

A LEVEL

Examiners' report

HISTORY A

H505

For first teaching in 2015

Y102/01 Summer 2022 series

Contents

Introduction	3
Paper Y102 series overview	4
Section A overview	5
Question 1	5
Section B overview	9
Question 2*	9
Question 3*	12

Introduction

Our examiners' reports are produced to offer constructive feedback on candidates' performance in the examinations. They provide useful guidance for future candidates.

The reports will include a general commentary on candidates' performance, identify technical aspects examined in the questions and highlight good performance and where performance could be improved. A selection of candidate answers is also provided. The reports will also explain aspects which caused difficulty and why the difficulties arose, whether through a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique, or any other identifiable and explainable reason.

Where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report.

A full copy of the question paper and the mark scheme can be downloaded from OCR.

Advance Information for Summer 2022 assessments

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Paper Y102 series overview

Y102 is the British period study and enquiry paper focused on 'Anglo-Saxon England and the Norman Conquest, 1035-1107'. It is comprised of a source-based study and an essay question.

To achieve marks in the highest level for Section A, candidates need to be able to evaluate the four sources provided, using the provenance of each and detailed knowledge of the relevant historical context in a balanced way. Candidates will engage with the sources in light of the question, providing a supported analysis of each one. There needs to be focus on the question throughout the response and a convincing and relevant judgement offered on the issue in the question.

To achieve marks in the highest level for Section B, candidates need to provide a response that has a consistent focus on the question, includes a clear and sustained line of reasoning, based on analysis and evaluation of detailed knowledge and understanding, and which provides a developed judgement related to the question.

In general, candidates performed better on Section B than on Section A. Knowledge of provenance, in relation to Question 1, was often less developed. Candidates found it more difficult to provide an appropriate judgement when answering Question 1, with many responses culminating in a summary of comments made earlier on in the response. However, many candidates demonstrated good knowledge of the events described in the sources, particularly in relation to the trial of William of Saint-Calais (Source A) and the career of Ranulf Flambard (Source D). For Section B, many candidates were able to provide quite detailed explanations of key factors. Analysis, however, was sometimes limited, and some candidates found it difficult to express a clear and consistent line of reasoning.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally did the following:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally did the following:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrated sound knowledge and understanding of the period • engaged effectively with sources, using provenance and knowledge of the historical context to analyse and evaluate each one • demonstrated an ability to analyse knowledge tailored to the question in Section B and to evaluate the relative significance of factors • made clear and convincing judgements in responses based on sound knowledge and understanding of the period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • possessed only limited knowledge and understanding of the period • explained rather than analysed and evaluated the sources • did not properly engage with the provenance of the sources • explained factors in Section B, with less detailed knowledge, rather than analysed them • provided only limited judgements or broader views on topic areas or they omitted judgements entirely.

Section A overview

In this section, candidates needed to engage with the four sources provided in order to assess the extent to which each one supported the view that William II was interested in the Church only as a source of income. It is important candidates evaluate the sources using provenance and knowledge of historical context. The level and mark awarded is ultimately determined by the quality of these comments. Where provenance is less developed, it is more difficult for responses to be placed into the higher levels.

Question 1

Norman England 1087–1107

- 1 Using these four sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the view that William II was interested in the Church only as a source of income. **[30]**

In general, candidates demonstrated good knowledge and understanding of the events referred to in the sources. The trial of William of Saint-Calais (Source A), for example, was generally well known, with candidates able to link it to the bishop's participation in the 1088 rebellion. The knowledge of some candidates here was very detailed, with reference made to Lanfranc's important role in the trial and in the king's insistence that the bishop be tried as a landholder and not as a cleric. Not all candidates were aware of the significance of episcopal privilege to the bishop's attempt at removing his case to an ecclesiastical court.

Rufus' decision to appoint Anselm as Archbishop of Canterbury, as a result of his illness in 1093, was well known (Source B), as was the length of time the see was vacant for after the death of Lanfranc. Few candidates knew the details of the Archbishop of York's attempt to claim jurisdiction over the diocese of Lincoln (linked to the broader issue of the primacy dispute), but many candidates recognised the broader point made in the source about Rufus' corruption and the prevalence of simony at court.

