



Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate

HISTORY

9769/11

Paper 1a British History Outlines, c.300–1547

May/June 2016

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 90

Published

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This document consists of **30** printed pages.

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These banding definitions address Assessment Objectives (AOs) 1, 2 and 4, and should be used in conjunction with the indicative content mark schemes for each question. Information about AOs can be found in the 2016–18 Cambridge Pre-U History syllabus.

Introduction

- (a) The banding definitions which follow reflect, and should be interpreted within the context of, the following general statement:

Examiners will give their highest marks to candidates who show a ready understanding of the relevant material and a disciplined management of the discussion the question provokes. They will be impressed more by critical judgement, careful discrimination and imaginative handling than by a weight of facts. Credit will be given for evidence of a good historical intelligence and for good use of material rather than for a stereotyped rehearsal of memorised information.

- (b) Examiners will use these banding definitions in combination with the paper-specific mark schemes.
- (c) It goes without saying that any explanation or judgement is strengthened if informed by the use of source material.
- (d) Examiners will also bear in mind that analysis sufficient for a mark in the highest band may perfectly legitimately be deployed within a chronological framework. Candidates who eschew an explicitly analytical response may yet be able, by virtue of the very intelligence and pointedness of their selection of elements for a well-sustained and well-grounded account, to provide sufficient implicit analysis to justify a Band 4 mark.
- (e) The Band in which an essay is placed depends on a range of criteria. As a result, not all essays fall obviously into one particular Band. In such cases a 'best-fit' approach will be adopted with any doubt erring on the side of generosity.
- (f) In marking an essay, examiners will first place it in a Band and then fine-tune the mark in terms of how strongly/weakly the demands of the Band have been demonstrated.

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Band 5: 25–30 marks

The answer will be sharply analytical in approach and strongly argued. It will show that the demands of the question have been fully understood and that a conscious and sustained attempt has been made to respond to them in appropriate range and depth. It will be coherent and structured with a clear sense of direction. The focus will be sharp and persistent. Some lack of balance, in that certain aspects are covered less fully or certain arguments deployed less strongly than others, need not preclude a mark in this Band. The material will be wide-ranging and handled with the utmost confidence and a high degree of maturity. Historical explanations will be invariably clear, sharp and well developed and historical concepts fully understood. Where appropriate there will be conscious and successful attempts to engage with the historiography, to evaluate source material critically and to demonstrate an awareness of competing interpretations.

Band 4: 19–24 marks

The answer will be characterised by an analytical and argued approach, although there may be the occasional passage which does not go beyond description or narrative. It will show that the demands of the question have been very well understood and that a determined attempt has been made to respond to them in appropriate range and depth. The essay will be coherent and clearly structured and its judgements will be effectively supported by accurate and relevant material. Some lack of rigour in the argument and occasional blurred focus may be allowed. Where appropriate there will be a conscious and largely successful attempt to engage with the historiography, to evaluate source material and to demonstrate an awareness of competing interpretations. The material will be wide-ranging, fully understood, confidently deployed and well controlled with high standards of accuracy. Historical explanations will be clear and well developed and there will be a sound understanding of historical concepts and vocabulary.

Band 3: 13–18 marks

The answer will attempt an analytical approach, although there will be passages which do not go beyond description or narrative. It will show that the demands of the question have been understood, at least in large part, and that a conscious attempt has been made to respond to them. There will be an effective focus on the terms of the question and, although in places this may break down, standards of relevance will be generally high. Although it may not be sustained throughout the answer, or always fully supported, there will be a recognisable sense of argument. The material will be clearly understood, with a good range, and organisation will be sound. There will be a conscious attempt to draw conclusions and form judgements and these will be adequately supported. Some understanding of differing and competing interpretations is to be expected and some evaluation of sources may be attempted but probably not in a very sophisticated form. Historical explanations and the use of historical concepts and vocabulary will be generally sound but some lack of understanding is to be expected.

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Band 2: 7–12 marks

The answer may contain some analysis but descriptive or narrative material will predominate. The essay will show that the demands of the question have been understood, at least in good part, and that some attempt has been made to respond to them. It will be generally coherent with a fair sense of organisation. Focus on the exact terms of the question is likely to be uneven and there will be a measure of irrelevance. There will be some inaccuracies in knowledge, and the range may be limited with some gaps. Understanding of the material will be generally sound, although there will be some lack of tautness and precision. Explanations will be generally clear although not always convincing or well developed. Some attempt at argument is to be expected but it will lack sufficient support in places and sense of direction may not always be clear. There may be some awareness of differing interpretations and some attempt at evaluating source material but this is not generally to be expected at this level and such skills, where deployed, will be unsophisticated.

Band 1: 1–6 marks

The answers will respond in some measure to the demands of the question but will be very limited in meeting these. Analysis, if it appears at all, will be brief and undeveloped. If an argument is attempted it will be lacking in real coherence, sense of direction, support and rigour. Focus on the exact terms of the question is likely to be very uneven; the answer is likely to include unsupported generalisations, and there will be some vagueness and irrelevance. Historical knowledge, concepts and vocabulary will be insufficiently understood and there will be inaccuracies. Explanations may be attempted but will be halting and unclear. Where judgements are made they will be largely unsubstantiated and investigation of historical problems will be very elementary. Awareness of differing interpretations and the evaluation of sources are not to be expected. The answer may be fragmentary, slight and even unfinished.

Band 0: 0 marks

No evidence submitted or response does not address the question.

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British History Outlines, c.300–1547

Section 1: c.300–c.670

1 What best explains the difficulties encountered by the rulers of Roman Britain in the fourth century?

AO1 – The question concerns the reasons why Roman Britain was difficult to govern in the fourth century. Candidates could refer to the relatively frequent changes of Emperor which affected the government of Britain, the incursions from the barbarian invaders and the resultant economic decline. Other causes of problems could include the raiding of the Scots and the Picts, the forts and the Wall falling into disrepair, some religious conflicts once Rome had become Christian and the fact that Britain was on the edge of the Empire.

AO2 – Explanations could suggest that the impact of instability at the centre of the Empire was a contributor to problems in Britain. Magnus Maximus withdrew troops from Britain to support his army in Germany. Changes in the person of the Emperor led to repercussions for those in power in Britain. Heavy taxation ruined some leading families.

Alternatively, it was the pressure on the borders from the Picts, the Irish and then the Germanic tribes which caused the problems. Hadrian's Wall was overthrown and coastal defences destroyed in the so-called 'barbarian conspiracy'. Town dwellers needed defences and often had to pay for them, reducing their purchasing power.

A further explanation lies in the economic meltdown. By 360, the larger villas began to fall into disrepair, probably because of the poverty of their owners. Industry followed with pottery and metalwork early casualties. Infrastructure in the towns began to fail, first sewage disposal and then roads were no longer maintained and trade became more difficult.

