

Answer the following question.**Nominated topic: Opposition to Norman rule**

- 1 Study the following documents and answer all the questions which follow. In evaluating and commenting upon the documents, it is essential to set them alongside, and to make use of, your own contextual knowledge.

- A** *A Norman chronicler, closely connected to William's court, describes William's treatment of the English after the battle of Hastings.*

Wherever William went men laid down their arms. Everyone submitted to him. Edgar the Aetheling, whom the English had tried to make king after the downfall of Harold, was endowed with much land and was part of William's closest circle so that the boy should not regret too bitterly the loss of the position for which he had once been chosen. William placed capable castellans with ample supplies of horse and foot in his castles. These were men brought over from France, on whose loyalty and competence William could rely. He gave them rich fiefs, in return for which they willingly endured hardship and danger.

Orderic Vitalis, *Ecclesiastical History*, written c. 1125.

- B** *A chronicler describes various methods whereby William I dealt with opposition.*

In 1071 Earls Morcar and Edwin took to ravaging through woods and fields. But Edwin was killed by his own men. Morcar, Hereward and Bishop Aethelwine came to Ely. Then the king led an army by land and sea and besieged the island [of Ely], building a bridge and very skilfully constructing a castle. He entered the island and killed the aforesaid men, except for the valiant Hereward, who bravely led his men away. In 1072 the king took an army by land and sea to Scotland. Then Malcolm, the Scottish king, became his man and gave him hostages. In 1074 the king went to Normandy and Edgar the Aetheling was reconciled with him and stayed a long time in William's court.

Henry of Huntingdon, *History of the English People, 1000–1154*, written between 1123 and c. 1154.

- C** *An English chronicler describes events in the north in 1069.*

After the Danes had invaded, King William, hearing of this, immediately assembled an army and hastened into Northumbria, giving way to his resentment. He spent the whole winter laying waste the countryside, slaughtering the inhabitants and inflicting every sort of evil without any pause. He sent messengers to the Danish earl and promised to pay him secretly a large sum of money, and to grant permission for the Danish army to forage freely along the sea coast, on condition that the Danes would depart without fighting when the winter was over. As a result of the ravages of the Normans, first in Northumbria in 1068 and 1069 and throughout nearly the whole of England in 1070, a severe famine prevailed in most parts of the kingdom, although chiefly in Northumbria. Men were driven to feed on the flesh of horses, dogs, cats and even of human beings.

Florence of Worcester, *Chronicle*, written between 1124 and 1140.

D *A Norman chronicler gives his version of events in 1069.*

The King reached York only to find the Danes had fled. He assigned officers and castellans with armed retainers to repair the castles in the city and left others on the bank of the river Humber to ward off the Danes. He himself continued to comb forests and remote mountain places, stopping at nothing to hunt out the enemy hidden there. His camps were spread over an area of a hundred miles. He cut down many in his vengeance, destroyed the lairs of others, harried the land and burned homes to ashes. He made no effort to restrain his fury and punished the innocent with the guilty. In his anger he commanded that all crops and herds, chattels and food of every kind should be brought together and burned to ashes, so the whole region north of the Humber might be stripped of all means of sustenance.

William of Malmesbury, *Chronicle of the Kings of England*, written about 1125.

E *An English chronicler considers William's response to threats from the Danes in 1085.*

Cnut, King of Denmark, came hither and was determined to win this land. William, King of England, came from Normandy, with a larger army of cavalry and infantry than had ever been seen here before, from France and Brittany. Men wondered how this army could be fed, but the king left it to shift for itself and his subjects fed them, each according to how much land he held. Men suffered much distress this year as the king caused all the land near the sea coast to be laid waste so that if his foes landed there would not be anything they could seize easily. When the king realised his foes were hindered by a mutiny in the Danish fleet, he let some of his army return home, but some he kept in England over the winter.

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for 1085.

- (a) How far are the views expressed about William I's reaction to invasion in Document C corroborated by those in Document D? [10]
- (b) How convincing is the evidence provided by this set of documents for the view that William I dealt with opposition by using the tactics of terror?

In making your evaluation, you should refer to contextual knowledge as well as to all the documents in this set (A–E). [20]

Answer one of the following essay questions. *Where appropriate, your essay should make use of any relevant documents you have studied as well as contextual knowledge.*

- 2 How effective was the Church in Anglo-Saxon England before 1066? [30]
- 3 Assess the view that William's leadership was the decisive factor in his victory at Hastings. [30]
- 4 To what extent was there more continuity than change in the government of England after 1066? [30]

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