Candidates knew of the later dispute between the king and Anselm alluded to in Source C; some candidates included detailed knowledge of the Council of Rockingham in 1095, for example, which was not always linked well to the question. The notoriety of Ranulf Flambard and his purchase of the see of Durham was well known; some candidates were able to point to the longevity of Flambard's career in royal service, highlighting his role in the governance of the kingdom towards the end of the Conqueror's reign.

While many candidates therefore had good knowledge and understanding of the historical context, provenance was less developed (see Exemplar 1). Eadmer, as an author, was well known, particularly his links to Anselm (Source C). The 'History of the Unjust Persecution' was also handled reasonably well, with many noting the likely bias in the author's account due to his close connection to Durham (Source A). In some responses, this comment was developed with knowledge of William of Saint-Calais' effectiveness as a bishop, overseeing the installation of a Benedictine community at the cathedral. Some candidates knew of Florence and then John of Worcester's links to Bishop Wulfstan and that prelate's support of the king in 1088 (Source D), but comments about the chronicle itself were limited. Knowledge of Henry of Huntingdon was also limited (Source B), although some candidates knew of his relationship with Robert Bloet, who is mentioned in the source, and used this to test its reliability.

Not all candidates included a judgement related to the key issue in the question in their responses. Some provided summaries that reflected comments made earlier on in their responses as they discussed the content of each source. Others provided a more general view related to the broader topic area without referring to the sources.

Using provenance

Candidates need to offer more detailed comments on the provenance, placing the sources in context, in order to reach the higher levels of the mark scheme.

Reaching a judgement

Candidates need to include a judgement focused on the key issue in the question. This key issue is not the broader topic area of the question but the extent to which the sources provided support to the notion in the question.

Exemplar 1

		on the words of those who had witnessed the event but together they narrate.
		Source D is also supportive of the view of William's financial interest in the church. written by Florence of Worcester a somewhat reliable source during this time period also depicts Rufus's attitudes towards the church. It highlights how the abbey and bishoprics of those who had recently died had been put up for auction and sold to the highest bidder. This once again highlights Rufus's sinful attitudes through the act of simony in order to make financial gain in regards to the church. Written in 1118 the words of Florence are more likely to be more accurate than those of Henry but once again cannot be fully trusted as a source. However seeing that Sources A, B and D all work in unison in portraying similar attitudes Rufus held towards the Church as a source of income their overall veracity is increased significantly.
		However, Source C doesn't provide facts of Rufus's interest in the income from the church but provides a clear indication towards the negative relations between the king and his Archbishop written by Radnor a close friend of Anselm, the

		Source cannot be fully trusted in his completion.
		This is due to the likelihood that Eadmer has
		portrayed Anselm in a more positive light than
		he has Rufus. Taking this into consideration
		however this does not mean Eadmer's words
		are not accurate, As the negative relation
		between Anselm and Rufus was quite prominent due
		to their clash in ideology in regards to the
		church. Source C, illustrates how Rufus
		was displeased with the man Anselm provided
		him with in order to defeat the Welsh. Although
		Anselm would have had to provide Rufus with
		soldiers as did all bishops and archbishops as
		well as any land holder at the time. Rufus's
		disaffection with Anselm's soldiers may only
		be due to their own dislike towards each other.
		Source C therefore doesn't support the
		view of William's financial interest in regards
		to the church and in contrast shows the
		prevalent rather negative relationship between
		Rufus and his Archbishop.
		To conclude, the view that William Rufus's
		interest towards the church was solely that
		of money is supported thoroughly by sources
		A, B and D. Source C Rufus he provide
		any insight towards this matter but does not
		challenge this view either. Therefore it is safely
		assumed with the support of sources A, B and

In this extract from a Level 4 response, the candidate addresses Source C and there is some provenance – Eadmer's relationship with Anselm – but it is less developed; some knowledge relates to the conflicting ideologies of Rufus and Anselm, and the role of the Church in fulfilling their feudal quotas.