2 Why was England so attractive to Anglo-Saxon settlers in the period c.450–c.600?

AO1 – The question concerns the reasons why the Anglo-Saxons came to settle in England and candidates could refer both to factors which encouraged the Anglo-Saxons to leave the European mainland and to those which drew them to settle in England.

AO2 – One explanation could be that rising populations and the shortage of food and grazing space had led the Anglo-Saxons to consider crossing the North Sea or the English Channel. The invaders had the technical skill to sail across some tricky waters. They also often were well led by determined chieftains, whose reputation depended on success. In some cases, they were invited to England, as with Hengist and Horsa, albeit temporarily at first, and were able to make their stay more permanent. Once some had arrived and sent back favourable reports, others were bound to follow and this could have been the crucial factor in encouraging large scale settlement.

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3 How powerful were the kingdoms of southern England and East Anglia in the period c.450–c.670?

AO1 – The question concerns the strength of the kingdoms in the period stated. Candidates may refer to any kings within the geographical area, but are likely to concentrate on Aethelbert of Kent and Raedwald of East Anglia. Their military and administrative achievements are likely to be assessed.

AO2 – Explanations could suggest that in each of the kingdoms in turn, the kings were extremely powerful. Ceawlin of Wessex was the first to be so recognised by Bede, followed by Aethelbert and Raedwald. They were credited with being the main rulers in the South. Conversion, or not, to Christianity depended very much on the wishes, or even whims, of the rulers. The kingdoms were wealthy as the Sutton Hoo burial and other finds attest. The kings had contacts with the Franks and with Germanic chieftains.

Alternatively, no kingdom was able to maintain consistent superiority. After Aethelbert died, his successor was not a Christian and suffered from madness according to Bede. Raedwald's East Anglia had a temporary fame and three of his successors were killed by Penda. Compared with the kings of the house of Clovis, the Anglo-Saxon rulers would have seemed quite insignificant and Pope Gregory, when sending Augustine, thought England was under Frankish overlordship. The marriage of Aethelbert to Bertha may have been designed to ensure it was.

4 'The kings of Northumbria were men of strong character and high ability.' Discuss.

AO1 – The question concerns an assessment of the reasons for the success of the Northumbrian kings. Candidates may refer to kings such as Edwin, Oswald and Oswiu.

AO2 – Explanations could include the argument that the quality of the kings of Northumbria was an important factor in their success. Edwin and Oswald had both known the hardship and uncertainty of exile, which helped to shape their character. Edwin demonstrated his power as he rode in state to his royal villa at Yeavering. He married a Kentish princess, and through her and her priests was converted to Christianity after a statesmanlike consultation with his lords. Oswald was blessed by his defeat of Cadwallon at Heavenfield and the prestige this gave him. He re-converted Northumbria using Irish missionaries from Iona and the choice of Aidan proved to be inspired. His royal seat at Bamburgh was a dominant force. Oswiu showed clear determination in his pursuit to the death of his rival Oswine and in the marriages of his children into other Anglo-Saxon royal families. His wise judgement at Whitby also testifies to his abilities.

Alternatively, candidates could suggest the success was limited. Edwin and Oswald both died in battle before their time. Oswald's reputation also benefits from the praise bestowed on him by Bede and his martyr-like death ensured his sainthood. But, given the highly personal nature of kingship in the period, their characteristics were bound to make a clear difference to their success.

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5 How far did the Synod of Whitby solve the problems facing Celtic Christianity in the middle of the seventh century?

AO1 – The question concerns the identification of the problems faced by the Celtic Church in 664, the decisions made at Whitby and the results these had on the development of the Church.

AO2 – One view could be that the Celtic Church had achieved a great deal and the problems it faced were minimal. Issues over the tonsure and the date of Easter were not major stumbling blocks. But what was a problem was the whole question about whether Celtic Christianity should attempt to remain outside Roman influence. The Synod did indeed solve the first problems. King Oswiu decided in favour of Rome and he and his wife would no longer have their Easter celebrations on different days.

If the aim of the Celtic Church, however, was to preserve its independence, then it failed. But what happened after Whitby shows that the monasteries, even if they were reluctant, abided by Roman ways and certainly did not suffer and often flourished. The unity of the Church could be seen as more important for the Celtic as well as the Roman Church than clinging to the old ways. The recognition of papal authority was another way in which both churches were brought together. On the other hand, candidates could argue that something was lost. Traditions of Celtic monasticism with double foundations, a possibility of marriage in some institutions as well as the distinctive tonsure were undermined. Some monks went back to Iona and Cuthbert, in his quest for solitude and contemplation, reflected Irish rather than Roman ways.

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Section 2: c.670–978

6 Assess the contribution of St Wilfrid to the consolidation of Christianity in England after the Synod of Whitby.

AO1 – The question concerns the role of Wilfrid and candidates may refer to the fluctuations in the career of Wilfrid after the Synod of Whitby and the factors which limited his role. The part played by Theodore of Tarsus may also be discussed.

AO2 – Candidates could argue that Wilfrid played a key role, helped by the biography written by his disciple, Eddius. He had led the pro-Roman faction at Whitby and was then made Bishop of York. He was responsible for the building of crypts in the churches at Hexham and Ripon, possibly in imitation of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. He was a great founder and overseer of monasteries. He was in close touch with Popes. But his role was lessened by his exiles and absences and Ecgfrith of Northumbria may even have seen him as almost a rival power.

Alternatively, it was Theodore whose long tenure as Archbishop of Canterbury enabled him to smooth over the tensions left by Whitby and bring the English Church to a greater sense of unity, by careful appointment of bishops, centralising the administration and the holding of Church Councils for the national Church.

7 How far did the cultural achievements of Northumbria in the late seventh and early eighth centuries depend on a few individuals?

AO1 – The question concerns assessing the role of the main contributors to the cultural activity in Northumbria. Candidates might refer to the work of Bede, of Eadfrith and of Ceolfrith and to artefacts whose originators are unknown. Other explanations might include influences from outside England.

AO2 – Candidates may argue that Bede is a key individual of outstanding ability. His work may have depended on the library built up by Benedict Biscop, but the breadth of his talents and interests reveals him as a true master. His introduction of the AD calendar, his biographies and his Ecclesiastical History of the English Church are sufficient evidence apart from his commentaries on the Bible. Alcuin of York was another important figure, noted for his letters.

Artistic achievements could focus on the Lindisfarne Gospels, Aldfrith, the Codex Amiatinus and Ceolfrith.

Alternatively, the Franks casket and the Ruthwell Cross are not by named individuals and there could be mention of the influence of Byzantine and Irish influences on the Lindisfarne Gospels and of European and Classical influences on Bede.

