



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

A Level History A

Unit Y102

Anglo-Saxon England and the Norman Conquest 1035–1107

Sample Question Paper

Date – Morning/Afternoon

Version 0.15

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes



OCR supplied materials:

- 12 page Answer Booklet

Other materials required:

- None



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 Question 1 in Section A and either Question 2 or Question 3 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**Norman England 1087–1107**

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 William II 'Rufus' was totally ruthless in dealing with opposition to his rule.

[30]

Source A: The view of an English monk (who lived in Normandy) about how William II dealt with rebels.

He (the king) bided his time and waited for the right moment to take vengeance.

He punished some of the rebels with severe penalties and deliberately turned a blind eye to the guilt of others. He shrewdly spared the older barons, although the conspiracy had temporarily weakened their allegiance to him, out of love for his father whom they had served long and faithfully, and through respect for their grey hairs. In any case he knew that disease and speedy death would soon put an end to their activities. Consequently some of those who had gone furthest in their treachery obeyed him with all the more devotion in the years that followed and endeavoured to appease him with gifts and services and flattery.

Orderic Vitalis (1075–1142) Historia ecclesiastica

Source B: Part of an account, by a French poet, of the events leading to William II's death.

William Rufus, reigning over the land, and having a powerful army, conquered all his adversaries, so much so as to have brought all his foes under control. There was no one who dared in any way to murmur against his word or deeds. Ranulph, the bishop of Durham, was his special adviser in affairs of state. Ranulph proved most cruel at taking property from the people, and being the most avaricious* and most abandoned of all men in the land, woefully oppressed the whole kingdom, and wrung it even to the drawing of blood.

*greedy

Peter of Blois (1135–1211) on William Rufus

Source C: Part of a narrative of key events during the reign of William II.

When the king understood all these matters and what treachery they were committing against him, he grew much disturbed in mind. Then he sent for Englishmen and explained his need to them and asked for their help, and promised them the best law that there had ever been in this country, and forbade every unjust tax, and granted the people their woods and hunting rights – but it did not last any time. But nevertheless the Englishmen came to the help of their liege lord the king. They marched towards Rochester and intended to capture Bishop Odo – they thought that if they had the one who had been the head of the plot they could the better get hold of all the rest.

Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (1042–1154)

Source D: Part of a narrative history of the Normans written by an archdeacon and poet whose father was a Norman.

The king (William II 'Rufus') assembled the English people and restored to them their rights of hunting and forests, and promised them desirable laws. Then he marched to the castle of Tonbridge in Kent, where Gilbert Fitzrichard was in revolt against him. But when the royal army stormed the castle, Gilbert was reconciled with the king. Then the king advanced to Pevensey and there besieged Bishop Odo and Count Robert of Mortain for six weeks. The king also sent an army to Durham to besiege it until it was surrendered to him. The bishop of Durham and many of the traitors were driven into exile, and the king redistributed to the men who were loyal to him lands he had confiscated from the disloyal.

Henry of Huntingdon: The History of the English People (1000–1154)

Adapted from: Henry of Huntingdon with translation by Greenway, D. (2009), *The History of the English People 1000-1154*. Reproduced with permission from Oxford university Press through PLS Clear.

Section B

Anglo–Saxon England and the Norman Conquest 1035–1087

Answer **ONE** question.

EITHER

2* 'Edward the Confessor was an effective monarch.' How far do you agree with this view?

[20]

OR

3* Assess the reasons for William of Normandy's victory at the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

[20]

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- Source B:** Adapted from *Ingulf's Chronicle of the Abbey of Croyland with the Continuation of Peter of Blois*. Henry T Riley (London: Henry G. Bohn, 1854), pp.229-37. As found at the Internet medieval Sourcecheck, Fordham University Center for Medieval Studies.: <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/blois1.asp>
- Source C:** Adapted from: *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, (1042–1154)*, by Swanton, M (2000), *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles*, Orion Publishing, London UK. Reproduced with permission from The Orion Publishing Group.
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