



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

A Level History A

Unit Y303

English Government and the Church 1066–1216

Sample Question Paper

Version 0.14

Date – Morning/Afternoon

Time allowed: 2 hours 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 Question 1 in Section A and any 2 questions 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 **80**.
- 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

Read the two passages and then answer Question 1.

- 1** Evaluate the interpretations in both of the two passages and explain which you think is more convincing about the anarchy of Stephen's reign.

[30]

Passage A

In 1143 scenes of unsurpassed savagery and bloodshed were being enacted in the eastern counties. The villain of the piece was the notorious Geoffrey de Mandeville. He was arrested at St. Albans, charged with treason and given the choice of the gallows or the surrender of the Tower and his Essex castles. He chose the latter and went off to give vent to his violent rage in Cambridgeshire. Every form of torture was employed to extort crippling ransoms from those who were unfortunate enough to fall into his hands. In these conditions, all work was at a standstill; the fields were untilled; the crops uncut or destroyed. Over a stretch of twenty or thirty miles of country there was not an ox nor a plough to be seen. A serious famine, the inevitable result, added to the enormous death toll. The career of Geoffrey was not unique; the earl of Chester's revolt in 1146 was very similar in its character. But what these great magnates were doing on a large scale, scores of lesser barons and free lances, up and down the country, were doing in a minor way, creating riot and havoc from their castles and tyrannizing over their weaker neighbours, with the purpose of benefiting solely themselves, not fighting for either Stephen or Matilda.

Adapted from : Poole, A.L. (1963), *From Domesday Book to Magna Carta 1087-1216* (Oxford History of England). Reproduced with permission from Oxford University Press through PLS Clear.

Passage B

Whatever the tensions in Stephen's diminished realm, for example in Kent, for much of the time he maintained reasonable order within it. In Essex, at least after the fall of de Mandeville, he retained control over the forest which covered much of the county, despite promises of deforestation in 1136. The exchequer continued to function and justices went out to hear royal pleas. Individual barons exploited disorder, but they had clear political objectives in the recovery and retention of land, office and rights. They wanted to exercise local rule, not create an anarchy which would destroy their estates and shake the allegiance of their knightly tenants. There were also private attempts to limit the violence, such as the treaty between the earls of Chester and Leicester. The chroniclers do not always sing the same tune; that of Peterborough, having given the most lurid of all the descriptions of the anarchy, added that 'during all this evil time' Abbot Martin rebuilt the church, planted vineyards, held great commemoration feasts and generally provided the monks and guests with everything they wanted. According to one calculation 171 religious houses of all types were founded in Stephen's reign, a 50% increase in the number existing in 1135 and suggest that there was at least relative stability in some areas.

Adapted from: D Carpenter, *The Struggle for Mastery*, published in 2004

Section B

Answer **TWO** of the following three questions.

- 2*** 'The continental possessions of the crown made their greatest impact on English government in the reign of Henry I.' How far do you agree with this view of the period from 1066 to 1216?

[25]

- 3*** 'The most important developments in common law were during the reign of Henry II.' How far do you agree with this view of the period 1066-1216?

[25]

- 4*** To what extent did the power of the archbishop of Canterbury over the English Church change during the period from 1066 to 1216?

[25]

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Passage B: DA Carpenter, *The Struggle for Mastery: Britain 1066-1284*, Oxford University Press, 2003, pp176-177. Reproduced with permission from Oxford University Press through PLS Clear.

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