



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Wednesday 07 October 2020 – Morning

A Level History A

Y303/01 English Government and the Church 1066–1216

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Answer the question in Section A and **any two** questions in Section B.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **80**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document has **4** pages.

ADVICE

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

SECTION A

Read the two passages and then answer Question 1.

- 1 Evaluate the interpretations in **both** of the two passages and explain which you think is more convincing as an explanation of Stephen's relationship with the English Church. [30]

Passage A

In 1136 Stephen issued a new charter. On the face of it, royal control over the Church had been abandoned. At the end of 1138, Stephen secured the election of Theobald, Abbot of Bec, as the new Archbishop of Canterbury. But the appointment alienated Stephen's brother, Bishop Henry of Winchester, who wanted the position for himself. And next year Henry's power was increased when he became papal legate. Theobald was quite aware of the duty he owed the King, but he was no Stephen man. In 1139 Stephen suddenly arrested Roger, Bishop of Salisbury, and his nephew, Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln. There were humiliating consequences. According to canon law, ecclesiastics and their properties should be under the jurisdiction of the Church, not the King. Bishop Henry called a legatine council. Stephen was forced to appear and plead his case. The whole episode reflected the advance in ecclesiastical independence since the 1080s, when the idea that the king acted against bishops as barons and not as churchmen had been universally accepted. The weakening of Stephen's authority made it more difficult to control ecclesiastical affairs where developments, becoming apparent before 1135, were already working against him. Papal power was growing as were ideas concerning freedom of the Church.

Adapted from: D. Carpenter, *The Struggle for Mastery: Britain, 1066–1284*, published in 2003.

Passage B

Stephen acknowledged his debt to the Church in the charter of liberties he issued at Oxford in 1136. It went further than any written promises made by earlier English kings but not a lot further than Henry I in his coronation charter. It hardly amounted to a surrender of all royal power over the Church. There was certainly a reduction in direct royal influence over appointments to bishoprics and abbeys but this trend had begun during the last decade of Henry I's reign. It has been suggested that Stephen's failure to directly control royal appointments should not necessarily be interpreted as a sign of his political weakness or incompetence. Rather, he was content to allow churches to choose their own bishops and abbots as long as they came to him for confirmation of the choice. Papal influence within England certainly increased after 1135. Again, though, such developments in England were part of a wider phenomenon: Papal power was greater than ever before and acknowledged as such across Europe. And the extent to which these changes significantly reduced royal control over the Church is open to question.

Adapted from: R. Huscroft, *Ruling England 1042–1217*, published in 2016.

SECTION B

Answer **TWO** of the following three questions.

- 2*** 'The most important change in English central government in the period from 1066 to 1216 was the development of the Exchequer.' How far do you agree? **[25]**
- 3*** To what extent did English local government undergo significant change in the period from 1066 to 1216? **[25]**
- 4*** To what extent was Anselm typical of Archbishops of Canterbury in the period from 1066 to 1216? **[25]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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