



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

AS Level History A

Y131 Alfred and the Making of England 871–1016

Wednesday 18 May 2016 – 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 methods of government to assess how useful Source A is as evidence for how he came to decisions. [10]
- 2 Using these three sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the view that King Alfred's priority in government was justice. [20]

Source A: King Alfred explains how he drew up his Law Code.

I gathered the laws together and ordered to be written many of the ones that our forefathers observed. For I dared not presume to set down in writing many of my own laws, since it was unknown to me what should please those who should come after us. Those [laws] that pleased me and many of the ones that did not please me I rejected with the advice of my councillors. Those which seemed to be most just I collected herein, and omitted the others.

Introduction to the Laws of King Alfred, drawn up in the late 880s or early 890s

Source B: Asser, a monk, writes about how Alfred ensured his wishes were carried out.

His bishops, ealdormen, nobles, favourite thegns and prefects, next to God and the king, held the whole government of the kingdom. As was fitting, [they] continually received from the king instruction, compliment, urging and command. If they were disobedient and his long patience was exhausted, he would reprimand them severely and thus he bound them to his own wishes and the common interests of the whole kingdom. But if, owing to the laziness of the people, these commands of the king were not fulfilled or were begun too late, then those who had set themselves against the imperial will were put to shame.

Asser, *Life of King Alfred*, 893

Source C: Florence of Worcester, a monk and historian, gives his opinion about Alfred, after recording the king's death.

The renowned warlike and victorious king was the conscientious guardian of the widows and fatherless, orphans and the poor. He was a perfect master of Saxon poetry, fondly loved by his own subjects and was most pleasant and generous to all the world, endowed with prudence and temperance. He was shrewd and impartial in the administration of justice and vigilant and devout in the service of God.

Florence of Worcester, *Chronicle*, written before 1118

SECTION B

The Making of England 899–1016

Answer **ONE** question.

- 3*** 'Military strength was the main reason for the success of Athelstan as king.' How far do you agree? **[20]**
- 4*** How far was Aethelred responsible for the failure of the English to prevent Danish invasions during his reign? **[20]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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