



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Thursday 5 June 2025 – Morning

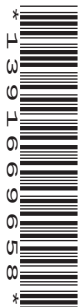
GCSE (9–1) History B (Schools History Project)

J411/11 The People's Health, c.1250 to present with The Norman Conquest, 1065–1087

Time allowed: 1 hour 45 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.
- Section A – The People's Health, c.1250 to present: Answer Questions 1(a–c), 2, 3 and **either** Question 4 **or** Question 5.
- Section B – The Norman Conquest, 1065–1087: Answer Questions 6(a–b) and 7, and **either** Question 8 **or** Question 9.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **80**.
- 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 **8** pages.

ADVICE

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

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Section A

The People's Health, c.1250 to present

Answer Questions 1(a–c), 2 and 3.

- 1**
- (a) Give **one** example of how early modern towns tried to improve public health in their local areas between 1500 and 1750. [1]
- (b) Name **one** way in which people in towns obtained their water between 1750 and 1900. [1]
- (c) Name **one** person whose work during the 1900s had a positive effect on public health. [1]
- 2** Write a clear and organised summary that analyses responses to outbreaks of plague during the period 1348 (the Black Death) to c.1670. [9]
- Support your summary with examples.
- 3** Why did the gin craze become a significant public health issue during the period 1660 to 1751? Explain your answer. [10]

Answer Question 4 **or** Question 5.

- 4*** 'Government action was **not effective** in improving public health between 1750 and 1900.' How far do you agree? Give reasons for your answer. [18]
- 5*** 'Since c.1900, changes in living conditions and lifestyles in Britain have improved people's health.' How far do you agree? Give reasons for your answer. [18]

Section B

The Norman Conquest, 1065–1087

Answer Questions 6(a–b) and 7.

6

- (a) In **Interpretation A**, the podcaster gives us a negative impression of the role of knights in **Norman culture**.

Identify and explain **one** way in which he does this.

[3]

Interpretation A

An extract from 'The British History Podcast' by Jamie Jeffers. The podcast was made recently.

Before 1066, in Anglo-Saxon England, the sons of noblemen were expected to be educated and literate. They took an interest in culture and the arts. They were expected to take an interest in the law and in international events.

Anglo-Saxon England was sheltered from the culture of knights. This culture was at the centre of Norman society and mainly focused on horsemanship and war. Culturally, this was a disaster. A boy who trained as a Norman knight had no book learning. After fifteen or twenty years of education he would know how to do only two things: hunt and fight. He had no other useful skills, and looked down upon those who did.

Craftsmanship, education and the arts did not matter to Norman knights. Their self-worth and identity rested entirely on their ability to hand out violence. The culture of knights was brutish and barbaric. It created a flood of illiterate, uncultured young men who were desperate for an opportunity to be violent.

- (b) If you were asked to do further research on **one** aspect of Interpretation A, what would you choose to investigate?

Explain how this would help us to analyse and understand Normandy before 1066.

[5]

7 Interpretations B and C both focus on how William the Conqueror dealt with his opponents.

How far do they differ and what might explain any differences?

[12]

Interpretation B

An extract from a recent TV documentary called 'Rebellion in the North'. It was part of a series of programmes which celebrated the rebels who challenged the treatment of the North of England across different periods of history.

Adapted from access.historyhit.com/rebellion-in-the-north/season:1/videos/the-harrying-of-the-north. Item removed due to third party copyright restrictions.

Interpretation C

An extract from a biography of William the Conqueror by historian Marc Morris, published in 2016. This extract is taken from the concluding chapter which looked back over the rest of the book.

William has been seen by some as a peace-loving ruler, and by others as an oppressive ruler. The truth lies somewhere between the two.

Whilst harrying was standard practice in medieval warfare, the scale of the destruction brought about by the Harrying of the North had such terrible consequences that even writers at the time thought it went too far. Nevertheless, despite their views on the Harrying of the North, not all Anglo-Saxon writers judged William's rule to be cruel overall.

Of course, by present standards, some of the punishments William dished out were savage – his mutilation and blinding of some Saxon rebels, for example, would today be regarded as unacceptable. However, the eleventh century was a cruel time. In Anglo-Saxon England, for example, disobedient slaves were stoned or burned to death. Therefore, we cannot be sure whether all of William's behaviour was regarded as unusually cruel in his own day.

5

Answer Question 8 **or** Question 9.

- 8*** The history website 'BBC Bitesize' argues that Harold Godwinson had the 'strongest claim' to the English throne after Edward the Confessor's death in January 1066.

How far do you agree with this view?

Give reasons for your answer.

[20]

- 9*** In describing early Norman castles as 'rather weak and primitive', the website 'www.worldhistory.biz' suggests that they were **not very effective**.

How far do you agree with this view of Norman castles in England between 1066 and 1087?

Give reasons for your answer.

[20]

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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