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Examiners' Report  
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2019

Pearson Edexcel GCE  
In History (8HI0) Paper 2A

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Summer 2019

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## **Introduction**

It was pleasing to see candidates able to engage effectively across the ability range in this, the fourth year of the reformed AS Level Paper 2A which covers the options: Anglo-Saxon England and the Anglo-Norman Kingdom, c1053-1106 (2A.1), and England and the Angevin Empire in the reign of Henry II, 1154-1189 (2A.2). The paper is divided into two sections. Section A contains a compulsory two-part question for the option studied, each part based on one source. It assesses source analysis and evaluation skills (AO2). Section B comprises a choice of essays that assess understanding of the period in depth (AO1) by targeting five second order concepts – cause, consequence, change/continuity, similarity/difference and significance.

In common with the previous series, candidates found Section A more challenging than Section B. Some candidates were still not clear on what was meant by 'value' and 'weight' in the context of source analysis and evaluation. Performance in Section A was also affected by the absence of the detailed knowledge base required to add contextual material to support/challenge points derived from the sources. Most candidates did use their time effectively and, although a few responses were quite brief, there was little evidence on this paper of candidates having insufficient time to answer questions both sections. The ability range was diverse, but the design of the paper allowed all abilities to be catered for. Furthermore, in Section B, most responses had an analytical focus and there were very few that were wholly descriptive essays which were devoid of analysis and, for the most part, responses were soundly structured. The most common weakness in Section B essays was a lack of knowledge. It is important to realise that Section A and Section B questions may be set from any part of any Key Topic, and, as a result, full coverage of the specification is enormously important.

The candidates' performance on individual questions is considered in the next section.

### **8HI0\_2A\_Q01\_a**

Most candidates understood the question and were able to comprehend the source and comment on what it revealed about the authority of the king in the Anglo-Saxon legal system. A minority of candidates did not read the question carefully enough and confused it with the authority of the Norman kings. There were some well-focused responses that drew out inferences about the nature of the Anglo-Saxon kings' authority as the ultimate lawgiver

and financial benefits that the Anglo-Saxon king could draw from the legal system. The best answers developed the inferences with well-selected context to establish their validity. Candidates would do well to remember that contextual knowledge does need to be used to explain and develop the inferences drawn from the source and not just to provide free-standing knowledge. Many candidates did not use any contextual knowledge and this did depress their achievement within the levels. Some candidates were able to use the attributes of the source effectively to develop their ideas about the value of the Domesday Book to historians, with a particular focus on its need for accuracy. Those candidates who discussed the limitations could not be rewarded for that part of their answer as it is not the focus of part a responses.

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Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box. If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then indicate your new question with a cross.

Chosen question number: Question 1  Question 2

(This is for part (a))

Source 1 is valuable to a historian for an enquiry into the authority of the king in the Anglo-Saxon legal system due to the fact that it explains how money was allocated by fine to a king depending on who had given the king peace. In the Anglo-Saxon legal system there were given by the king who dealt with the most serious cases followed by the shire courts and then the local courts. The local courts dealt with most offences as a lot were petty crimes. This source is valuable due to the fact that it displays that "the king received a fine of 100 shillings" for the more serious offences and then afterwards the people who didn't have as much authority like the earl he received "a third of it" showing that there was a contrast in how the legal system followed laws. Therefore it shows that this is valuable to a historian as they would see in the legal system the people with the most authority and then be able to judge the reward or punishment of how much they were fined.

Another reason why this source is valuable to a historian into the authority of the king in the Anglo-Saxon legal system was due to the fact that the king would gain a lot of land if any freeman broke the king's peace and as we know the king had a lot of land for himself being over half owned by him. This is illustrated by "if any freeman violating the king's peace killed a man, and his land

(This is for part (a)) and possession were forfeit to the king. As we know by doing this the king had a lot of authority as represented by the legal system and this was always increasing due to the fact that he was given land and positions. This is valuable to a historian into the enquiry into the authority of the king and in addition in the legal system as we know that the king had a lot of power and was the highest represented of authority in the legal system.

