



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

AS Level History A

Y131/01 Alfred and the Making of England 871–1016

Wednesday 17 May 2017 – Afternoon

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet
(OCR12 sent with general stationery)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Answer **all** the questions in Section A and **one** question in Section B.
- Write your answer to each question on the Answer Booklet.
- Do **not** write in the barcodes.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **50**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- Quality of extended responses will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document consists of **4** pages.

SECTION A

Alfred the Great

Study the three sources and then answer **both** questions.

- 1 Use your knowledge of Alfred's programme of learning to assess how useful Source B is as evidence for what he wanted children to study. [10]
- 2 Using these three sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the view that King Alfred promoted learning for religious reasons. [20]

Source A: King Alfred explains to his officials in Church and state why learning is desirable.

Thanks be to almighty God that we now have a supply of teachers. Therefore I beseech you to do as I believe you are willing to do. As often as you can, free yourselves from worldly affairs so that you may apply that wisdom which God gave you whenever you can. Remember what punishments befell us in this world when we ourselves did not cherish learning, nor transmit it to other men. We were Christians in name only and very few of us possessed Christian virtues.

Alfred, Preface to the Translation of Gregory's Pastoral Care, written about 890

Source B: Asser, a monk, writes about how Alfred set up a school at his court.

Aethelweard, the youngest [of his children], as a result of the remarkable foresight of the king, was given over to training in reading and writing under the attentive care of teachers, in company with all the nobly born children of virtually the entire area and a good many of lesser birth as well. In this school, books in both English and Latin were carefully read. They also devoted themselves to writing, to such an extent that, even before they had the requisite strength for manly skills (hunting, that is, and other skills appropriate to noblemen), they were seen to be devoted and intelligent students of the liberal arts.

Asser, Life of King Alfred 893

Source C: Florence of Worcester, a monk and historian, writes about Alfred's encouragement of learning.

Almost all the ealdormen and judges, however illiterate from their youth upwards, applied themselves surprisingly to the learned studies, preferring rather to undergo a new discipline as scholars than to resign their offices. If, however, any one could not make progress in learning, either from advanced age or from dullness of intellect, unused to such exertions, the king required his son, if he had any, some kinsman, or, if no-one else was to be had, one of his liege-men, whether a freeman or a serf, for whom he had long before provided means of instruction, to read to him Saxon books, by day or by night, whenever he found leisure.

Florence of Worcester, Chronicle, written before 1118

SECTION B

The Making of England 899–1016

Answer **ONE** question.

3* How successfully did Edward the Elder deal with the problems he faced? **[20]**

4* Assess the reasons why Athelstan was able to establish himself as king of all England. **[20]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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