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8 ‘Offa of Mercia was a good soldier but had few other abilities.’ Discuss this judgement.

AO1 – The question concerns an assessment of the qualities of Offa of Mercia as a king. Candidates may refer to the military achievements of Offa and also to other issues such as his Dyke, his relations with Europe, his coinage and his lost laws.

AO2 – The military achievements of Offa may be outlined. Candidates may argue that Offa subdued Sussex in battle and defeated Cynwulf of Wessex enabling him to increase his influence there. Later, he intervened in a dispute over the succession and helped his candidate to victory. The building of the Dyke to restrict the Welsh territories could be seen as a military strategy.

Alternatively, Offa had other assets. Charter evidence shows his relationships with under-kings and the development of a more elaborate court. He was able to attempt to deal with Charlemagne on equal terms and to recognise papal authority in the English Church. This may have been because the Archbishop was in Canterbury and Kent was reluctant to acknowledge Offa as overlord. He presided over a Church Council and tried to establish an archbishopric at Lichfield. He introduced a new coinage, which was used all through southern England. He was also known as a legislator, but no copies of his laws have survived.

9 How significant, in his lifetime, were Alfred’s military achievements?

AO1 – The question concerns assessment of the extent of the importance of Alfred as a soldier and military leader. Candidates may refer to the battles of Ashdown and Edington, Alfred’s most famous victories, to his defence strategy and to his use of the navy.

AO2 – Candidates may argue that in expelling the Danes, hitherto irresistible, from Wessex and preventing their return, Alfred’s military achievements were significant. In 871, he defeated the Danes at Ashdown, fighting alongside his brother, the King and in 878, using a shield wall effectively, he defeated the Danes again at Edington and besieged Guthrum successfully in a fortress which was probably Chippenham. As a result, Guthrum accepted Christianity and withdrew eventually to East Anglia and the Danelaw.

The Danes then turned their attacks to northern France and in the interim, Alfred shored up his defences using fortified towns known as burhs to prevent the Vikings from using their favourite tactic, namely seizing a base from which to branch out and raid. He then created a standing army and built a fleet of ships. Consequently, later Danish incursions failed.

Alternatively, mention could be made of the defeats suffered by Alfred, notably at Chippenham early in 878, and his subsequent retreat to Athelney and near-disaster. But candidates could suggest that overcoming such a difficult situation and emerging victorious illustrate just how significant his military achievements were in his lifetime.

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10 How vibrant and flourishing was the Anglo-Saxon Church in the tenth century?

AO1 – The question concerns the nature of the Anglo-Saxon Church in the tenth century. Candidates could refer to the impact of church reform reflecting the continental movements begun with the foundation of Cluny in 910. The key figures are Dunstan, Oswald and Aethelwold. The earlier part of the century saw the Danish threats continuing and hence the Church under some pressure.

AO2 – One view could be that the reforms made the Church vibrant and that it flourished. As Abbot of Glastonbury from c.943, Dunstan rebuilt the monastery and introduced the rule of St Benedict. He was joined here by Aethelwold, who then went on to reform Abingdon. Dunstan became Archbishop of Canterbury in 959, while Aethelwold was Bishop of Winchester and Oswald of Worcester. The Fenland monasteries destroyed by the Danes were refounded and re-endowed. The inauguration of Ramsay Abbey in 991 was a splendid occasion which illustrated the healthy state of the Anglo-Saxon Church. The writings of Aelfric provide further evidence.

Alternatively, Church reform was quite spasmodic and some areas saw little change. There were periods of difficulty. Dunstan was forced into exile during Eadwig's reign and some contemporaries viewed him as overbearing and prone to self-praise. The early years of the eleventh century show the Church under attack from the Danes again and events like the St Brice's Day massacre suggest Christian doctrine was imperfectly understood by some.

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Section 3: 978–1135

11 Assess the motives that led to the renewal of Viking incursions in the period c.980–c.1020.

AO1 – The question concerns explanation of the reasons why the Vikings renewed their invasions of England. Candidates may refer to the Danish invasions in the reign of Aethelred and to his futile attempts to prevent them. Circumstances which encouraged the Vikings can also be explained.

AO2 – Candidates may argue that much of the explanation for the renewal can be ascribed to Aethelred who paid off the Danes with Danegeld, which simply encouraged them to return for more. He failed to build a navy and when he did in 1006 it was a fiasco. He put up little resistance to Thorkell, even after the murder of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Danes were incensed by the ill-advised massacre of St Brice's Day in 1002.

Alternatively, they could argue that the Danes knew they were a formidable force as their defeat of Byrthnoth at Maldon in 991 shows and so could easily secure their position in England. The wealth of England, demonstrated in the lavish decorations of churches, may have been a temptation. Once some groups were established, others soon came to join them. There were divisions at court too, with Eadric Streona coming to power by murdering his rivals and Wulfnoth turning against the king, so they would have seen how vulnerable Aethelred was.

12 What best explains Cnut's success as King of England?

AO1 – The question concerns assessment of the reasons why Cnut was a success in England. Candidates may refer to the policies of Cnut in restoring government to England and his attitude to the Church as well as his personal abilities.

AO2 – Explanations might include the view that Cnut showed his determination to succeed by sending many of his more disruptive supporters back to Denmark, albeit at some expense to England's coffers. He gave Eadric Streona, the main English noble threat, short shrift. He promised to observe the Laws of Edgar and he made reparation for the murder of Aelfeah. His Earls, Siward, Leofric and Godwine, were all his men but they ran local government effectively and administered justice through the shire courts. He also continued to tax heavily to provide a firm basis for his government. His work in restoring the position of the Church helped his reputation. He founded a church at Assendun to pray for all the dead there. He was kind to many monasteries with his grants. At Ely, the singing of the monks attracted his generosity. He went to Rome to visit the Pope.

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13 (Candidates offering Paper 5a: The Norman Conquest should not answer this question.)
How well ruled was England during the reign of Edward the Confessor?

AO1 – The question concerns an assessment of the success or otherwise of Edward the Confessor as King of England. Candidates may refer to the role of Edward himself and to the power and influence of the Godwins, and the impact this had on government.

AO2 – One suggestion may be that the divisions in the English government weakened it. Edward's main loyalties were to his Norman friends and advisers. Edward alternated between subservience and hostility towards the powerful Godwin clan. He exiled and then pardoned Swein. He tried to insert a Norman into the archbishopric of Canterbury, but eventually had to back down. He ordered Godwin to punish the Kentish men who had murdered his friend, Count Eustace of Boulogne, and Godwin's refusal led to the exile of the Godwin family in 1051. But in 1052, popular support brought the Godwins back to power and thereafter Edward more or less acquiesced in Harold's domination of affairs.