In addition this is valuable and reliable for a historian as it is from the Domesday book which is reliable as it focused on the Anglo-Saxon records for this survey so it is reliable and generalizable so would be useful for further examinations. In addition this would be valuable for a historian due to the fact that the Domesday book was a lot of previous records and it therefore useful and can be used to see previous forms of Anglo-Saxon England. To conclude the Domesday book does provide a lot of value and reliability for any historian to use as it is one of the most well known authoritative works that can be used to examine Anglo-Saxon records of the legal system which was in place at the time.

### Examiner Comment

This is a L3 response. It has strong inferences supported from the source and developed from the candidate's knowledge. There is secure evaluation of the source with a focus on value.

### Examiner Tip

Remember to use contextual knowledge to develop and explain inferences

## 8HI0\_2A\_Q01\_b

Candidates understood the source material and were able to select from it to develop some inferences about William's preparations for the invasion of England. There were some effective answers that weighed up the strengths and limitations of the source and used this as a basis to reach a judgement about the weight that should be attached to the source for the enquiry. Many candidates still approach the consideration of weight by writing about adding and subtracting weight rather than considering the strengths and weaknesses of the source material and then reaching a judgement about the weight that the source would bear in an enquiry. Although many candidates were able to use their contextual knowledge to interrogate the source, there were a considerable number that attached free standing knowledge about William's claim to the throne or his battle tactics which was not focused on the enquiry and did not satisfy the criteria in the higher levels of the mark scheme.

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(This is for part (b))

In my opinion, I think that source 2 provides a lot of evidence into the enquiry into Duke William's preparations for the invasion of England in 1066. This is due to the fact that he was able to gain the Papal support from the pope being Alexander II and the pope promised his "sanctimony of Junius Peter, the Pope sent him a banner." This allowed him to march in with confidence and with the religious backing of the army looked to be an invincible fighting force going into the battle of Hastings against Harold in 1066. Source 2 would provide a lot of evidence into the source due to the fact that William of Poitiers was chaplain to William I and had close contact with him. With this knowledge William of Poitiers obviously had good close relationship and would therefore provide a lot of weight. However with this knowledge there may be risk of bias and over exaggeration of the events which Duke of Normandy did and therefore we have to allow for these elements to occur.

As well as this another reason why source 2 provides evidence into the enquiry into Duke William's preparations for the invasion of England in 1066 was the fact that William did see himself as the rightful ruler after Edward had died and then decided "to lay claim to his inheritance by force of arms." This is able to provide a lot of weight due to the fact that Edward had said before his death that when he died he would be the rightful king however "Harold had been crowned by signal." Therefore it was right that William wanted to put an end to the ruling made by Harold and then proclaimed

7  
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(This is for part (b)) to have had the right of him being leader. The source provides a lot of weight due to the fact that William of Poitiers was in close contact with him and the numbers of the cost and treasure taken about how angry William of Normandy had become knowing that he wasn't given any so therefore provides a lot of weight.

However I think that you wouldn't give as much weight into source 2 written by William of Poitiers as it provides several amounts of bias and with him being close to him and himself being the chaplain I think he overexaggerates his own importance. For example William of Poitiers describes William I as having "great wisdom" showing that he has high respect for William I but this might not provide much weight into the idea that he may have found bias and in the source doesn't provide much negative information. However he may be chaplain and might have been forced to give positive connotations about William I so it doesn't provide great amount of weight into his preparations for the invasion of England. With this in mind therefore, I don't give much weight to the source as he may have been forced to use positive connotation language and itself the source is quite short which doesn't represent a lot of how William I was in his preparations in 1066.

To conclude, I think that source 2 does provide a lot of weight into the enquiry into Duke William of Poitiers' actions and it is reliable due to the fact he was chaplain and had close relationship

8

### Examiner Comment

This is a L4 response. It has strong inferences supported from the source and developed from the candidate's knowledge. There is secure evaluation of the source. The consideration of the weight that the source bears is very effective.

## Examiner Tip

Remember to use the evidence in the source to justify comments on reliability

## 8HI0\_2A\_Q02a

Candidates were able to understand the source and the focus of the question on development of royal justice under Henry II. The most effective responses developed inferences from the source material and integrated the source with their knowledge of development of royal justice. Many candidates did not pay sufficient attention to the source material and drove their answer from knowledge, which, in some cases, lacked focus on 'royal authority' and discussed the role of officials such as the sheriff in local justice. This does not score highly in Section A. Some candidates focused their response on what was missing from the source or on perceived biases in the source which does not address the focus of 'value'. While there were some valid comments made on value, very few candidates picked up on the value of a 'legal textbook'.

