

GCE

History A

Y302/01: The Viking Age c.790-1066

Advanced GCE

2020 Mark Scheme (DRAFT)

This is a DRAFT mark scheme. It has not been used for marking as this paper did not receive any entries in the series it was scheduled for. It is therefore possible that not all valid approaches to a question may be captured in this version. You should give credit to such responses when marking learner's work.

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All examiners are instructed that alternative correct answers and unexpected approaches in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and the report on the examination.

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1. Annotations

Annotation	Meaning of annotation
BP	Blank Page
	Highlight
Off-page comment	
A	Assertion
AN	Analysis
EVAL	Evaluation
EXP	Explanation
F	Factor
ILL	Illustrates/Describes
IRRL	Irrelevant, a significant amount of material that does not answer the question
J	Judgement
KU	Knowledge and understanding
P	Provenance
SC	Simple comment
	Unclear
V	View
S	Synthesis
C	Continuity/Change

2. Subject Specific Marking Instructions

How far do you agree questions . . .

The indicative content lists features of the period studied that relate to the question set. Both features that support the hypothesis and features that challenge the hypothesis are detailed.

Neither significance nor relative importance are attributed to the features listed.

The indicative content is intended to reflect the knowledge and understanding a candidate is likely to analyse and evaluate in order to arrive at a judgement in line with the question set.

Other questions . . .

The indicative content lists features of the period studied that relate to the question set.

Neither significance nor relative importance are attributed to the features listed.

The indicative content is intended to reflect the knowledge and understanding a candidate is likely to analyse and evaluate in order to arrive at a judgement in line with the question set.

MARK SCHEME Section A

Question		Answer	Mark	Guidance
1		<p>Evaluate the interpretations in both of the two passages and explain which you think is more convincing as an explanation of the impact of Viking raids on England.</p> <p>In locating the Interpretations within the wider historical debate, answers might argue that Interpretation A suggests that the impact of Viking raids on England has been exaggerated by historians.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In evaluating Interpretation A, answers might argue that it is valid because the accuracy of chronicle accounts (e.g. the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle) cannot be relied upon (e.g. in relation to numbers of ships in fleets and size of armies). • Answers might argue that it is valid because place-name evidence is problematical and an unreliable measure of migration and settlement. • Answers might argue that it is valid because 	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No set answer is expected • At Level 5 and above answers will evaluate both interpretations, locating them within the wider historical debate about the issue and using their own knowledge, and reach a balanced judgement as to which they consider the most convincing about the issue in the question. • To be valid, judgements must be supported by relevant and accurate material. • Knowledge must not be credited in isolation, it should only be credited where it is used to analyse and evaluate the interpretations, in line with descriptions in the levels mark scheme

