



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

AS Level History A

Unit Y131

Alfred and the Making of England 871–1016

Sample Question Paper

Date – Morning/Afternoon Version 0.16

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes



OCR supplied materials:

- 12 page Answer Booklet

Other materials required:

- None



* o o o o o o *

First name											
Last name											
Centre number							Candidate number				

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Complete the boxes above with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- 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 bar codes.

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 **8** pages.

Section A**Alfred the Great**

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

- 1 Use your knowledge of Alfred's campaigns against the Vikings to assess how useful Source A is as evidence of the methods Alfred used to overcome the Vikings.

[10]

- 2 Using these three sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the view that Alfred's success against his Viking opponents was due mainly to his skill as a diplomat and negotiator.

[20]

Source A: William of Malmesbury, a monk and historian, tells a story of how Alfred acted as a spy to gain knowledge about his opponents.

Accompanied only by one of his most faithful adherents, Alfred entered the tent of the Danish king under the disguise of a minstrel; and being admitted, as a professor of the mimic art, to the banqueting room, there was no object of secrecy that he did not minutely attend to both with eyes and ears. Remaining there several days, till he had satisfied his mind on every matter which he wished to know, he returned to Athelney.

William of Malmesbury, Chronicle of the Kings of the English, 1128

Source B: A narrative of how Alfred used his navy to confront the Vikings.

And the same year King Alfred sent a naval force from Kent to East Anglia. As soon as they came to the mouth of the Stour, then met them sixteen ships of Vikings and they fought against them, and captured all the ships, and slew the men. When they were returning homeward with the booty, a great naval force of Vikings met them, and then fought against them on the same day. And in the same year a larger naval force assembled among the Old Saxons; and there was a great fight twice in that year, and the Saxons had the victory; and there were Frisians with them.

Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, 885

Source C: Asser, a monk, writes about the methods Alfred used to win a battle against Vikings at Edington.

Moving his standards thence the next morning, he came to a place called Edington, and with a close shield-wall fought fiercely against the whole army of the pagans; his attack was long and spirited, and finally by divine aid he triumphed and overthrew the pagans with a very great slaughter. He pursued them, killing them as they fled up to the stronghold, where he seized all that he found outside – men, horses, and cattle – slaying the men at once; and before the gates of the pagan fortress he boldly encamped with his whole army. And when he had stayed there fourteen days and the pagans had known the horrors of famine, cold, fear, and at last of despair, they sought a peace.

Asser's Life of King Alfred, 893

Section B

The Making of England 899–1216

Answer **ONE** question.

EITHER

- 3*** Assess the reasons for the success of Edward the Elder in dealing with the challenges he faced from 899 to 924.

[20]

OR

- 4*** 'Edgar's most important achievement was to improve local government and administration.' How far do you agree?

[20]

BLANK PAGE

BLANK PAGE

BLANK PAGE

BLANK PAGE

Copyright Information:

Source A: Adapted from J. A. Giles, *William of Malmesbury's Chronicle of the Kings of England From the earliest period to the reign of King Stephen*, Henry G. Bohn, 1847.

Source B: Adapted from: Swanton, M (2000), *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles*, Orion Publishing, London UK. Reproduced with permission from The Orion Publishing Group Ltd., UK.

Source C: Adapted from Asser's *Life of King Alfred*, translated by W. H. Stevenson, Oxford University Press, 1904.

OCR is committed to seeking permission to reproduce all third-party content that it uses in the assessment materials. OCR has attempted to identify and contact all copyright holders whose work is used in this paper. To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced in the OCR Copyright Acknowledgements booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download from our public website (www.ocr.org.uk) after the live examination series.

If OCR has unwittingly failed to correctly acknowledge or clear any third-party content in this assessment material, OCR will be happy to correct its mistake at the earliest possible opportunity.

For queries or further information please contact the Copyright Team, First Floor, 9 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1GE.

OCR is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group; Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is itself a department of the University of Cambridge.