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Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box. If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then indicate your new question with a cross.

Chosen question number: Question 1  Question 2

(This is for part (a)) Source 3 is valuable to the historian for an enquiry into the development of royal justice as it shows the extent to which the king was brooding the depth of which he was carrying out justice in the kingdom.

The source is showing sheriffs in the proper way to deal with interference through the writ of Habeas Corpus. This firstly shows that the king was seeking a uniform way of dealing with land disputes, meaning the king had oversight over all disputes and thus could record who held which land. This is a clear example of Henry creating a 'common law' in England that is uniform throughout the land. Another example of the development of common law is the requirement of '12 lawful free and lawful men' to act as jury to settle cases. The introduction of 12 lawful men can also be seen in the Constitution of Clarendon and the Assize of Arms. This is valuable to a historian as it shows royal justice becoming more uniform and structured.

This source is also valuable as it is an extract from a wider larger document that acted as a legal guide for sheriffs and itinerant justices when carrying out royal justice. Therefore, as an official guide it is a reliable example of how royal justice was being carried out.

(This is for part (a)) Compared to Henry II's reign, from this document we can observe that royal justice had become more sophisticated since the writ of Habeas Corpus which allowed the king had the right to oversee and pass judgement on. In reality, the king only heard a fraction of the total number of cases heard in the writ. Additionally, this source was written by a justice who would go out across the land to carry out justice, the role of these justices changed under Henry II as they became more proactive and heard more cases. This developed royal justice, making it more efficient and effective. It is therefore clearly valuable to a historian enquiring into royal justice.

Overall, this source is valuable to a historian for an enquiry into the development of royal justice as it shows how common law was being developed during Henry's reign as well as how it was more effectively being delivered.

## Examiner Comment

This is a strong Level 3 response. It develops a number of inferences and uses contextual knowledge really well to explain the value. The evaluation of the source as an official guide and comments on its reliability are very well explained.

## Examiner Tip

Always develop and support inferences with evidence from the source.

## 8H10\_2A\_Q02b

There were some good responses to this question in which candidates made effective use of the source and were able to develop valid reasons for attributing weight to it. A significant number of candidates focused their evaluation on the failure of the chronicler to comment on the role of Duke Richard in the defeat of his father. A focus on omission is not usually a successful way of approaching source evaluation. However, in this case, given the title of the chronicle, it could have been made highly relevant. It was a pity that candidates did not make use of this to validate and strengthen their argument.

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(This is for part (b)) I would give some 4 substantial weight in explaining Henry II's defeat to King Phillip of France. The source clearly and factually explains the demise of King Henry in France which led to weakening of his power to his death.

As the source states, King Phillip tactfully explored Le Mans, Chinon and Tours, these fortifications in the heart of the Angevin Empire were vital in holding power in Anjou after defeat and uprising in the South near Toulouse. Henry was forced North and forced "plots". This is surprising as since the Great Rebellion of 1173, Henry had forced numerous uprisings and rebellions, often led by Eleanor of Aquitaine, his wife of King Phillip. This was usually the case in Aquitaine and Brittany. This would certainly lead to a reduction in power which would aid his defeat. The source also states that Henry "received homage" to Phillip during that Henry was indeed defeated. The source therefore shows the scale of Henry's defeat.

On the other hand, the source fails to mention that King Phillip was aided by Richard, Henry's son, who rebelled against his father after Henry refused to name him as his successor. Phillip was able to manipulate this conflict and turn Richard against his father. As a superb military leader, Richard helped Phillip defeat his father at Le Mans and Tours. Also, ~~the~~ Godfrey

7  
Turn over >

(This is for part (b)) I would give some 4 substantial weight to Phillip of France. The source clearly and factually explains the demise of King Henry in France which led to weakening of his power to his death.

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8

## Examiner Comment

This is a level 4 response. The candidate develops a series of inferences that are carefully reasoned with clear explanations. Contextual knowledge is deployed to discuss the claims in the source, e.g. on the first page of the answer where the candidate refers to Philip 'tactfully' exploring Le Mans, Chinon and Tours and examines this in the light of the strategic importance of these in the Angevin Empire. There is an excellent inference on the scale of Henry's defeat. The evaluation of the source includes a consideration of the omission of



Henry's sons from the account. There is some justification by linking this to Brittany's surrender.

