



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

## A Level History A

Y101/01 Alfred and the Making of England 871–1016

**Wednesday 13 June 2018 – 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 Question 1 in Section A and either Question 2 or Question 3 in Section B.
- Write your answers in the Answer Booklet. The question number(s) must be clearly shown.
- 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 four sources and then answer Question 1.

- 1 Using these four sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the view that King Alfred's reform of learning was for religious reasons. [30]

**Source A: The archbishop of Reims writes to Alfred in response to a request for assistance in the king's reforms in England.**

You attend to the good of the kingdom divinely entrusted to you, seeking or safeguarding its peace with warlike weapons and divine support. With your mind continually on religious matters, you take care to increase the dignity of the ecclesiastical order with spiritual weapons. I beseech heavenly mercy that... in your time peace may be increased in your kingdom and likewise that the ecclesiastical order, which, as you say, has fallen into ruin, whether by the frequent invasion and onslaught of the Vikings, or through enfeeblement or through the carelessness of the bishops.... may, through your diligence and industry be reformed as quickly as possible.

*Fulco, Letter, c. 886*

**Source B: Alfred introduces his translation of Pope Gregory's *Pastoral Care*.**

It seems better to me...that we should turn certain books, which are the most necessary for all men to know, into the language that we can all understand. With God's help we may very easily accomplish this, provided we have peace enough, so that all the free-born young men now in England may be set to learning (as long as they are not useful for some other employment), until the time they can read English writings properly. Thereafter one may instruct in Latin those whom one wishes to teach further and wishes to advance to the priesthood.

*Alfred, Preface to Gregory's Pastoral Care, c. 890*

**Source C: Asser, a monk, writes about how Alfred cultivated learning.**

The king's desire for knowledge increased steadily and was satisfied by the learning and wisdom of all four men [scholars at his court]. By day and night, whenever he had the opportunity, he used to tell them to read aloud books in his presence. Indeed, he could never tolerate being without one or the other of them. Accordingly, he acquired some acquaintance with almost all books, even though he could not at this point understand anything in the books by himself. For he had not yet begun to read anything.

*Asser, Life of King Alfred, 893*

**Source D: William of Malmesbury, a monk and historian, gives an account of Alfred's attitude to learning.**

The king gave his whole soul to the cultivation of the liberal arts, insomuch that no Englishman was quicker in understanding, or more elegant in translating...He translated into English the greater part of the Roman authors, bringing the noblest spoil of foreign parts for the use of his subjects...Moreover, he infused a great regard for literature into his countrymen, stimulating them both with rewards and punishments, allowing no ignorant person to aspire to any dignity in the court. He died just as he had begun a translation of the Psalms.

*William of Malmesbury, Chronicle of the kings of England, written before 1143*

## SECTION B

## The Making of England 899–1016

Answer **ONE** question.

- 2\*** How successful were Edgar's reforms in government and administration? [20]
- 3\*** Assess the reasons for the instability of Aethelred's reign. [20]

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**

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