Section B overview

In Section B, candidates need to provide a focused response to one of the two questions, providing a clear and consistent line of reasoning, based on analysis and evaluation of relevant knowledge and understanding, which reaches a convincing judgement. Many candidates provided fairly detailed explanation of key factors but found it more difficult to provide a clear and consistent line of reasoning. Some responses also lacked a convincing judgement that was related to the question.

Question 2*

Anglo-Saxon England and the Norman Conquest 1035–1087

2* 'Edward the Confessor lacked the leadership qualities needed by a king.' How far do you agree? [20]

This question was more popular than Question 3. Most candidates argued in support of the statement. However, some argued against it, on account of the relatively peaceful conditions experienced in the kingdom during his reign. These responses, on the whole, tended to be less convincing, not least because of the explosion of violence that occurred in 1066.

Most responses were dominated by the issue of the Godwin family, with many candidates recognising that while Edward's power was effectively limited by Earl Godwin and his sons, the influence of the family had both a positive and negative impact on the kingdom. For example, Edward came to rely on Harold in particular to rule effectively; but the Godwin family's domination in the early 1050s was so complete that even when Edward did stand up to them he was forced to back down in the end.

Other factors candidates referred to his lack of military experience, his special interest in spirituality as well as his 'otherness', as a French-speaking king who had spent little time in England. Some candidates elaborated on this latter point by referring to Edward's attempts to install his own favourites at court, an initiative which only provoked the Godwin family and destabilised the kingdom. Many candidates were able to explain these factors using quite detailed knowledge.

Where candidates did less well was in analysing and evaluating each factor. Factors were sometimes listed with only limited links to the question. Some responses did not include a judgement or provided only a view with little focus on the question itself. To reach the higher levels, more analysis and evaluation is needed. By engaging in these skills, candidates will inevitably sharpen the focus of their response and work towards the creation of a stronger line of reasoning. A judgement on the issue in the question is also needed if the candidates are to answer the question effectively (see Exemplar 2).

Exemplar 2

		<p>his lands back, as well as the other counties to be reinstated. Thus, when the king temporarily refused, there was a threat of civil war from the Godwins and against the Normans which would make England weak and vulnerable to invasion from Swein's sons and Harold Godwinson. Thus, due to Edward's lack of the leadership quality of military prowess, he was forced to reinstate the Godwins, who became so powerful that in 1057 the the Godwins accumulated land & were worth £6000 £7000 £7000, whilst the king's worth only £6,500, highlighting Edward's lack of military leadership as he allowed a family to defeat him and his wish, and let them back without consequence. Lastly, the the king lacked military leadership quality as he was unable to prevent rebellion in Northumbria in 1065, where the rebels demanded Maccor to be their ruler, and succeeded, showing Edward to be be weak and lack the leadership qualities again, to have his own voice in the matters of the kingdom, (however this factor is less relevant as it is a small scale, compared to the larger threat of civil war, and most importantly, external threat of invasion, showing Edward to lack the leadership qualities needed by a king to a large extent.</p>
		<p>Lastly, Edward lacked the leadership qualities needed by a king to the smallest extent, due to his policies. Although ^{the} tax system ran smoothly and Viking invasions were continued to be paid off by Edward, he lacked the qualities of a king but relied on other lords so for him.</p>

	<p>It was the witan who largely ran the government and administration of England, keeping a centralised control of currency and requiring all other monies to obtain their licence in London. Yet, the witan did not just advise, but do it himself, that it ran so smoothly, it could run even when he was not there. Again, in keeping governing keeping taxes steady, the king did not do much as the he lacked the leadership skills to do so, and focused more on peace affairs at the end of his life, appointing Harold Godwinson as sub-regular to to actually run government policies, whilst he focused on the building of Westminster Cathedral, and ended up being made a saint of his cross as became. Thus, the policy of tax shows to the greatest extent Edward's the complete lack of leadership qualities needed by a king, as he relied heavily on the witan, followed by government and administration as Harold only took over in his later life.</p>
	<p>To conclude, Edward the Confessor to a very large and extent, lacked the leadership qualities needed by a king, most largely due to the unstable succession he failed to secure. This is the most basic and primary quality expected of a king, and thus his failure to do so created many further issues in England, not notably the Battle of Hastings. This factor is followed by his lack of military leadership, as he gave most responsibility to the Godwins and largely failed to secure peace in England. Lastly, his policies show to the smallest extent his lack of leadership qualities.</p>

In Exemplar 2, an extract from a Level 6 response, the candidate is attempting to assess the relative significance of each factor. There is knowledge, with some analysis and judgement at the end of the paragraph. The final paragraph includes a judgement which effectively addresses the question.