### Examiner Tip

Contextual knowledge should be used to show an awareness of the values of the society from which the source is drawn

8H10\_1H\_Q04

### 8H10\_2A\_Q03

A small number of candidates answered this question with most scoring in levels 2 and 3. Most candidates had some knowledge of the rebellions but struggled to focus on the two rebellions specified in the question and further struggled to carry out a comparison of the similarities and differences of them. In some cases, candidates confused the rebellions with others which took place in the decade after William's victory at Hastings. Consequently supporting evidence lacked the accuracy and precision that facilitates achievement at the higher levels.

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Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box. If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then indicate your new question with a cross.

Chosen question number: Question 3  Question 4  Question 5  Question 6  Question 7  Question 8

It is ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> ~~more~~ accurate to say that the Anglo-Saxon rebellions against Norman rule in the north and in the east were very similar regarding William's <sup>harsh</sup> responses to them, ~~as the rebellions were similar as well as the involvement of the Vikings.~~

The rebellion in the south <sup>1067</sup>, ~~in Essex~~ was in response to increased taxation. The local community committed treason as they revolted against William. This resulted in a harsh response as he launched a siege on the city of Exeter. The rebels ~~acted~~ <sup>asked</sup> for help but found none and soon surrendered on the 18 day siege. William's harsh response terrified the local community in 1069 and discouraged others from revolting.

The rebellion in the north was different from the one in the south as it had different reasons for the revolt <sup>taking place</sup>. It was led by Edgar who had the aim of gaining the English throne and Malcolm who wanted to gain control over northumbria.

13 Turn over >

The fact that there were different aims not only differentiates it from the first revolt but also adds to the reason of the downfall of the rebellion. ~~However~~ <sup>Additionally,</sup> in summer 1069 was ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> most dangerous point for William where ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> force of 200 ships arrived off the coast by ~~Edgar~~ <sup>Edgar</sup> later arrived with more forces. It was the jointy setting of these forces that made it the most dangerous point for William thus ~~threatened~~ <sup>as a result,</sup> he responded with brutality as he banned the sale and commerce for all land to be burned, for all the crops and food to be gathered and burned. This resulted in a terrible famine that affected the whole community. Soon Edgar and Malcolm surrendered and ~~before~~ <sup>William</sup> established ~~control~~ <sup>control</sup> in the north and further strengthened this by ~~building~~ <sup>building</sup> a castle in York, which helped him dominate the land.

Furthermore, another rebellion that occurred in the north was the one in ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> north west during the winter. During this revolt, the rebels were completely unprepared as they did not have the right resources and requirements for the weather. This made it easy for William to

14



capture one of the main towns in the north west such as Chester, thus once again, gaining more dominance in the north, showing ~~the~~ the outcome of the rebellions that had taken place in the north were similar regarding William's successful outcome.

After the north had been subdued, East Anglia was the last area to oppose Norman domination. The East Anglian mercenaries acted as a military defence for the rebels and so this was a major advantage for them and difficult for William to defeat them. Situations were made worse for William as the rebels received aid from the Danes. However, William dealt with this through diplomacy and force as he knew the Danes would be a main contributing factor in the success of the rebels along with the ~~the~~ help of the Vikings. As a result, the East Anglian rebellion had failed as a result of poor commitment from the Danes and the Vikings.

In conclusion, it is not accurate to say that the Anglo-Saxon rebellions against Norman rule in the north and east were very similar. This is because

they both had different aims despite their similar outcome of William's success and ~~dominance~~ ~~stability~~ ~~control~~ over the cities, there were not similar regarding the different aims of the rebellions as the ones in the north ~~was~~ were mainly due to increased taxation and the desire to gain land, whereas the one in the east ~~was~~ was due to the Vikings desire to defeat William. Also the reasons for the failure of the rebels were also not similar as the ones in the north were due to lack of coordination, planning and resources whereas the one in East Anglia was mainly a failure due to poor commitment of the Danes and ~~the~~ ~~the~~ Vikings for a reason.

### Examiner Comment

This is a low level 3 response. Its initial focus on the rebellion in the south west is not relevant to the question. However, there is some accurate knowledge developed on the northern rebellion and on the rebellion in East Anglia. The comparisons in the body of the answer are not valid because they are compared against rebellions outside of the remit of the question but there are some relevant criteria developed in the conclusion that pushes this response into level 3.

