



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Friday 9 June 2023 – Afternoon

A Level History A

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

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Answer Question 1 in Section A. Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3 in Section B.

INFORMATION

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

ADVICE

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

Section A**Alfred the Great**

Study the **four** sources and answer Question 1.

- 1 Using these four sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the view that the main decisions in government and administration were taken by Alfred alone. **[30]**

Source A: King Alfred gives a commentary on his attitude to governing.

Desire for earthly power never pleased me overmuch, and I did not unduly desire this earthly rule. But I wished for tools and resources for the task that I was commanded to accomplish, which was that I should virtuously and worthily guide and direct the authority which was entrusted to me. No man can direct and guide authority without tools and resources. In the case of the king, the resources and tools with which to rule are that he have his land fully manned. He must have praying men, fighting men and working men. Without these tools no king may make his authority known.

Alfred, Writing in the introduction to his translation of Boethius' Consolation of Philosophy, written about 890.

Source B: Asser, a monk, writes about Alfred's administration.

Alfred decreed that the part of his revenue reserved for secular affairs should be divided into three portions. He paid out the first portion every year to his fighting men and likewise to his noble thegns who lived at the royal court in turns, serving him in various capacities. Now the royal household was systematically managed at all times by means of three shifts. By this arrangement the administration in the royal court is taken in turns at all times.

Asser, Life of King Alfred, 893.

Source C: King Alfred outlines how he assembled his Law Code.

I gathered the laws together and ordered to be written many of the ones which our forefathers observed – those that pleased me. Many of the ones that did not please me I rejected with the advice of my councillors. For I dared not presume to set down in writing many of my own, since it was unknown to me what would please those who should come after us. But those which I found either in the days of Ine, my kinsman, or of Offa, king of the Mercians, or of Aethelbert, who first among English people received baptism, and which seemed good to me, I collected herein and rejected the others.

King Alfred's Law Code, drawn up by 895.

Source D: A monk and historian gives an account of Alfred's methods of government.

Although he stood alone, yet God being his helper, he never allowed the helm of government to which he had once put his hand, to waver and become unsteady, though tossed by the waves and storms of this present life. For he unceasingly and most wisely used both gentle instruction, reproof and command, to win over his bishops, ealdormen and his thegns and officers to his own wishes and the public good. Where these methods failed, he had recourse to severe punishment of the disobedient.

Chronicle of Florence of Worcester, written before 1118.

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Section B**The Making of England 899–1016**Answer Question 2 **or** Question 3.

- 2*** Assess the reasons for the success of Edward the Elder against his opponents. **[20]**
- 3*** How much change did Athelstan make in the way England was governed? **[20]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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