

**ADVANCED GCE
HISTORY**

Historical Investigations 768–1216

WEDNESDAY 4 JUNE 2008

2587

Morning
Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Additional materials (enclosed): None

Additional materials (required):
Answer Booklet (12 pages)



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided on the Answer Booklet.
- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Write your answers in the separate Answer Booklet provided.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

This paper contains questions on the following two Options:

- Charlemagne (pages 2–3)
- King John (pages 4–5)
- Answer on **one** Option only. In that Option, answer the question on the Passages and **one** other question.
- The number of marks for each question is given in brackets [] at the end of each question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is 90.
- You should write in continuous prose and are reminded of the need for clear and accurate writing, including structure of argument, grammar, punctuation and spelling.
- The time permitted allows for reading the Passages in the one Option you have studied.
- You are advised to spend equal time on the Passages question and the essay you select.
- In answering the Passages question, you are expected to use your knowledge of the topic to help you explain and evaluate the interpretations in the Passages, as well as to inform your answers.
- In answering the essay question, you are expected to refer to and evaluate relevant interpretations to help you develop your arguments.

This document consists of **6** printed pages and **2** blank pages.

Charlemagne

If answering this Option, candidates **MUST** answer **Question 1** and **ONE** other question.

1 Study all the Passages.

Using these **four** Passages **and** your own knowledge, assess the view that the attitudes of the nobility were the main cause of examples of poor government in Charlemagne's reign after 800.

[45]

- A** From: A letter of Alcuin dated 802 commenting on Charlemagne's governmental difficulties.

I am certain of the good intention of our lord and emperor and that he seeks to order everything in the realm granted to him by God according to what is just. However, I am also certain that he has more followers who seek to undermine justice than who seek to support it, that is more robbers of justice than preachers of justice. There are more who seek their own advantage than those who look after God's advantage.

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- B** From: F. L. Ganshof, 'The last period of Charlemagne's reign: a study in decomposition', an article published in 1948. This historian takes the view that government weakened badly in the later part of Charlemagne's reign, because of the weak administration.

We surely need to ask what the political and social situation was like inside this western empire during the years 801 to 814. The answer, beyond any doubt, is that this was a period during which the Carolingian state experienced, as never before, a rampant growth of all the symptoms and consequences of a bad administration. There are instances of malfunctioning of the public services, arbitrariness and extortion, acts of individual and collective violence, threats to the security of individual and corporate bodies and their property, especially where humbler folk were concerned. To be convinced, one has only to read the capitularies which year after year denounce the same abuses. The fact is that the Frankish and Lombard kingdoms had to function with a totally inadequate administrative and judicial apparatus, which left too much to the discretion of agents of public authority, many of whom had not the slightest hesitation in sacrificing their official duty to their greed.

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- C** From: R. McKitterick, *The Frankish Kingdoms under the Carolingians* published in 1983. This historian argues that the structure of Carolingian government was fundamentally sound.

The whole kingdom was divided into counties, perhaps about 600 in number, ruled by a count. It gradually became the custom for the local magnate in a district to be appointed count, and the office gradually tended to remain in a family, though it was not until after Charlemagne that countships tended to become hereditary. But to what extent did the counts ensure public order and security? This unfortunately cannot be answered satisfactorily. Although we know the tasks the count was required to fulfil, it is clear from the references to abuses committed by counts (such as going hunting on the very day they were supposed to hold court, accepting bribes, sending farmers to war so that their crops were ruined and diverting serf labour from royal estates to their own land) that some counts were substantial offenders. However, it is impossible to say whether these abuses were the rule rather than the exception. It has been suggested that there was an absence of a sense of public welfare among the great families of counts, but it is difficult to substantiate or contradict this view.

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- D** From: M. Innes, 'Charlemagne's Government', an article published in 2005. This historian thinks that Charlemagne's attempts to change the nature of government and its practices provoked a reaction amongst the nobility.

But expansion could not go on forever. In fact, by the end of the eighth century the pace had slowed as Charlemagne made a series of conscious and sensible strategic decisions about when and where to stop. The end of expansion necessitated a new frontier policy of marcher commands. It also created a fundamental need for change within the empire, as the mutual loyalties of warfare could no longer bind together the Carolingian political system. Central to the Carolingian programme of reform was a reshaping of the relationship between those noble families that had long dominated the localities and the king. Years of successful war and conquest permitted a change in the political structure of the empire. Previously aristocrats had been loosely bound into personal relationships with the king, and their localities thus tied to the court only indirectly. Now kingship was directly related to the localities themselves and it was explicitly stated that local landowners were simply holders of office, responsible for implementing a programme of administrative reform.

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Answer **either**

- 2** Assess the view that Charlemagne's main problem in conquering Saxony was the difficulty of raising sufficient military forces. [45]

or

- 3** Assess the view that Charlemagne's high reputation rests primarily on his military successes. [45]

Candidates are reminded that they must refer to and evaluate relevant interpretations in developing the argument in their essay.

King John

If answering this Option, candidates **MUST** answer **Question 4** and **ONE** other question.