Alternatively, the government carried on under the earls, although by the end of the reign most of them were members of the Godwin family. The Church, much favoured by Edward, flourished with the building of Westminster Abbey and Harold, too, was a conventionally religious man and gave gifts to monasteries. The late Anglo-Saxon state had a sophisticated administration and legal system which continued to function.

14 (Candidates offering Paper 5a: The Norman Conquest should not answer this question.)
'Consistent brutality characterised his dealings with the English.' How justified is this judgement on William I?

AO1 – The question concerns an assessment of William I's dealings with his English subjects. Candidates may refer to the methods of government used by William I in England and to the ways in which he dealt with opposition.

AO2 – One view could be that the Harrying of the North shows William at his most brutal, while the building of castles could be seen as brutal oppression. The English nobility was virtually wiped out as a landholding class. Peasants were enmeshed in a feudal relationship which could turn out to be an example of brutality, with lords following the royal example. The punishments under the forest laws could be brutal.

Alternatively, William only resorted to brutality in the face of provocation as he saw it. He needed to ensure loyalty from the Anglo-Saxons as he was not going to be in England all that often. Equally, this meant that any rebellion was bound to be punished severely. His bid for the throne with a minimal claim had succeeded against the odds and he feared a Scandinavian attack could repeat the process, so he felt vulnerable and could react with brutality. His regents were generally fair-minded and the administration and legal systems were no harder on the English than the Normans. The Church was reformed but well treated and Lanfranc was a key moderating influence.

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15 'He deserved his reputation as a bad king.' Consider this view of William II.

AO1 – The question concerns an assessment of the achievements of William II and consideration of whether contemporary criticisms of his rule were justified. Candidates may refer to the contemporary sources and their view of William II and to his policies in England.

AO2 – One view may be that William thoroughly deserved to be condemned. Candidates could point to his exploitative taxation, the power devolved on the unworthy Ranulf Flambard and his persecution of the saintly Anselm. He seized church property and let his knights run riot. The manner of his death was, in the view of the chroniclers, a just reward for such an ungodly ruler.

Alternatively, candidates could argue that most of the contemporary sources were church based and thus hostile to William after his quarrel with Anselm, although even the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle joins in the criticism. William had the skills of a knight, as William of Malmesbury acknowledges. He neglected the call to a crusade and instead took the opportunity to deprive his brother of Normandy. This can be seen as an astute move, aimed at reuniting the cross-channel territories. Ranulf Flambard was a good servant in William's view. Anselm's support for the Gregorian reforms could be seen as trying to exalt the Church over the State and thus William was bound to be against such an idea.

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Section 4: Themes c.300–c.1066

16 How significant a contribution did trade make to the economy of Anglo-Saxon England up to c.700?

AO1 – The question concerns assessment of how far trade was a major component of the early Anglo-Saxon economy. Candidates could refer to trade with the Continent across the Channel and the North Sea and to archaeological evidence which shows what contacts were being made.

AO2 – One view might be that the lack of written records for this period means that evidence is partial and not always typical. But after the withdrawal of Roman forces, links with the continent did not cease entirely and the Anglo-Saxons used the term *port* to describe some of their settlements. Towns like London and Canterbury, where excavation has been possible, show signs of continuous occupation and so suggest that trade was carrying on. The Anglo-Saxons had contact with other Germanic people in France and the Low Countries. Objects recovered from pagan graves are testimony of trade across the seas. Items in the Sutton Hoo burial came from Germany, Sweden and even Egypt. By the late sixth century, gold coins, based on Merovingian models, were being struck. Trade was encouraged by the greater links with Rome after Augustine’s mission.

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17 To what extent did the success of Anglo-Saxon kings depend on good relations with the Church?

AO1 – The question concerns discussion of how far the Anglo-Saxon kings needed to have support from the Church to be considered successful. Candidates might refer to kings from Northumbria, East Anglia, Kent and Wessex and some range of examples could be expected.

AO2 – One view could be that the power of the Church was such that its support was vital for Anglo-Saxon kings. Once it was generally accepted that God’s favour rested on rulers who were on good terms with the Church, the kings became careful to ensure their position. In addition, churchmen were literate and proved to be useful servants to rulers, not building up dynasties as nobles often did. Many rulers were on terms of friendship with churchmen such as Oswald and Aidan or Aethelbert and Augustine. The power of Cuthbert outlasted his death and his community was richly endowed by rulers hoping for subsequent benefits. It could also be argued that the abilities of the kings themselves, especially as military leaders in an unruly age, were important. They also needed to be able to win and keep the support of their leading nobles.

18 ‘Continental Europe had little significant contact with England in the seventh and eighth centuries.’ Assess this view.

AO1 – The question concerns the extent to which there was any contact with continental Europe in this period. Candidates could refer to the missionary work of Wilfred, Willibrord and Boniface and to the migration of Alcuin to Charlemagne’s court. Commercial contacts could also be explored.

AO2 – Candidates may take the view that the contacts made by religious figures were the more significant. Willibrord was supported in his work by Pepin and became Archbishop of Frisia, based at Utrecht. He and Wilfred both came from Northumbria but Boniface was from Wessex and was commissioned by the Pope to organise the Church in Germany and to reform the Frankish Church. He and his successor were in constant contact with England through their letters and messages. Alcuin was Charlemagne’s principal collaborator in the promotion of learning and scholarship. These examples may be seen as prominent because they concerned literate figures who could leave records of their activities. Other contacts could be mentioned, such as those of traders as town life expanded. There were some links between the two with figures like Benedict Biscop who travelled for reasons of faith but brought many artefacts and, indeed, the skill of glass-making, back to England.

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19 How great an impact did Danish invasions have on English society in the period up to c.980?

AO1 – The question concerns the extent to which Danish invasions made a difference to English society. Candidates could refer to the various Scandinavian attacks and invasions from the raids at the end of the eighth century and the occupation of East Anglia and murder of King Edmund to the incursions of Guthrum under Alfred and the establishment of the Danelaw. The reigns of Edward, Aethelstan and Edgar saw some recovery.

AO2 – One view could be that the invaders had a large initial impact with the destruction of monastic sites in early raids and wholesale eradication of monastic life in the ninth century. Many bishoprics also ceased to exist. The Great Army wreaked havoc across the country. Fighting continued and the English were decisively defeated at Maldon. Between 876 and 954, an independent Scandinavian kingdom ruled north of the Humber.

The Danes left their mark in the form of place names, in their descendants and in their sagas. Some fragments of Danish government persisted. The Scandinavian rulers linked England more closely with Europe. The extent of Danish influence on English government is not easy to judge as the sources are not numerous. The war against the Danes and the defences of England were the main preoccupation of most of the kings of the period, although the late tenth century saw a more peaceful period.

20 ‘Efficient in its methods and effective in its impact.’ How valid is this view of late Anglo-Saxon government?