### Examiner Tip

In similarity and difference questions, a brief plan helps you to focus on the second order concept.

## 8H10\_2A\_Q04

There were only a small number of responses to this question. Candidates tended to vary from those who knew the topic well and developed focused answers supported by secure knowledge, to those with very little knowledge who were unable to develop a relevant and supported response. Those candidates were able to refer to a range of reform introduced by Lanfranc, including tacking clerical abuses, the establishment of the primacy of Canterbury and the establishment of clerical courts. Candidates who were able to assess the success of these measures and reach a judgement accessed level 4.

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Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box. If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then indicate your new question with a cross.

Chosen question number: Question 3  Question 4  Question 5  Question 6  Question 7  Question 8

Lanfranc was an Italian jurist who was born in Pavia, Italy c. 1006. He became Archbishop of Canterbury through William I's choice in 1070 and ruled for 19 years until 1089. He played a key role in reforming the church by with the objective of making the church less corrupt.

Archbishop Lanfranc ~~was~~ succeeded in reforming the English church through the idea that both himself and William the Conqueror had which was to decrease the level of corruption within the church. To achieve this, he introduced the banning of simony, nepotism, clerical marriage and even pluralism. These were corrupt methods within the church which involved the selling of church posts (simony), passing on a church post to family (nepotism), marrying or having any sexual relations (clerical marriage) and holding more than one church post at a time (pluralism). This led to a large decrease in corruption which highlighted Lanfranc's success in reforming the English church.



13 Turn over >

In addition to this, William I and Lanfranc were in the ~~above~~ slow process of replacing Anglo-Saxon bishops with Norman counterparts. This was again quite a drastic change as England was ~~the~~ increasingly becoming less Anglo-Saxon. By 1086, 13 out of the 15 ~~best~~ bishops in the English church were Norman. This clearly demonstrates how Lanfranc succeeded in ~~the~~ changing and developing the church in England seen as ~~the~~ many of the English abbots were either ~~being~~ ~~the~~ ~~banished~~ performing the banished process of simony, nepotism etc. or ~~either~~ they would 'steal' money to the king and ~~was~~ as a result, were replaced with Normans who were loyal to William the Conqueror.

In contradiction to this, a way in which he might not have succeeded in reforming the English church so much, could be through the moving of the centre of England which was previously York, ~~but~~ moved down South to Canterbury. Some people may view this as a successful change and ~~equation~~ as this would enable a closer and tighter control on the church and its corruption, however this may not have been a successful move because this was done more so in William's political interests,



14

being that he wishes to remain stronger as king of the country rather than allowing for the Roman church to have more authority rather than the ecclesiastical interests. ~~But~~ The change of the primacy to Canterbury depicts the aim to eliminate corruption within the church as William I was more central for himself.

~~Overall~~ In conclusion, I believe that Lanfranc did ~~was~~ succeed in quite a significant manner, to reform the English church as the corruption was a much larger ~~to~~ level ~~however~~, but may not have as it was also in line with the Gregorian reform movement, however this reform did not succeed as well as it could have due to William Rufus and how he was a man who exploited the church through simony especially and how he robbed the English church of 1,600,000 silver pennies simply to enrich the Norman crown.



15 Turn over >

### Examiner Comment

This is a very well-focused response that achieved level 4. There is a very clear focus on Lanfranc's successes in removing corruption and reorganising the church. This is contrasted with failures. The candidate has selected effective criteria to use for reaching a judgement.

### Examiner Tip

This question focuses on consequence. To address it, you need to look at impact.

## 8HI0\_2A\_Q05

This was the most popular question in Section B for 2A.1. The majority of candidates achieved in level 3. Most candidates displayed some knowledge of the topic and were able to construct the answer to focus on causation. Most candidates referred to William II's control of Normandy in Robert's absence, the attitude of the Anglo-Norman barons to the restoration of the Anglo-Norman kingdom, Henry I's ambitions, Robert's misrule in Normandy and the Battle of Tinchebrai. Candidates who were able to develop and support valid criteria for judgement were able to access level 4.

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Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box. If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then indicate your new question with a cross.