4 Study all the Passages.

Using these **four** Passages **and** your own knowledge, assess the view that it was King John's taxation of England which provoked the rebellion which led to Magna Carta. [45]

- A** From: K. Norgate, *John Lackland*, published in 1902. This historian takes the view that King John was a despot changing the nature of English government.

The exactions and usurpations of the Crown under King John were many and various, and affected every class of society. Some barons whom he specially favoured or wanted to please, received licences to impose arbitrary taxes on their sub-tenants, just as the king imposed taxes on his subjects according to his will and pleasure. The entire system of government and administration set up under the Norman kings and developed under Henry II and Richard I had been changed by the ingenuity of John. He had created a most subtle and effective engine of royal extortion, oppression and tyranny over all classes of the nation, from earl to villein.

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- B** From: N. Barratt, 'The revenues of King John and Philip Augustus Revisited', an article published in 1999. This historian compares the revenues of John and Philip Augustus in the period 1210–14 to show the financial strain placed upon England after 1204.

John was generating an enormous revenue from England between 1210 and 1214, making a grand total of 1,168,137 English pounds. This is an enormous amount of money and probably represents the greatest level of exploitation of English resources since the Conquest of 1066. John was forced to rely exclusively on English resources which were quite clearly becoming strained by 1214. These sums show that John was fully committed to obtaining a decisive military victory. But John failed to open up a decisive financial advantage over Philip Augustus. Clearly the loss of John's continental possessions in 1204 had tipped the financial scales firmly in favour of the Capetians. Once Normandy had been lost, it is clear that Angevin revenue was no match for the increased finances of the Capetians. The strain placed on England by John's rapid accumulation of income between 1210 and 1214 is clear in the outburst of political protest in 1214.

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- C** From: D. Carpenter, *The Struggle for Mastery. The Penguin History of Britain 1066–1284*, published in 2003. This historian suggests that King John's personal behaviour had much to do with the bitterness of feeling amongst barons against him.

Llywelyn, Prince of Wales, rebelled and allied with the king of France. John planned an expedition which would have ended Welsh independence. But Llywelyn was in league with the English barons. On 16 August 1212 at Nottingham, John suddenly learnt of a baronial plot either to murder him or to desert him and leave him to his fate during the coming campaign in Wales. Of the two known conspirators, one nursed grievances over debts to the crown and thwarted claims to Hertford castle. He also put it about that John had tried to seduce his daughter. The other conspirator, if a later story can be believed, resented similar attentions to his wife. Some of John's predecessors had been promiscuous but never with political repercussions. In John's case accusations that he abused the wives and daughters of his magnates were widespread and not always without foundation. Such activities show why hostility to John became so personal. They do not explain Magna Carta but they were a major factor in the rebellion which led up to it. 25 30

- D** From: R. Huscroft, *Ruling England 1042–1217*, published in 2005. This historian suggests that in some ways King John was no worse than his predecessors, but that he exploited the machinery of government in a more personal and intensive way.

Henry II and Richard I acted unreasonably and vindictively at times, according to their will rather than according to the law, and on one level John only followed the example his father and brother had set. However, his failings were made more apparent to his subjects for various reasons. First, his needs were arguably greater than those of his predecessors, and he was pushed to extremes in trying to meet them. The task he set himself after 1204 of recovering his lost continental possessions was on a different scale to anything Henry II or Richard had ever attempted. Second, confined to England after 1204, John was more of a presence to his subjects than his predecessors. Third, he had a huge appetite for the nuts and bolts of administration which meant that he got involved in making decisions large and small. For all these reasons, John could be personally identified with the oppressive government he so obviously led. 35 40 45

Answer **either**

- 5** To what extent was King John responsible for the conflict with Innocent III? [45]

or

- 6** Assess the reasons why civil war broke out in England after the agreement of Magna Carta. [45]

Candidates are reminded that they must refer to and evaluate relevant interpretations in developing the argument in their essay.

Copyright Acknowledgements:

- Q.1 Source A Source: extract from *Charlemagne*, by M Becher, p.119, published by New Haven: Yale, 2003.
- Q.1 Source B Source: extract from *The last period of Charlemagne's reign: a study in decomposition*, by F Ganshof, an article appearing in *The Carolingians and the Frankish Monarchy*, p.249, published by Longman, 1971.
- Q.1 Source C Source: extract from *The Frankish Kingdoms under the Carolingians*, by R McKitterick, pp.87-8, published by Longman, 1983.
- Q.1 Source D Source: extract from *Charlemagne's Government*, by M Innes, from *Charlemagne: Empire and Society*, editor J Story, pp.75 & 86, published by Manchester University Press, 2005.
- Q.4 Source A Source: extract from *John Lackland*, by K Norgate, pp.217-8, published by MacMillan, 1902.
- Q.4 Source B Source: extract from *The Revenues of King John and Philip Augustus Revisited*, by N Barrat, an article appearing in *King John: New Interpretations*, editor S Church, pp.90-1, published by Boydell, 1999.
- Q.4 Source C Source: extract from *The Struggle for Mastery. The Penguin History of Britain 1066-1284*, by D Carpenter, p.267, published by Lane, 2003.
- Q.4 Source D Source: extract from *Ruling England 1042-1217*, by R Huscroft, p.171, published by Longman, 2005.

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