AO1 – The question concerns an assessment of how well Anglo-Saxon government worked. Candidates could refer to the administration and to the law and its enforcement.

AO2 – One argument could be that the Anglo-Saxon state was well administered with an incipient bureaucracy under the king. Many of its officials were churchmen who had the necessary skills. The development of legal formulae in writs, leases and charters and of scribes, whose task was to ensure these were accurately written, attests to the strength of the administrative process. The raising of taxation, notably in large amounts for the payment of Danegeld, required careful organisation. Winchester gradually came to be acknowledged as the place where royal monies were kept safely. The king’s council or witan gradually evolved and played a role in drawing up laws. The English counties served as a base for administration under royal officials. Records show the legal system functioned consistently but the frequent repetition of laws may suggest enforcement was spasmodic. The limited change wrought in the government after 1066 illustrates that the Anglo-Saxon methods worked well.

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21 Who contributed more to Anglo-Saxon society: merchants or farmers?

AO1 – The question concerns the relative contributions to Anglo-Saxon society of those working in agriculture and those who were traders. Candidates may refer to the lives and the work of each of these groups.

AO2 – One view could be that the role of farmers was essential. The economy of the period was predominantly agrarian and the production of food was paramount. There could be some discussion about the different contribution made by lords who owned the land and their labourers, who might owe the lord services and labour or might hold their land in return for rent. All these could be described as farmers. The cultivation of the lord's lands would be organised by the reeve whose job was to ensure maximum production. Basic food was not imported so sustenance depended on the crops and livestock on English farms. The role of the merchant could be seen as more peripheral, but the growth in towns with populations in excess of 1000 people shows that merchants had some importance. London was a vital centre. Some items produced in England such as textiles and metal goods were highly prized on the Continent.

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Section 5: 1135–1272

22 Was the Civil War in the reign of Stephen merely about the succession to the throne?

AO1 – The question concerns the explanations for the outbreak of civil disorder in the reign of Stephen. Candidates could refer to the factors leading to the Civil War in England and to the reasons why the war continued.

AO2 – One view could be that the trigger for the war was the issue of the succession. Though the baronage had sworn to Henry I that they would back Matilda, they clearly preferred a male candidate of proven military capacity. They also did not want to be subject to Geoffrey of Anjou in any way. Candidates could add that the war ended when Matilda's son, Henry, showed his mettle and Stephen's heir died, opening the way to a settlement at Wallingford. Stephen's death soon afterwards meant the agreement held.

Alternatively, the question of baronial and ecclesiastical power was an issue. Both religious and lay figures took the opportunity to force a weak king to make concessions. Geoffrey of Mandeville was granted a vast landholding by Stephen. Henry of Blois as Papal Legate was able to summon Stephen before him for imprisoning Roger of Salisbury and also to broker the final peace process. Others did less well, perhaps, but royal power was much emasculated, as the reforms of Henry II demonstrate.

23 'The Angevin Empire was too large to be governed effectively.' How adequate is this explanation for the problems Henry II faced in maintaining it?

AO1 – The question concerns the reasons why the Angevin Empire proved to be hard to govern and to maintain. Candidates could refer to the extent of the Empire, Henry's methods in governing it and the problems he encountered.

AO2 – One view could be that the Empire was too large to be governed permanently from England, so Henry was bound to attempt some kind of delegation and when he did this, he ran instantly into trouble. The lack of common institutions and governmental practices worsened his problems and Aquitaine, as the holding of his wife, was hard to control. Once one part of his Empire was in revolt, others took advantage. Resentment at taxation also grew.

Alternatively, Henry made the problems himself. His proposals for dividing up his lands led to the rebellion of his sons in 1173. He faced further risings in 1182 and in the final years of his reign. Henry's reputation was further damaged by the murder of Becket. The role of Philip Augustus in sheltering the Young King and other rebels made the situation worse.

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**24 ‘England was better governed when Richard I was not in the country than when he was.’
Discuss.**

AO1 – The question concerns the issue of how well governed England was during the absence of Richard I on the Third Crusade. Candidates may refer to the government of England under Hubert Walter and to the nature of Richard’s rule when he was present.

AO2 – One view may be that with Richard absent, the administration was under the firm control of Hubert Walter and so flourished. Its record keeping especially developed strongly. One way to judge its strength lies in its ability to raise the vast sum needed for Richard’s ransom. Given Richard’s determination to go crusading and his readiness to sell charters and privileges to get the financial backing he needed, his absence could be seen as coming none too soon. His success at Acre, his truce with Saladin and even his quarrel with Philip Augustus all seemed to brace his reputation in England. His mother was able to counter many of the machinations of Prince John. When Richard did return, he was more intent on regaining his lands from the French than on governing England.

Alternatively, it could be argued that a personal monarchy requires a king at its apex and a more prolonged absence could have had ill results. The persistence of legends about the evil goings on of this period suggests that there was some discontent.

25 How far were the nobility to blame for the instability in the period 1232–1272?

AO1 – The question concerns the reasons for the instability under Henry III and how far the nobles were responsible. Candidates may refer to the role of nobles like Richard the Marshal and Simon de Montfort and to the extent to which Henry himself caused instability by his methods of government.

AO2 – One view might be that the nobility was responsible for the instability. In 1232, Richard the Marshal led the opposition to the power of Peter des Roches and Peter des Rivaux and there was open war on the Welsh border. Marshal was killed in Ireland, possibly on the orders of Peter. The more serious instance is the rebellion led by Simon de Montfort and joined by six other leading baronial figures. Other barons and knights were associated with them and they were able to force the king to accept the Provisions of Oxford, which would have reduced the monarchy to impotence. This was bound to lead to a royal reaction. The fighting which followed at Lewes and Evesham could be blamed on the nobles.

Alternatively, Henry’s reliance on French advisers and his highly personal methods of government from 1234 to 1258 alarmed the nobles and created instability. The Poitevins became intolerable to the English nobles. Two years of famine and high taxation exacerbated national feeling against the ‘foreigners’. Henry refused to accept the limits on his power put forward at Oxford, despite the loss of his advisers, and so continued instability with his resistance. He had the support of his son, the Lord Edward, who was determined to subjugate the rebels. His victory reduced instability as he was able to undermine the power of the nobility, helped by the papal legate and by the proclamation of the crusade in 1268. The care taken by Henry III and his advisers not to alienate the nobles when extra taxation was sought in 1270 reflects the way in which the king was bent on avoiding renewed instability.

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26 To what extent was the rise of princely power in Wales dependent on the achievements of Llewelyn?

AO1 – The question is concerned with the reasons why the princes in Wales enjoyed a resurgence in their power. This could be explained solely by the abilities of Llewelyn, or by other additional factors, such as the preoccupation of the English with other issues.