Chosen question number: Question 3  Question 4  Question 5  Question 6  Question 7  Question 8

After the death of King William the First the Norman Empire was split into two, Normandy and England each ruled by a son. Many during the years 1095-1105 called for the reunification but it wasn't until 1106 that it finally happened under King Henry I of England. To judge how influential each event was in deciding the outcome we must consider how the event changed the political and geographical landscape of the two nations.

In 1096 Robert of Normandy also known as Robert Curthose, answered Pope Urban II call to arms for the first crusade. This left a political void in Normandy which would have to be filled. Robert decided to appoint his younger brother King William II of England as regent whilst he was gone, however in 1088 King William died in a hunting accident leaving his brother Henry to inherit the throne as well as title of regent of Normandy. This was problematic as the two had different visions of the future of Normandy. Robert returned to Normandy to find that Henry wanted the two countries to remain unified. Robert with a stronger

battle hardened army crossed the Channel, however no battle was fought and he returned home after signing a truce. The two countries remained split but now Henry had his sights set on Normandy and tensions rose.

A second factor we must consider whilst looking into the events which led to the unification is the battle of Tinchebrai. Henry had now consolidated his power over England and had the backing of his vassal lords. Henry looked for a reason to invade his brother and soon one arose. Robert attacked an English outlaw by the name Robert of Bellême breaking Henry's truce. Henry crossed the Channel and met his brother at Bellême at Tinchebrai. Robert's battle-hardened crusading force were confident on victory and charged the main force of Henry's army. Henry stood his ground and one of his closest allies Count Helias led a counter charge of Robert of Bellême's flank. Bellême was forced to retreat causing mass panic within Robert's forces. Henry won Robert's defeat at Tinchebrai left Normandy wide open and a couple of months later the unification was complete.

A third factor we must consider is Henry's lust for power. After William's death in 1085 he divided the lands between Robert and William leaving Henry with just 5000 gold (2 million pounds). This

angered Henry who thought he deserved more so in 1088 he took his revenge and was present at William II's death. Many sources such as the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle in Peterborough recorded Henry rushing off to claim his throne. Once Henry had consolidated his throne power and gained the trust of his lords he set his sights on his brother and Normandy. After winning the battle of Tinchebrai the unification was complete and Henry ruled over both England and Normandy as King.

Overall I believe that Henry's lust for power was the main reason for the reunification of the Norman-Anglo kingdom as without this Henry would have remained content with just England and would never have invaded Normandy. In addition to this Henry's reasoning for invasion was very weak showing that he already had intentions to conquer Normandy. Although the battle of Tinchebrai was the nail in the coffin for Robert and caused the two to unite geographically it was Henry's lust for power which caused the political turmoil and led to the reunification of the Anglo-Norman kingdom in 1106.



Turn over >



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### Examiner Comment

This is a mid-level 3 response. The candidate has developed the answer using relevant material within a narrative framework. The range of factors considered is reasonable. The answer would have accessed level 4 if there was more analysis and explanation and less description.

### Examiner Tip

Remember to explore the given factor in depth.

## 8HI0\_2A\_Q06

A small number of candidates addressed this question. Most scored at the top of level 2 and into level 3. Candidates were able to describe the role of the chancellor and contrast it against the role of other significant individuals. Some candidates contrasted the chancellor with the role of Eleanor. This lacked validity because Eleanor was not an official in Henry's government.

## 8HI0\_2A\_Q07

This question prompted a number of effective responses. Most candidates demonstrated some knowledge of Eleanor's role during this period and the best responses were able to consider the extent to which her power declined by examining the evidence for and against the proposal. Most candidates compared her control in Aquitaine with Henry's control and considered her role as a wife and mother alongside her ambitions to rule in Aquitaine. The best responses established clear criteria for judgement

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Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box . If you change your mind, put a line through the box  and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen question number: Question 3  Question 4  Question 5  Question 6  Question 7  Question 8

Eleanor of Aquitaine was an extremely well-known woman in medieval England having recently divorced the king of France in 1151 she was now married to the king of England in 1154 making her Queen. She later mothered 4 sons who lived to adult hood and became powerful rulers in the English empire; and it is a well known fact that she herself held much power and influence over Aquitaine and her sons.

