

General Certificate of Education  
June 2006  
Advanced Level Examination



**HISTORY**  
**Unit 6W**

**HS6M**

**Alternative M: The Anarchy of King Stephen's Reign**

Friday 23 June 2006 9.00 am to 10.30 am

**For this paper you must have:**

- a 12-page answer book

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

**Instructions**

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is HS6M.
- Answer **all** questions.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 40.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all answers.

**Advice**

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on part (c).

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Answer **all** questions.

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1 Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

**Source A** I am among the minority who see the reign as a true and terrible anarchy. The anarchic conditions of Stephen's England resulted from battles, of which there were few, and castle sieges, of which there were many; also from the far more destructive tactics of devastating the lands and villages  
5 around an enemy castle. This was done in order to deprive the enemy of sustenance. Or, conversely, troops sallied forth from a castle to loot and destroy defenceless farms and manors in order to resupply the garrison and starve its besiegers. The devastation of productive lands was, indeed, the  
10 most characteristic feature of medieval warfare, and it was rampant in Stephen's England.

Adapted from E KING (ed.), *The Anarchy of King Stephen's Reign*, 1994

**Source B** From a letter written in 1140 by Pope Innocent II to Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln

Led on by their sins, the magnates, who should protect churchmen and their goods and defend them against the incursions of wicked men, have become transformed into tyrants, and disturb churchmen with unprecedented exactions\* and oppressions.

\*exactions = financial demands

**Source C** The greater barons had tasted liberty and many of them were still disinclined to support a stronger regime. They met threats to the peace of their own domains by organising pacts with their neighbours. By the end of the reign a generation was growing up which had forgotten both the peace  
5 and the oppressions of Henry I. Some were prepared to accept a stronger yoke and the security which went with it; others rejoiced in present opportunities for plunder and promotion. The anarchy was a rare interval when the strong government of Norman kings was relaxed.

From C BROOKE, *From Alfred to Henry III, 871–1272*, 1969

- (a) Use **Source A** and your own knowledge.

Assess the validity of the view in **Source A** regarding the existence of anarchy in Stephen's reign. *(10 marks)*

- (b) Use **Source B** and your own knowledge.

How useful is **Source B** as an explanation of the causes of disorder in Stephen's reign? *(10 marks)*

- (c) Use **Sources A, B and C** and your own knowledge.

'A true and terrible anarchy.'

Assess the validity of this view of the nature and extent of disorder during Stephen's reign. *(20 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**There are no questions printed on this page**

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Source C: C BROOKE, *From Alfred to Henry III, 871–1272*, Norton and Co., 1969. By permission of Professor CNL Brooke.

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