



A-level HISTORY

Component 2A Royal Authority and the Angevin Kings, 1154–1216

Friday 6 June 2025

Afternoon

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7042/2A.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the two questions in Section B.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Source A

From an official Exchequer document dictated by King John in council in 1210. William de Briouze had been a close associate of John until his flight to France in 1210.

Let it be known to all of you, what was the reason that led William de Briouze to flee from my realm. Be aware that William owed me huge debts, because of territory which I released to him in Ireland. He failed to pay me anything he owed over the next five years. It was thus decided that, according to the custom and law of England, he should have his possessions seized and that I should recover my money. After pursuing William in Ireland and capturing his wife Matilda, William agreed to pay a fine of 50 000 marks. Since he willingly agreed, and had to go and raise the money, I allowed him freedom and an escort at his request. But when the final day of the first payment approached, William gave his escort the slip and secretly fled from my land. He paid me nothing of my money. Matilda also told me curtly that she would pay me nothing and had no money to pay towards the fine.

Source B

From the anonymous contemporary Crowland Chronicle. The Abbot of Crowland Monastery was the brother of William Longchamp, but John had ruled in the Abbot's favour in a recent legal dispute.

In 1212 the Welsh princes, encouraged by the Pope, attacked the English king in return for the Interdict being relaxed throughout their lands. John, stirred to violent anger, hanged the hostages and gathered an army against them. Then John's heart was troubled, since he had heard rumours that his barons were conspiring against him. There were tales of letters absolving the barons from John's allegiance and it was said that another king should be elected. Thus, John returned from Wales and would go nowhere unarmed or without a bodyguard. He took captive some who seemed to be too intimate with the rebels and quickly seized castles. Then the nobles of the country left England secretly. Eustace de Vesci went to Scotland and Robert FitzWalter departed to France. Even amidst such adversity John set in motion a great deed. He saw the misery of those afflicted by the Forest Laws and forced his officials to swear to collect only the amounts they had collected in Henry II's reign.

Source C

From Clause 61 of Magna Carta, drafted after the outbreak of hostilities between John and his barons. The charter was based upon the demands and grievances of the barons.

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Source C suggests that the reason for discord has been due to arguments between the King and the barons.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the relationship between King John and his barons.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

- 0 2** To what extent was Henry II successful in achieving control over the English Church during his reign?
[25 marks]
- 0 3** 'Henry II failed in his dealings with the French Crown.'
Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]
- 0 4** 'The loss of Normandy in 1204 was more the result of Richard's legacy than the failings of John.'
Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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