Question 3*

3* How effectively had William I consolidated his power in England by 1070?

[20]

In general, candidates had better knowledge of the techniques used by William I to consolidate his power in England by 1070 than the challenges that threatened his hold of the kingdom. Castles, for example, were usually included as a key tactic in the king's attempt to support his authority, with examples given of those in Sussex or the castles at York. Some candidates were able to highlight the broader significance of these structures as administrative centres from which the Normans were able to dominate local society. Linked to this point, some candidates discussed the role of sheriffs and, more broadly, the distribution of lands among the French elite, with earldoms reduced in size and lands often scattered through different shires. 'Fear' and 'hard' power were often cited as the principal method used by the king to consolidate his power, with many candidates referring to the 'Harrying of the North' as an example. Similarly, the king's suppression of the rebellion at Exeter was also used in this way.

Other factors included the military tactics used by the king, viceregal arrangements, notably the role of Bishop Odo of Bayeux and William FitzOsbern in 1067, and the role of ceremony in displaying the king's power.

Few candidates referred to the coronation itself in 1066 as a public display of royal power, while others erroneously referred to Domesday Book (which featured much later in the reign) as an example of the way the king used administration to secure his position. Indeed, some candidates mentioned the strength of Anglo-Saxon administration which the king was able to exploit to gain greater control over the kingdom.

Responses to this question were sometimes quite narrow; others covered several factors but were lacking in depth (see Exemplar 3). To achieve a mark in the higher levels, responses need to include detailed knowledge and understanding. Analysis and evaluation is needed in order to focus the discussion on the question. A relevant judgement is also needed, which clearly and convincingly addresses the issue in the question.

Exemplar 3

		<p>further decreased impending rebellions in the north, as no one in their right mind, who want this to be subjected to them happen to them, not even children were spared.</p>
		<p>An additional method William used to consolidate his power was through castles, immediately after William was crowned King of England in 1066, he put forth the construction of many castles throughout the entirety of last/era. The appeal of castles to William, that they were easy to build, allowed him to quickly respond to rebellion, was used as supply bases as well as making them be able to fortify defenses since defending in warfare is easier than attacking. (in order the recommended troops for an attack force, is three times the defense forces). A notable example of the castles being used effectively was during the the 1070 Hereford the wake rebellion, as once his troops attempted to cross a raft surrounding a castle, it the raft collapsed on them and subsequently caused them to sink, and with the heavy armour they had drowning was inevitable. Although castles can be seen as a good thing, most English residents didn't approve of it since the the impending construction caused the destruction of many households, additionally it was also intimidating and may cause fear of them. Even though</p>

		<p>this was the case, castles proved to be detrimental in William's case as without it William may have succumbed to many rebellions.</p>
		<p>William's cunningness and quickthinking and cunningness was another reason method of his consolidation of power since it allowed him to deal with rebellions more effectively. During the rebellion of the east, King Swein of Denmark was going to invade, but however due to the quickthinking of William, he paid Swein off on the condition that he doesn't invade, which proved to be effective, as if that wasn't the case reward the whole rebellion was crushing by itself, with King Swein it would have been way worse.</p>
		<p>To conclude, I believe that castles were the most effective for his consolidation of power, as it allowed William to fortify his defenses and allowed him to quickly send traps to flush rebellions out. Although, the harrowing of the north created fear, castles also did the same thing, as it also</p>

In Exemplar 3 the candidate explains several factors but with less developed knowledge. There is limited analysis and little judgement.

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