
A-level HISTORY

Royal Authority and the Angevin Kings, 1154–1216

Paper 2A

Specimen 2014

Morning Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is **2A**.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the two questions in Section B.
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Section AAnswer Question 01.

Source A

From William FitzStephen's account of the beginning of the dispute between Henry II and Thomas Becket, 1162–1163. FitzStephen was a clerk in Becket's household and, later, one of Henry II's sheriffs.

It was Satan and the traps he laid that encouraged hatred towards Thomas, taking away the King's goodwill. The King now thought it a personal insult that the man whom he had raised to office should resign the chancellorship and oppose him on so many things. The nobles, seeking royal favour, slandered the Archbishop without cause, while many bishops, fearing to lose their wealth, failed to give him counsel and help. The King was angered by the Archbishop's attempt to recover the lands of Tonbridge, formerly belonging to Canterbury but now held by Roger of Clare. Almost all the English nobility were related to this earl and the King had been in love with his sister. Also, the Archbishop appointed his clerk, Laurence, to the church at Eynsford, but the lord there objected and expelled him and was excommunicated by the Archbishop. The King demanded that he be absolved, but Thomas replied that the King had no right to order this. The King argued that it was part of his royal prerogative that none of his tenants in chief should be excommunicated without his permission.

Source B

Herbert of Bosham's eyewitness account of the Council of Westminster, October 1163. Herbert of Bosham was a member of Becket's household and subsequently went into exile with Becket.

The King demanded that clerks convicted of major crimes should be deprived of benefit of clergy and handed over to his officers to suffer more severe penalties than those inflicted by the Church. This procedure, he said, was sanctioned by Canon law, which stated that such clerks should 'be handed over to the court' for punishment which he interpreted as being the royal justice. The Archbishop made a convincing argument for the privileges of the clergy, asking the King not to introduce a new procedure that was against the law of God. The King would not take this into account. As the royal customs had been observed by the prelates in the time of his grandfather, so he would not give them up and demanded that those present should, without qualification, promise to observe them now. The Archbishop replied that their oaths of fealty covered only earthly things and that this was a different matter. The next day, the King demanded the surrender of the castles and lands, which the Archbishop had held as chancellor.

Source C

From an account by Roger of Pontigny, written in 1176, of the discussion following the Council of Westminster, October 1163. Roger was a monk at the monastery in which Becket took refuge in France.

The King summoned the Archbishop to see if he could force him to submit. When they were alone he said: "I raised you from nothing to the height of honour and rank and even put your interests before my own. How is it that the benefits and proofs of my love for you have been so easily forgotten? Why are you so ungrateful and determined to oppose me on everything?"

The Archbishop replied: "It is God who has given me these things through you and I do not act against your will unless it opposes the will of God. You are my liege lord but St Peter wrote that we should obey God rather than man."

The King replied: "He died for his lord."

The Archbishop answered: "And I will die for my Lord when the time comes.

Nevertheless, I am willing to obey you, saving my order."

The King vehemently insisted that he should omit this phrase, but the Archbishop stubbornly persisted in his opinion and so they parted.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the quarrel between Henry II and Thomas Becket.

[30 marks]

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2

To what extent was it Henry II's baronial policy from 1154 that led to the Great Rebellion of 1173 to 1174?

[25 marks]**0 3**

'The government of England was never stable during the reign of Richard I.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]**0 4**

'Magna Carta was designed solely to protect the feudal rights of the baronage.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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