		<p>Vikings raids were carried out by bands of cultured aristocratic warriors, not ‘hordes of heathen savages’.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answers might argue that it is valid, because it can be argued that Vikings exploited but did not cause the political and cultural crises of the period. • Answers might argue that it is valid because there are examples of Viking raids having certain ‘beneficial effects’. <p>In locating the Interpretations within the wider historical debate, answers might argue that Interpretation B suggests that the impact of Viking raids on England must not be under-estimated.</p> <p>In evaluating Interpretation B,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answers might argue that it is valid because the surviving evidence indicates large Viking fleets and armies were involved. • Answers might argue that it is valid because the scale of the Viking attacks is evident in their success in defeating their enemies and overrunning kingdoms. • Answers might argue that the Vikings had a devastating effect upon learning in England. • Answers might argue that it is valid because Viking settlement was so great as to transform English society in the north in terms of both language and race; some might discuss this in relation to DNA profiling due to the time in which these passages were published. • Answers might argue that it is valid because aspects of Viking culture might be considered ‘barbaric’. 		
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2*		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answers might argue that it is valid because certain effects of Viking invasions were permanent. <p>Section B</p> <p>‘There was limited political development in Denmark, Norway and Sweden throughout the period c.790 to 1066.’ How far do you agree?</p> <p>In supporting the hypothesis in the question, and arguing that political development was limited it might be argued that political systems in some parts of Scandinavia, if not all, were much the same at the end of the period as they were at the beginning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answers might consider the evidence for a highly stratified and hierarchical social structure throughout the Viking Age. Answers might consider for many Vikings (e.g. those in Denmark) the unification process was almost complete by c.800. Answers might consider that regional autonomy in custom and law survived the unification process. Answers might consider the survival of the older political system in some parts of Scandinavia (e.g. Greenland and Iceland). Answers might consider the gender dimension of Viking politics and note the constancy of regal and other forms of power in their domination by men. Answers might consider older arguments for the continuing instability of Viking politics and the relative weakness of chieftains and kings, reliant on the support of the aristocracy. Answers might consider the continuing reliance 	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No set answer is expected. At higher levels answers might establish criteria against which to judge. To be valid, judgements must be supported by relevant and accurate material. Knowledge must not be credited in isolation, it should only be credited where it is used as the basis for analysis and evaluation, in line with descriptions in the levels mark scheme.
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		<p>of chieftains and kings on gift-giving and other gestures of generosity (e.g. feasting).</p> <p>In challenging the hypothesis in the question, and arguing that there was political development, it might be argued that the most significant development was the shift from chiefdoms to kingdoms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answers might consider the unification of chiefdoms and their amalgamation into great kingdoms by the end of the period (e.g. Norway). • Answers might consider evidence for the emergence of individual kings with considerably more power than their predecessors (as evidenced, for example, by the archaeology of Jelling and martial achievements abroad). • Answers might consider developments in the administration of Viking kingdoms. • Answers might consider developments regarding reliance upon bands of warriors and armies. • Answers might consider the new opportunities presented to the elite in the development of Viking kingdoms and the courts of their kings. • Answers might consider the political consequences on Scandinavia of Viking activities abroad. • Answers might consider the political consequences of Christianisation. 		
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<p>3*</p>		<p>‘Vikings abroad were more concerned with trading than raiding.’ How far do you agree with this statement for the period c.790 to1066?</p> <p>In supporting the hypothesis in the question, it might be argued that there is ample archaeological evidence and some historical evidence for the preoccupation of Vikings abroad with trading activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answers might consider the emergence of Viking centres of trade abroad (e.g. Jorvik, Dorestad, Quentovic, Truso, Dublin). • Answers might consider the evidence of exotic and foreign objects in the Scandinavian archaeological record some of which might be indicative of trade activity. • Answers might consider the historical evidence of trade agreements (e.g. between Danes and Germans in 873). • Answers might consider the great importance of trading activity in order to sustain Viking settlement abroad. • Answers might consider the bias of the contemporary historical sources (e.g. Annals of St Bertin, Anglo-Saxon Chronicle) in portraying Vikings as barbaric raiders, not peaceful traders. <p>In challenging the hypothesis in the question, it might be argued that raiding was the primary concern of Vikings and that trading, at least at the start of the period, was of secondary importance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answers might consider arguments that the role of Scandinavians as middlemen in pan-global trade has been exaggerated in the past. • Answers might consider the evidence of exotic and foreign objects in the Scandinavian archaeological record some of which might be 	<p>25</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No set answer is expected. • At higher levels answers might establish criteria against which to judge. • To be valid, judgements must be supported by relevant and accurate material. • Knowledge must not be credited in isolation, it should only be credited where it is used as the basis for analysis and evaluation, in line with descriptions in the levels mark scheme.
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<p>4*</p>		<p>indicative of raiding activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answers might consider the ample evidence for the involvement of Viking bands and armies in raid and conquest activities in many places abroad (e.g. Spain, Africa, France) throughout the whole period. • Answers might consider the evidence of rune stones and scaldic poetry that highlights the role the central place of raiding and treasure-hunting in expeditions abroad. • Answers might consider the close relationship between raiding and trading in relation to extensive Viking involvement in the slave trade. <p>To what extent was entertainment the purpose of Viking poetry and sagas between c.790 and 1066?</p> <p>In supporting the hypothesis in the question, it might be argued that entertainment was the most important purpose of Viking poetry and sagas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answers might consider the role of Viking poetry and sagas as story-telling for entertainment in the context, for example, of feasts at court. • Answers might consider the content of Viking poetry and saga and comment on such exciting and entertaining elements as heroes, gods, monsters, warfare and seduction. • Answers might consider, by example, the role of a good plot in Viking sagas. • Answers might consider the evidence for improvisation and great creativity in the Viking poetic tradition which could be indicative of composition primarily for entertainment. 	<p>25</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No set answer is expected. • At higher levels answers might establish criteria against which to judge. • To be valid, judgements must be supported by relevant and accurate material. • Knowledge must not be credited in isolation, it should only be credited where it is used as the basis for analysis and evaluation, in line with descriptions in the levels mark scheme.
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		<p>In challenging the hypothesis in the question, it might be argued that Viking poetry and sagas served a range of purposes beyond mere entertainment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Answers might consider the role of poetry and sagas in commemorating historical events.• Answers might consider the role of poetry and sagas in celebrating chieftains and kings.• Answers might consider the role of poetry and sagas in commemorating individuals.• Answers might consider the role of poetry and sagas in developing communal identities and metanarratives.• Answers might consider the role of poetry and sagas in promoting religious beliefs and moral principles.		
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