people close to Henry.***

You that have the King to demean

You that have made the king so poor

That now he begs from door to door

Let no longer the traitors go loose

O king, if king you are,

Rule yourself or you will be a king without substance

You have a title without substance unless you rule rightly.

***The French Chronicler Jean de Waurin reported the deposition of Henry VI in 1461***

The changes that took place in the kingdom were due to the simple-mindedness of the king who was neither intelligent enough nor experienced enough to manage a kingdom such as England. It is true the proverb which says ‘Very afflicted is the land whose prince is a child or rules like one’.

King Henry himself and his wife Queen Margaret were overthrown and lost that crown which his grandfather Henry IV had violently usurped and taken from King Richard II, his first cousin, whom he caused to be shamelessly murdered. Men say that ill-gotten gains cannot last.

**Jack Cade gives his views about the government of England in an appeal to the people.**

The king should have as his advisers men of high rank from his royal realm, that is to say, the high and mighty prince, the Duke of York, exiled from the service of the king by the suggestions of those false traitors the Duke of Suffolk and his followers.

*Jack Cade, The Complaint of the Poor Commons of Kent, 1450*

**A chronicler records on a concern about the succession expressed in Parliament.**

In Parliament Thomas Yonge of Bristol, apprentice in law, moved that because the king had no offspring, it would be necessary for the security of the kingdom that it should be openly known who should be his heir. And he named the Duke of York. For daring to do this, Thomas was afterwards imprisoned in to the Tower of London.

*The Annals of the Kings of England (Annales rerum anglicarum), May 1451*

*A Chronicle of the reigns of Richard II, Henry IV, Henry V and Henry VI, c.1465*

**An account of the Battle of Wakefield in December, 1460.**

On December 21 the Duke of York and Earl of Salisbury came to Sandal Castle where they spent Christmas, the Duke of Somerset and the Earl of Northumberland with the opposite party lying meanwhile at Pontefract. King Henry with the Earl of Warwick spent Christmas at St Paul’s and Edward, Earl of March, spent Christmas at Shrewsbury. On December 29 at Wakefield when the Duke of York’s men were roaming through the countryside for victuals, a horrible battle took place between them and the Duke of Somerset, Earl of Northumberland and Lord Neville with a great army; and there were killed in the field the Duke of York, Thomas Neville, son of the Earl of Salisbury, Thomas Haryngtone, Thomas Parre, Edward Boucher and many other knights, squires and common soldiers to the number of 2000. After the battle Lord de Clyfforde killed Lord Edmund, the Earl of Rutland, son of the Duke of

York, on the bridge at Wakefield as he fled. On the morrow at Pontefract the Bastard of Exeter killed the Earl of Salisbury and beheaded the body of the Duke of York, placing his head on a gateway in York and in contempt crowning it with a paper crown.

*The Annals of William of Worcester, 1461*

**Source D: An account of the actions of Edward, Earl of March in early 1461.**

Edward, Earl of March, the Duke of York’s son and heir, had a great victory at Mortimer’s Cross in Wales the 2nd day of February next following, and there he put to flight the Earl of Pembroke and the Earl of Wiltshire. And there he took and slew knights and squires and others to the number of 3000. And in that conflict Owen Tudor was taken and beheaded at the market place, and his head was set on the highest pinnacle of the market cross … over the Earl of March his men saw three suns shining.

*Gregory’s Chronicle, 1461*

***In March 1454 after the death of Archbishop Kemp 12 councillors visited Henry VI to find out who he wanted as Archbishop of Canterbury***

They could get no response from the king to anything that they said or did. Then the Bishop of Winchester said to the king that the lords had not dined and they would wait upon his highness again after dinner. So after dinner they returned to the king and moved and stirred him in all the ways they could think of in order to get an answer but they got no word or sign.

(*Adapted from the parliamentary roles)*

***A report on the situation in London***

The duke of York will definitely be at London on Friday next and he will come with his household men. And the earl of March comes with him but he will have other supporters which will be in London before him. The Earl of Salisbury will be in London Monday or Tuesday next week with 140 knights and the Earls of Warwick, Richmond and Pembroke come with York and each brings many men. It is thought by my lord’s servants that my lord should come with a good and able company of men, the same as the other lords have.

*(John Stodeley to his master the Duke of Norfolk 19th January 1454)*

***Parliament Records on York’s Appointment as Protector***

York shall be chief of the kings council and a name different from other councillors was devised, not the name of tutor, lieutenant, governor nor of regent, nor no name that shall give the authority of government of the land but the title of protector and defender, which gives a personal duty of defence of this land from it’s enemies outward and rebels inward if there are any during the kings pleasure (breakdown)

*(Parliamentary roles 27th March 1454)*

***A report of Henry VI regaining his health on Christmas day 1454***

Blessed be God, the king is well and has been since Christmas day. The queen came to him and brought my lord price with her. And then he asked what the prince’s name was, and the queen told him Edward; and then he held up his hands and thanked God.

