



GCSE HISTORY

Paper 2 Section B/A: Norman England, c1066–c1100

Interpretations Booklet

Interpretation A for use in answering Question 01



2 3 6 G 8 1 4 5 / 2 B / A

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Interpretation A An interpretation of the legal system under the Normans.

Adapted from 'The Norman Conquest' by Hugh Thomas, 2008.

The Normans did not bring a revolution to the English legal system. They wanted to keep the system mainly the same, and only made changes little by little. The Normans wrote existing laws down, but introduced Forest law and murdrum, as well as altering the law of inheritance. The Normans kept the Anglo-Saxon courts but added the court of the local lord. To decide who was guilty, the Normans continued to use ordeals but brought in trial by battle.

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END OF INTERPRETATIONS

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