When Eleanor became Queen in the early 1150's she was in a very good position as she was the ruler of Aquitaine it succeeded her position as Queen. This was so Henry's wife her land went to him. Not only this but she was very quickly able to produce a male heir for Henry. This gave her ~~some~~ huge quantities of stability in her role as it was a wife job to have a boy. As we can see she

started off her rule as Queen in an extremely powerful and stable way. However we can see how her influence and power began to decrease throughout the years. For example, once she would have been able to consult and advise Henry on matters of government and land ~~for example~~ such as the government of Aquitaine but by 1162 this had changed. Henry made to make Thomas Becket Chancellor of England, Eleanor strongly advised against this warning Henry of Becket's behavior. Here we can see how Eleanor has lost her pull on Henry as he makes Becket Chancellor anyway. It suggests to us that Eleanor no longer has a voice in government powers which would have dramatically decreased her power.

Her power is once more diminished in the late 1160's at the Montmirail treaty with Louis VII. Henry puts Eleanor in charge of Aquitaine but make her rule alongside Richard I her second eldest son. This shows how ~~she~~ she no longer has much control over Aquitaine her own land as she

isn't even allowed to govern on her own. Furthermore Henry does little to honour the 1166 treaty and keeps a strong grip and influence on Aquitaine. Here we can see how not only has Eleanor been denied control of her own land but she has been sent away from the main government of England so no longer has any influence there. The final act that Henry takes to remove all of Eleanor's power is in 1174 after the rebellion when she is put under house arrest. Here this is clear evidence that Eleanor no longer has control. ~~As~~ we can see this as she doesn't even have the power to travel or leave her residence so she will have little influence on the affairs of England.

However as Eleanor's power over the land of Aquitaine decreases and so does her influence over Henry II, it could be argued that her control over her sons' actions and alliances increases over her reign as by the late 1160's she is bringing up Richard on his own in Aquitaine. This suggests his rebellion may have been mostly the influence of his

mother also back up by the fact Eleanor took Richard to France to stay with Louis (Henry & Margaret already there). Here we can see a clear act of defiance against Henry. This shows us she held immense nerve and much power for a woman as a wife should never go against their husband.

She was able to use acts of defiance such as these to encourage the great rebellion of 1173. For example she rallied the lords and barons of Aquitaine to join the rebellion. Here we can see how in later years she used her influence as power to manipulate rather than law making and ordering as these were out of her grasp.

In my opinion Eleanor's power to rule her land and take part in government issues did decrease through out her rein till she was finally put on house arrest in 1174.

Although I do believe that Eleanor's power increased drastically in her ability to influence and manipulate and although this isn't direct power as she could not make orders her self it show an

incredible ability to get her way, which ~~should~~ as a woman was a difficult thing and should not be ~~too~~ over looked when studying the deminish of her power from 1174-74.

### Examiner Comment

This is a secure level 4 response with a strong argument and counter argument. There is a good range of factors and sufficient support to achieve this level.

### Examiner Tip

This question focuses on significance. To address it effectively, you need to establish criteria for judgement.

### 8H10\_2A\_Q08

This was the most popular question that was answered on the paper. Most candidates scored in level 3 and a good number were able to access level 4. Candidates' knowledge of the topic was good and most had an explicit focus on church courts and on causation. The best responses moved from suggesting that all factors contributed to the problems to having clear criteria for judgment and in contrasting the problems caused by church courts with alternative reasons and coming to a judgement on which as most important.



Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box. If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then indicate your new question with a cross.

Chosen question number: Question 3  Question 4  Question 5  Question 6  Question 7  Question 8

It can be argued that the main cause of Henry II's problems with the church was the clash of authority with church courts, in particular the Constitutions of Clarendon in January 1164. However, there were other significant factors such as the role of Alexander III and Becket's character.

During the reign of Henry II, the issue between who could be tried in a lay court and who could be tried in the church court was rather blurred. Around 5% of the population could claim 'benefit of the clergy', which would mean that they would be tried within the church courts, which frequently resulted in a more lenient sentence such as penance. Henry II, however, wanted to change this to ensure more of the population and clergy were tried in the lay courts rather than under canon law. Another significant motive for this was the fines decided upon would go to those in charge of the court, therefore, with more being tried under secular law, the wealth of the church would be reduced. This led Henry to meet Becket at the Council of Westminster in October 1165, here he persuaded Becket to agree that clergy would first have to be proven as a significant member of the church before being tried under canon law. However, this was only verbal consent, and the King decided he needed the church bound to the course by writing.