*(Letter from Edmund Clere to John Paston 9th January 1455.)*

**A chronicler comments on the dispute between York and Somerset.**

Soon after Easter 1455, another dispute arose between the noble Duke of York and the evil Duke of Somerset. For Somerset was plotting the destruction of the noble Duke of York. He offered advice to the king, saying that the Duke of York wished to depose the king and rule England himself – which was manifestly false.

Because of this, around the middle of May, the Duke of York and the Earls of Shrewsbury and Warwick approached London with seven thousand armed men. When the Duke of Somerset heard this news, he suggested to the king that York had come to usurp the throne. For this reason Henry sided with the Duke of Somerset.

*The Anonymous London Chronicle, for the year 1455*

**A chronicler comments on the government of England in 1459.**

The realm of England was not well governed for King Henry VI was child–like and influenced by greedy advisors. He was owed more than he was worth. His debts increased daily, but payment was there none; all the possessions and lordships that belonged to the crown the king had given away, some to lords and some to other lesser persons, so that he had almost nothing left of his own. And the money taken from the people was wasted, as all the taxes that came from them were spent in vain. The king did not have a proper household as a king should nor was he able to maintain any wars. The queen with her supporters ruled the realm as she liked, gathering innumerable riches. The queen was defamed and slandered. It was said her son, who was called the heir to the throne, was not her son but was an illegitimate child born as a result of her adultery; wherefore she, dreading that he should not succeed to his father’s throne, allied unto her all the knights and squires of Cheshire.

**An account written in England for the Duke of Burgundy on the events of 1455.**

The Duke of York said he had by no means come against the King and was always ready to do him obedience, but he intended in all ways to have the traitors who were with the King so that they could be punished, and that if he could not have them by friendly and voluntary means he intended to have them in any event by force. Reply was made on the King’s behalf that he did not have any traitors near him except the Duke of York himself who had risen against the crown. But before this reply came to the Duke of York a skirmish had already started between the men of both sides

*The Dijon Relation, 1455*

**An extract from the Act of Accord of October 24, 1460.**

It is accorded, appointed and agreed, that the said Richard, Duke of York be entitled, called and reputed from henceforth, very and rightful heir to the Crowns, Royal Estate, Dignity and Lordship above said; and after the death of the said Henry, the said Duke and his heirs, shall immediately succeed to the Crowns, Royal Estate, Dignity and Lordship.

*The Act of Accord, 1460*

**A description of the First Battle of St Albans, 1455.**

Lord Clifford kept strongly the barriers so that the Duke of York might not in any way enter nor break into the town but the Earl of Warwick took and gathered his men together and ferociously broke in by the garden side between the sign of the Key and the sign of the Chequer in Hollowell Street; and as soon as they were in the town they blew trumpets and shouted with a great voice: ‘A Warwick! A Warwick!’ At once after the breaking in they set on them manfully. The Duke of Somerset, the Earl of Northumberland, Lord Clifford and about 50 more of the King’s followers were slain; the King was wounded as were also the Duke of Buckingham, the Earl of Stafford, the Earl of Dorset and Sir John Wenlock.

*The Paston Letters, 1455*

**A description of the return of the Duke of York from Ireland in 1460.**

While the people were wavering in doubt and the lord King was assembled with the prelates, peers and commons in parliament for the good of the realm, the Duke of York with the pomp of a great following and horns and trumpets arrived in no small exultation of spirit. He advanced with determined step on the royal throne and laid his hand on the cushion, keeping it there for a short while. At last, drawing it back, he looked at the gazing assembly. The Archbishop of Canterbury asked him if he wished to see the Lord King but the Duke seemed irritated and replied curtly, ‘I know of no person in this realm whom it does not behove to come to me rather than I should visit him.’ When the news of the Duke’s high‑handedness reached the people, they at once began to murmur against him.

*Whethamstede’s Chronicle, 1460*

**An account of the Second Battle of St Albans in February, 1461.**

When the Battle of Wakefield was over, Queen Margaret came from Scotland to York where it was decided by the counsel of the lords to march in force to London and to rescue King Henry from the hands of his enemies. On Shrove Tuesday took place the Battle of St Albans, where the Duke of Norfolk and the Earls of Warwick and Arundel and many others fled the field. And the prince came to his father, King Henry, in the field and was dubbed knight. In the battle were killed 2,000 men.

*The Annals of William of Worcester, 1461***3**

**An account of the accession of Edward IV in 1461.**

On the 28 February, 1461 the Earl of March and the Earl of Warwick came to London with a great power, and on Sunday afterwards all the host mustered in St John’s field and there were read among them certain articles and points in which King Henry had offended against the realm and then they were asked whether they would have the Earl of March as King and they cried ‘Yea!’; when the Earl of March was told the people had chosen him as king, he thanked them and, by the advice of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Exeter, the Earl of Warwick and others, consented to take the crown upon him.

*Six Town Chronicles, 1461*