AO2 – One view could be that Llewelyn was the main factor. In 1255 he defeated his rivals to become dominant in Wales and he welded the north and south together in a manner that won the admiration of Matthew Paris. His conquests justified his claim to be Prince of Wales. He was adept at seizing every opportunity offered and worked with Simon de Montfort. He later married Eleanor de Montfort. However, he had aroused the enmity of Edward and, although there were treaties between them, Llewelyn was killed in 1282. The length of his time in power testifies to his strength.

Alternatively, it was the outbreak of civil war in England between Henry III and Simon de Montfort which allowed princely power to grow. The part played by Llewelyn's brothers, Owain and David, and by Gryuffydd ap Gwenwynwyn could also be discussed. Complex details of the fighting in Wales are not required.

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Section 6: 1272–1399

27 How successful was Edward 1's government of England?

AO1 – The question concerns the reforms which Edward I introduced to the administration. Candidates might refer to the *quo warranto* enquiries, to Edward's use of statute law, to his concern for justice and to his financial exactions.

AO2 – One view might be that Edward was very successful. His investigations into encroachments on royal rights allowed him to challenge offenders. He was able to raise loans to pay off his debts and meet his obligations from customs duties on the booming wool trade and from the fifteenths. Both taxes were authorised by parliament. He was fortunate in having skilled advisers such as Robert Burnell. A series of statutes and writs helped to remedy abuses.

Alternatively, candidates could suggest that Edward's latter years were less successful. After the death of Burnell, Walter Langton was a less able and more corrupt minister. But the real problem lay in the outbreak of war in Gascony in 1294. Edward had to concentrate on raising an army and the finance to pay for it and so legal matters were less vital and fewer judicial enquiries were held, while no major statutes were passed. The clergy and then some of the nobles challenged Edward over taxation and military service was also an issue. By 1297, opposition almost led to civil war and Edward had to compromise.

28 'All the advantages lay with the Scots.' How valid is this view of the Anglo-Scottish wars between 1286 and 1357?

AO1 – The question concerns the reasons for the outcome of the Anglo-Scottish wars and how far the advantage in the wars lay with the Scots.

AO2 – Candidates could argue that the Scots had many advantages. They were generally fighting on their home territory, so did not have the same challenges over supplies as the English. They were fighting for their independence and in men like Wallace and Robert the Bruce they had able and determined leaders. The English were short of funds to pay for the Scottish wars. Edward II's defeat at Bannockburn led many of the English nobles in the north to be reluctant to fight on. The Scots could often rely on the aid of the French kings.

Alternatively, some of the problems arose from the situation in Scotland. The death of Alexander III in 1286 leaving his young granddaughter as his heir was a clear disadvantage and led to the wars. In addition, previous rulers had sworn homage to English kings, which allowed Edward I to claim Scotland. The English were not always defeated. The longbow killed Scotsmen in large numbers and in 1346 David II was captured at Neville's Cross. David had to agree to harsh terms to get his release in 1357.

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29 Which led more to the downfall of Edward II: his aims or his methods?

AO1 – The question concerns the reasons for Edward’s deposition and candidates are expected to make a judgement between two possible explanations. They can refer to the intentions of Edward, notably concerning his favourites, and to the ways in which he tried to achieve his ends.

AO2 – One view could be that Edward’s main aim was the promotion of his friends, such as Gaveston and the Despencers. In addition, after the drawing up of the Ordinances, another aim was to surmount the restrictions placed on his power and to be revenged on those responsible for the death of Gaveston. One argument could be that it was the perception of Edward’s aims as much as the aims themselves which led to his downfall.

Alternatively, it could be argued that Edward’s methods aroused baronial suspicions and ire. He was tenaciously loyal to Gaveston, which led to the Ordinances, and his refusal to exile Gaveston a second time led to a near civil war and the death of the favourite. He took the opportunity that arose from problems on the Welsh Marches to be avenged on Lancaster after Boroughbridge. He followed his victory with an almost unprecedented bloodbath of his opponents, which simply worsened the opposition. He failed to halt the misrule of the Despencers and allowed them to harass his wife. This proved to be a vital error and when Isabella, along with the heir to the throne, visited France in 1326, she was able to use her lover, Mortimer, to build up an alliance against Edward and invade and overthrow him.

30 ‘English successes in the Hundred Years War up to 1360 were the result of weak French leadership.’ Discuss.

AO1 – The question concerns the reasons for the English victories in the early stages of the Hundred Years War. Candidates could refer to the context of the war and the English claims to lands in France, the alliances built up by Edward III, the victories at Sluys and Crecy, the surrender of Calais and the battle of Poitiers.

AO2 – One view could be that the French were poorly led. Philip VI was taken by surprise on several occasions and lost control of his troops at Crecy. After the disaster at Crecy, he was reluctant to risk another pitched battle and so retreated from Calais. John II was no more effective at Poitiers and was captured by the English, giving them a distinct advantage in the ensuing peace negotiations.

Alternatively, the English had many positive strengths. Edward was an effective and inspiring leader. He was able to choose from his nobles those he saw as the best generals, whereas the French nobles held hereditary positions of command. The soldiers were well equipped and served under contract rather than as a feudal levy. The English had learnt sound lessons from the Scottish wars and had refined their tactics. The English archers fired far more rapidly than the crossbowmen used by the French. The English followed a scorched earth policy which aided their supplies and weakened their enemies. The war had popular support and many barons hoped to benefit from booty or ransoms.

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31 What best explains why Richard II's minority was less troubled than his personal rule?

AO1 – The question concerns the reasons for the period of Richard's minority being **relatively stable**, in contrast with his personal rule. Candidates might refer to the circumstances of Richard's minority and the Peasants' Revolt. The role of the regency council and of John of Gaunt could be mentioned. Richard's personal responsibility is another possible factor.

AO2 – One view might be that the council overseeing the regency and the members of Parliament had a common aim during the minority and the factor of war with France to unite them further. Taxation for the war was granted regularly. The need to deal firmly with the Great Rising of 1381 was a further factor.

Alternatively, the decline in stability was the result of Richard's divisive policies, such as his promotion of men he favoured who were viewed as unworthy by the traditional baronage, such as Michael de la Pole and Simon Burley. His generous grants to them made the situation worse. There was a serious quarrel between Richard and John of Gaunt, the main power in the realm after the king. The outcome was the setting up of the Lords Appellant. Richard's main aim then became the establishment of what he saw as true monarchy and the elimination of the challenge from the Appellants and also from Lancaster, especially while Richard lacked an heir.

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Section 7: 1399–1485

32 Why did Henry V renew the war with France so soon after his accession?

AO1 – The focus here is on the reasons why Henry went to war, but is evaluated by the timing of the decision. Some understanding of the perspective of his accession, problems he faced and an understanding of Henry as a ruler might be expected, but it is not the focus of the essay.