13 Turn over >

This led to another meeting in which, after some reluctance, Becket agreed to a chirograph, a legally binding document. The forming of the chirograph to the Constitutions was a major turning point within the conflicts, as many believed that Becket had failed to show loyalty to the church. This event, I believe, was the starting point of the conflicts, showing the significance of the relationship between church and crown courts.

Despite this, Becket's character can also be seen as one of the main problems for Henry II during this clash. Whilst Henry had believed in making his ally and Chancellor the Archbishop would have improved relations, Becket's actions proved otherwise. Upon being offered the role of Archbishop in 1162, Becket gave up his role as Chancellor and throughout the conflicts, aimed to remain loyal to the church in his new role. Most significantly when he performed mass on the 12 October 1164, following the Council of Northampton. Here he publicly demonstrated his allegiance to the Pope and when Henry discovered his actions he was forced to flee to France, where he remained in exile with his return to England in December 1170. Another significant example of his behavior increasing the conflicts was upon his return. Rather than acting with remorse and peace, Becket exiled the Archbishop of York and bishops of London and Salisbury. His actions here led to the outbreak by the King of England and ultimately his murder. Overall, you can see clearly how Becket's lack of cooperation was a main problem to Henry II during their conflict.



14

The position and actions of Pope Alexander III can also be viewed as a problem to Henry during the clash of church and state. The Papal Schism of 1159 had a profound effect upon the power of the king. The antipope, Victor IV, had been elected by the Holy Roman Emperor, meaning Alexander headed the support of Henry II in his position. As a consequence, it meant that he couldn't fully support the Archbishop, as he should have done, as that would have threatened Henry's transfer of support to the antipope. Therefore, on multiple occasions, such as after the Council of Westminster, the Pope encouraged more cooperation from Becket, which ultimately led to the creation of the Constitutions of Clarendon, showing the significance of Pope Alexander's role.

In conclusion, I believe that Becket's character and lack of cooperation created the main cause of Henry's problems during the conflict. The mass that he performed on 12 October 1164 causing his flee to France and the excommunications he carried out upon his return, which most significantly led to his death and the greatest effect on crown power, are prime examples of Becket's lack of cooperation.



15 Turn over >

## Examiner Comment

This is a level 4 response. It has an explicit focus on the question and explores 3 factors before reaching a supported judgement in relation to the question.

## Examiner Tip

This is a causation question. Remember to compare the given cause to alternative reasons in order to reach a judgment on 'main cause'.



## **Paper Summary**

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

### **Section A**

#### Value of Source Question (1(a)/2(a))

- Candidates must be more prepared to make valid inferences rather than to paraphrase the source
- Be prepared to back up inferences by adding additional contextual knowledge from beyond the source
- Move beyond stereotypical approaches to the nature/purpose and authorship of the source e.g. look at the specific stance and/or purpose of the writer
- Avoid writing about the deficiencies of the source when assessing its value to the enquiry.

#### Weight of Source Question (1(b)/2(b))

- Candidates should be prepared to assess the weight of the source for an enquiry by being aware that the author is writing for a specific audience. Be aware of the values and concerns of that audience.
- In assessing weight, it is perfectly permissible to use contextual knowledge to support/challenge statements and claims made in the source
- Try to distinguish between fact and opinion by using your contextual knowledge of the period
- In coming to a judgement about the nature/purpose of the source, take account of the weight you may be able to give to the author's evidence in the light of his or her stance and/or purpose
- In assessing weight, it is perfectly permissible to assess reliability by considering what has been perhaps deliberately omitted from the source. However, simply stating that a source is limited because it does not cover certain events or developments does not establish weight since no source can be comprehensive.

## **Section B**

### Essay questions

- Candidates must provide more factual details as evidence. Weaker responses lacked depth and sometimes range
- Take a few minutes to plan your answer before you begin to write your response
- Pick out three or four key themes and then provide an analysis of (for e.g.) the target significance mentioned in the question, setting its importance against other themes rather than providing a description of each
- Pay more careful attention to key phrases in the question when analysing and use them throughout the essay to prevent deviation from the central issues and concepts
- Try to explore links between issues to make the structure flow more logically and the arguments more integrated.