

GCE
AS and A Level

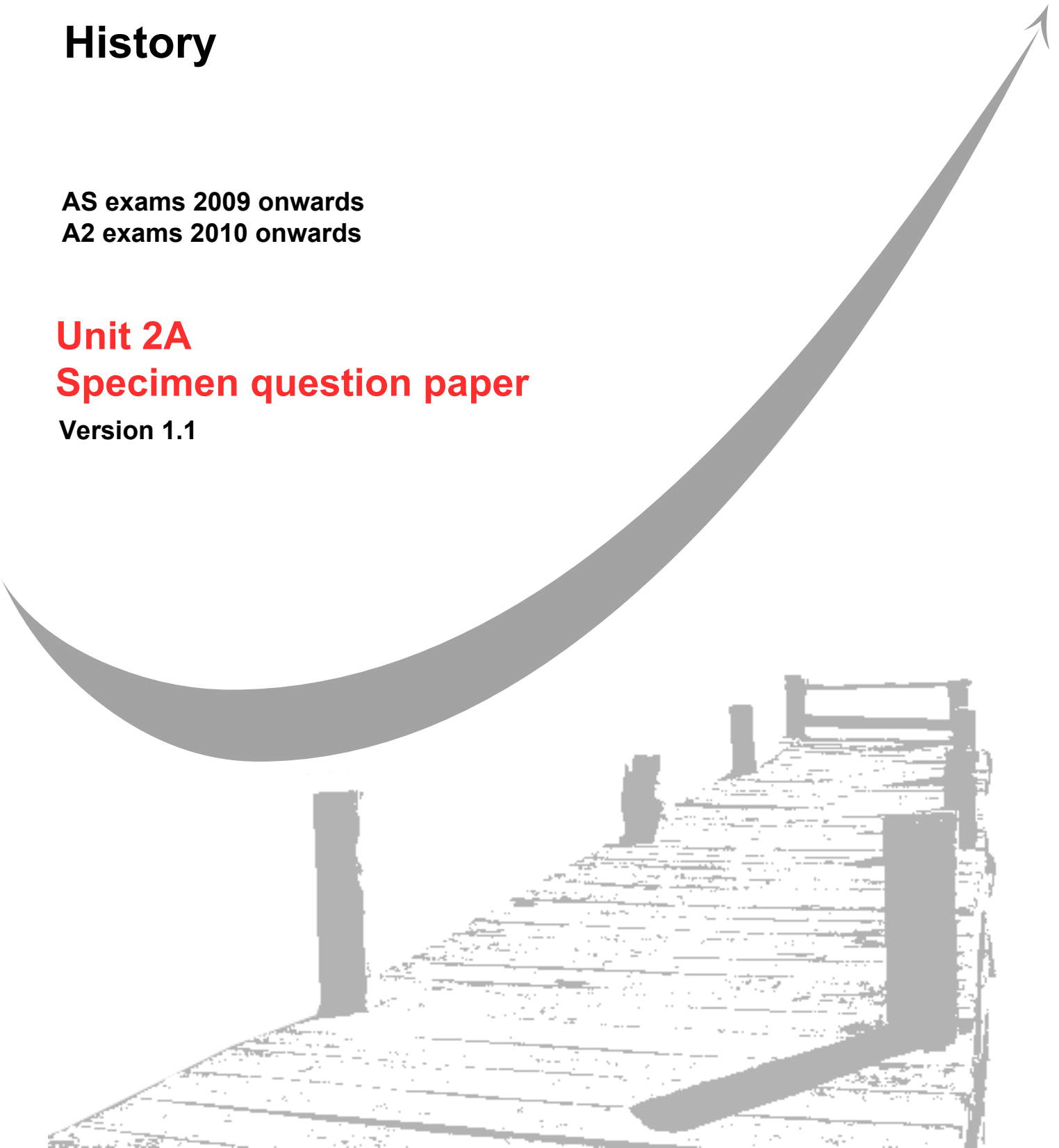
History

AS exams 2009 onwards
A2 exams 2010 onwards

Unit 2A

Specimen question paper

Version 1.1



HISTORY
Unit 2
Conqueror and Conquest, 1060–1087

HIS2A

<DAY> <TIME>

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 HIS2A.
- Answer **two** questions.
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- There are 36 marks for each question.
- 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 each question.

HIS2A

Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

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

Source A Adapted from *The History of William the Conqueror* by William of Poitiers, c1073

Edwin and Morcar, highest of all the English by their birth and power, came to submit to him. Many other earls did the same. The king graciously accepted the oaths that they offered him, generously gave his favour to them, restored all their possessions and held them in great honour. He gave wide lands to the aetheling Edgar, made him one of his
5 closest friends and was very kind to him.

Source B Adapted from *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, 1087

King William was very wise and a great man, more honoured and more powerful than any of his predecessors. He was kind to good men who loved God, but cruel beyond measure to those who opposed him. He founded a monastery on the spot where God had helped him to conquer England. No one dared to oppose him and he imprisoned those
5 earls who displeased him. He removed bishops and abbots from their offices. William established peace and no man dared to kill another. He surveyed the kingdom thoroughly so that he knew every hide of land and who held it. He caused castles to be built and oppressed the poor. He took gold and silver without right and with little need; he was greedy for money. He made large forests for the deer and passed laws so that
10 whoever killed them would be blinded. May God show mercy to his soul.

Source C Adapted from *The Ecclesiastical History* by Orderic Vitalis, written between 1114 and 1141

In his anger, William commanded that all crops and herds, goods and food of every kind should be burned, so that the whole region north of the Humber might be stripped of all means of sustaining life. As a result, so terrible a famine fell upon the humble and defenceless population, that more than 10 000 Christian people of both sexes, young and
5 old alike, died of hunger.

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

Explain how far the views in **Source A** differ from those in **Source B** in relation to William's attitude towards his English subjects. (12 marks)

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

How far do you agree that, throughout his reign, William the Conqueror was a harsh and brutal tyrant? (24 marks)

EITHER 2

- (a) Explain why there was conflict over the succession to the English throne in 1066. *(12 marks)*
- (b) ‘Royal expeditions were the main methods of extending power into Wales and Scotland by 1087.’
Explain why you agree or disagree with this statement. *(24 marks)*

OR 3

- (a) Explain why William of Normandy was able to gain the support of the Pope for his conquest of England in 1066. *(12 marks)*
- (b) ‘Archbishop Lanfranc played the key role in the reform of the English Church in the years 1066 to 1087.’
Explain why you agree or disagree with this statement. *(24 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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