AO2 – Henry was particularly swift at healing and settling his Kingdom to build a sense of unity, including his swift actions against Lollards. There is an argument that he went to war to divert attention from issues at home, which might be evaluated. Commercial disputes and the involvement of the French in the Glyndwr Revolt were used as excuses. But candidates may well evaluate the King's nature and ambitions and the weak state of the French crown as reasons as well. Some knowledge of the dynastic claim may well be included.

33 Why was Henry IV successful in his policies to subdue Wales?

AO1 – The focus here is on how and why Henry was able to subdue Wales. It could be argued that his success was measured since it took such a long time to accomplish. It might also be argued that success was in part due to the mistakes and failings of others.

AO2 – There should be good coverage of the whole period from Glyndwr's declaration as Prince of Wales in 1400 to the capitulation of Harlech in 1409 and Glyndwr's disappearance in 1413. The fact that Glyndwr ruled Wales for a decade might suggest that Henry's success was a long time coming. In the end, Henry became more secure on his own throne. The role of Henry's heir could also be considered.

34 What best explains the stability of Henry VI's minority government?

AO1 – The focus here is on the period of Henry VI's minority. Candidates might well evaluate the issue of how far this was a stable period, but this is not the whole story. Certainly, compared to the minority of Richard II or the majority of Henry himself, the period does at least appear to be stable.

AO2 –The abilities of Bedford, Gloucester and Cardinal Beaufort are all certainly important. Candidates may well evaluate this and also look at the various tensions that existed between these men, which were to develop into faction later. The Regency council requires evaluation. Financial arrangements might also be evaluated. It might be argued that it was a wonder that it held together as long as it did and that future problems were fermented during the minority, but that the realm was generally well governed and the French policy was followed might be seen as evidence enough.

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35 How successful was Edward IV's first reign (1461–1470)?

AO1 – The focus is to assess success; he was successful in many areas save that of controlling his own faction.

AO2 –The focus here is on the first reign which starts and ends with usurpation; candidates should address the whole period and not just assume that it is a failure because Edward was usurped. He was broadly successful in securing his reign in the first three years, although this was dependent on Warwick to a great degree. He was able to re-establish the administration and go some way towards reviving Crown finances. He made some headway with foreign relations, but the miscalculation of his marriage might be evaluated here. Edward could be criticised for his actions in 1468–69.

36 How consistent was the foreign policy of the Yorkist Kings in the years 1471–1485?

AO1 – The focus here is on considering foreign relations across the second reign of Edward IV and Richard III, with an evaluation of consistency.

AO2 – Both kings were concerned to curb French power and were firmly allied to Burgundy, although the changes which took place after 1477 and the complication of the family connection might be evaluated. Neither was keen to wage war or spend a great deal of money and wished to encourage trade. For Richard, the imperative changed to trying to protect his throne from the threat of Tudor and his supporters.

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Section 8: 1485–1558

37 How strong was the Scottish monarchy under James IV and James V?

AO1 – The focus here is on an evaluation of the whole of this period. James IV acceded to the throne in 1488 and James V died in 1542. The broad themes that could be addressed include: internal peace and order in Scotland; primacy over the powerbases of the kingdom; the Court; and relations with foreign powers, especially England and France. James IV was energetic and pious; he was well known for establishing a brilliant renaissance court and for becoming top in terms of his relationship with England by his marriage to Margaret Tudor. He patronised and extended his influence over the Church and undertook a substantial building programme. James V was a minor on accession and his personal rule began in 1528; he continued his father's work in exerting power over the Church, restoring finances and cementing alliance with France through marriage.

AO2 – Here candidates might seek to explore the possible detractors to what is generally seen as a very successful period for Scotland. Both kings died prematurely, James IV at Flodden and James V immediately after Solway Moss. There are criticisms of how well James V handled the nobility, and whether their prestige essentially rested upon wise alliances with England and later France. It is also debatable as to whether these achievements survived.

38 How able a king was Henry VII?

AO1 – The focus here is on an evaluation of his skill as a king in a range of aspects, including: restoring the stability of the Crown, establishing his dynasty, foreign relations and administration.

AO2 – The debate here has recently been renewed and it might be considered that Henry was very able in securing his regime, its financial stability and prestige abroad. However, it might also be argued that Henry's distrust of the nobility and narrow powerbase undermined all his efforts to rule a stable kingdom. Most candidates will probably conclude that he was for the most part successful as a fifteenth-century monarch and this had a great deal to do with his ability and hard work.

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**39 (Candidates offering Paper 5c: The Reign of Henry VIII should not answer this question.)
How effectively did Wolsey serve the interests of Henry VIII?**

AO1 – The focus here is on evaluating Wolsey’s service. It is for his work with foreign policy for which he is best known, and on face value it could be argued that this is because it was what Henry most wanted. Candidates will be expected to know something of his work in Henry’s early French campaigns, the Treaty of London, which might be described as one of his greatest achievements, and the Field of the Cloth of Gold. His inability to deliver on his master’s requirements in the 1520s and especially not to be able to capitalise on the French defeat at the Battle of Pavia show a reversal of fortune. Most importantly, Wolsey’s inability to deliver the divorce. Candidates might consider his work in legal reforms as Lord Chancellor and, to a lesser extent, his attempts to reform some aspects of the Church. Candidates might also reflect that Wolsey also served himself very well by amassing huge wealth and prominence.

AO2 – Wolsey was dependant on Henry for all his appointments and patronage and Henry kept him while he was useful to him. Once Wolsey stumbled over the Amicable Grant and then was unable to produce a divorce, he no longer provided what Henry required, so as any servant he was dismissed. Some candidates might reflect that Wolsey was largely able to serve his own interests best by serving those of his King and becoming very wealthy and powerful in the process.

**40 (Candidates offering Paper 5c: The Reign of Henry VIII should not answer this question.)
How much support was there for the Henrician Reformation?**

AO1 – The focus here is on the support for the Reformation rather than any perceived lack of opposition. It might be argued that there was very little actual support for the Reformation, but that it succeeded through the habits of compliance and an effective propaganda and coercion campaign.

AO2 – Candidates might rehearse the debate surrounding anti-clericalism for grass roots support. Clearly there was some opposition to the Church but it is doubtful if this was sufficient. There was some academic support in the universities and some reformist feelings in London and the Southeast. Perhaps, at the start, the only real supporters were those who surrounded Henry. It could be argued that as time went on this support grew as people perceived ways in which they might personally benefit. It could also be argued that due to the piecemeal nature of the reform, people were uncertain what to take a stand on.

