

General Certificate of Education  
June 2008  
Advanced Level Examination



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

**HS6M**

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

Thursday 12 June 2008 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 black ink or black 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 will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

**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**

A brief text extract adapted from J BRADBURY, Stephen and Matilda, 1996, discussing the extremely probable existence of an exchequer under the rule of Stephen even though there are no actual records to support this. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

**Source B** From *A History of English Affairs* by William of Newburgh, c1190

At first it seemed the kingdom of England was to be cut in two, some supporting the king, others the empress; but neither king nor empress was in control of their supporters, for each depended from day to day on their people's military efforts. Neither could curb or dictate to their party, and both appeased their supporters, denying them nothing, in case they withdrew their support.

**Source C** It has sometimes been claimed that the revolt of Geoffrey de Mandeville was an isolated event, and that all the horrors of the so-called Anarchy should be referred to this one time and place, but the evidence to the contrary is far too strong to be ignored. The *Gesta Stephani*, for example, was primarily concerned with the West Country, but it is loud in its complaints at the conditions endured at all periods of the reign.

From R H C DAVIS, *King Stephen*, 1990

**Source D** The Peterborough Abbey chronicler gives a generalised description of the nineteen winters when 'Christ and his saints slept' and England suffered for its sins. The barons, the Peterborough chronicler said, ruthlessly exploited Stephen's weakness to assert their independence, government ceased to function, and horrifying oppressions were continuously inflicted on the Church and common people. All this was Angevin propaganda: Henry II's accession was seen as a legitimist restoration, and nothing good could be said about Stephen's regime.

From K STRINGER, *The Reign of Stephen*, 1993

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

Assess the validity of the view in **Source A** about the ‘anarchy’ of Stephen’s reign.

*(10 marks)*

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

How useful is **Source B** as evidence about the causes of disorder?

*(10 marks)*

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

‘Government remained effective throughout Stephen’s reign.’

Assess the validity of this view.

*(20 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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

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Question 1 Source A: J BRADBURY, *Stephen and Matilda*, Routledge, 1996, p.191

Source C: R H C DAVIS, *King Stephen*, Longman, 1990

Source D: K STRINGER, *The Reign of Stephen*, Routledge, 1993, p.4

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