41 Why was the reign of Edward VI so unsettled?

AO1 – The focus here is on an evaluation of how unsettled the reign was. The issue of war with France and Scotland, the debasement of the coinage, inflation and the factionism of the Council should be dealt with. Candidates may well evaluate the rule of Somerset as a disaster, culminating as it did in two major rebellions. It might be noted that the rule of Northumberland was far more stable, although the Device was certainly a mistake; some useful reforms were pushed forward at this point.

AO2 – The issue is an evaluation of the extent of unrest and its causes. It could be argued that whilst governance actually did break down in 1549, the whole reign was not unsettled. It is possible to lay the blame on the Scottish policy; it is also possible to point to the population growth, bad harvests and circumstances beyond the control of the government of the time.

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Section 9: Themes, 1066–1558

42 How significant was industrial development to the English economy either in the period 1066–c.1300 or c.1300–c.1500?

AO1 – The question concerns the extent to which there was industrial development in either of these periods. Candidates might refer to changes in the wool and cloth industries, to mining and to pottery, to the wine trade and to the building industry.

AO2 – In the first period, mining was beginning to revive. The Anglo-Saxons had not continued the Roman mining tradition, but coal was being exported again by 1200. Iron production was centred in the Forest of Dean, lead and silver in the North and in Derbyshire and tin mining continued in Devon and Cornwall. In all of these, production was increasing steadily. There was also considerable pottery output from Staffordshire. But the woollen industry was by far the most important and well organised in powerful guilds.

In the second of the two periods one view might be that the changes in the wool and cloth industries were significant. This period marks the start of the transition from wool to cloth and the rise of areas like Yorkshire, East Anglia and the West of England as manufacturing centres. Different areas began to concentrate on particular cloths with kerseys favoured by the West Riding and the Stour valley, and broadcloths in Lancashire where there was plenty of water and space to stretch the cloths on land which was not fertile enough for crops. The industry also imported dyestuffs extensively from the Continent. Those involved could be landowners turned capitalists, large-scale investors or small producers who were also farmers. The area around Cirencester ceased to be so significant during the fifteenth century.

43 ‘Only the elite were influenced by literature.’ How valid is this view in the fifteenth century?

AO1 – The question is concerned with an assessment of the readership of literature at this time. Candidates might refer to The Wyclif translation of the Bible, the Arthurian myths such as Sir Gawaine and the Green Knight, the poetry of John Gower, Richard Rolle and Walter Hilton, to Miracle plays, to William Langland and especially to Geoffrey Chaucer.

AO2 – One view might be that it was only the rich who were likely to have the skills to read or the time to read. Gower enjoyed the patronage of the Court and wrote in Latin and French for courtly tastes. The religious writers also wrote in Latin, although not exclusively. Chaucer had connections at Court through his wife and was a merchant and a soldier, and so could be considered elite.

But it could be argued that there was an audience which was appreciative, if less well educated. Wyclif’s Bible was provided specifically in the vernacular to meet this need as the use of French began to recede. Despite official discouragement of the reading of the Bible, Wyclif’s version had considerable impact. The emergence of literature from the North also suggests that, while aristocratic households may have been the patrons of poets, the audience could be wider. The Miracle Plays in York and Chester were generally enjoyed and the alliterative poetry of Langland took up the causes of the less well off.

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44 Why was the fifteenth century a ‘golden age’ for the labourer?

AO1 – The focus here is on evaluating the extent to which the statement can be supported. This will require some evaluation of the changing demographic in the period and other issues which might impact on the circumstances for labourers.

AO2 – The impact of the plagues in the previous century led to stable prices and rising wages because of the scarcity of labour, although this influence does decrease as the century nears its end. Clearly there are regional variations and the Civil War impacts on the economy at times. Other issues might also be important such as: the balance of good and bad harvests; the impact of enclosure and the increase in pastoral farming; the effects of commutation of labour service; and the consolidation of plots and farming for profit.

45 How important was Parliament in governing England in the fifteenth century?

AO1 – The focus here is on the role played by Parliament in English government in this period as opposed to other factors such as the Crown, the council and local organs of administration. The emphasis should be on the part played by Parliament and other factors may be covered more minimally.

AO2 – One view could be that Parliament was not all that vital. It was not a permanent feature of government and there were some periods when no Parliament met, notably in the early years of Henry VI’s reign. England remained a personal monarchy and Parliamentary statutes needed the agreement of the monarch. The royal council made the main decisions. In the crisis of Henry VI’s incapacity, there was no suggestion that Parliament should take over.

Alternatively, there was a role for Parliament. One of its most vital powers was the granting of taxation and this was generally the reason for it being summoned. In 1456, it instigated a programme of resumption to remedy financial shortfalls and in 1486 further efforts were made. It authorised and reversed attainders from 1459 and the Coventry Parliament was a key turning point in the Wars of the Roses. When governments were facing problems, they were more likely to call Parliaments. Both Edward IV and Henry VII avoided them when they felt secure.

46 What best explains the persistence of Lollardy in the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries?

AO1 – The focus here is on the debate over the size of the issue; it is of course also very dependent on region. It could be argued that Lollardy had already had its day by 1399 and was increasingly persecuted. The focus on personal piety does fit within larger movements of the period and might also influence anti-clericalism. Often the persistence owes much to individuals amongst the landed classes, though some reference might be made to the universities.

AO2 – Candidates should be able to demonstrate an understanding and awareness of historical concepts, enabling them to present clear, focused analytical explanations which are capable of weighing up the relevant and relative importance of factors and approaches, and arriving at a well considered set of judgements. Attempts to deal with historiography and with differing interpretations (although not required) may enhance responses. Traditionally, Lollardy was credited with having encouraged the Reformation in terms of its survivals and habits of criticism. This has been convincingly challenged, but could well be integrated into the argument.

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47 How serious a threat to established authority was posed by popular unrest in the later fourteenth century and in the fifteenth century?

AO1 – The question concerns the extent to which popular risings were a real threat to the authorities. Candidates might refer to the Peasants' Revolt, Oldcastle's Rising and Cade's Rebellion.

AO2 – One view might be that the rebellions were a serious threat. In the Peasants' Revolt, major cities and monasteries were targeted. It occurred during a minority, always seen as a period of weakness. It reached Blackheath close to London and involved discontent in the Home Counties, whipped up by talented preachers like John Ball. Some of its ideas were very radical. Leading ministers were killed by the rebels. Oldcastle also focused his rising on London, backed by local insurgencies, and had the support of other knights, and the Rebellion came early in Henry V's reign when he was less well established. Cade similarly came from Kent to Blackheath and had respectable upper-middle class backing and the King was weakened.

Alternatively, even the Peasants' Revolt was quite easily ended by the courage of Richard II and the death of Tyler. Few of its leaders were men of real substance. Oldcastle's supporters were soon rounded up and London did not rise to his bidding. Parliament passed firmer laws to deter Lollards. Cade was captured and killed.