
HISTORY (PRINCIPAL)

9769/05A

Paper 5A Special Subject: The Norman Conquest, 1051–1087

For Examination from 2016

SPECIMEN MARK SCHEME

2 hours

MAXIMUM MARK: 60

The syllabus is approved for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as a Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate.

This document consists of **9** printed pages and **1** blank page.

Special Subject: Source-based Question

These banding definitions address Assessment Objectives (AOs) 1, 2, 3 and 4, and should be used in conjunction with the indicative content mark schemes for each question. Information about AOs can be found in the 2016–18 Cambridge Pre-U History syllabus.

Introduction

- (a) This question is designed to test skills in the handling and evaluation of source material but it is axiomatic that answers should be informed by and firmly grounded in wider contextual knowledge.
- (b) Examiners will be aware that the topic on which this question has been based has been notified to candidates in advance who, therefore, have had the opportunity of studying, using and evaluating relevant documents.
- (c) The Band in which an answer is placed depends upon a range of criteria. As a result not all answers fall obviously into one particular Band. In such cases, a 'best-fit' approach will be adopted with any doubt erring on the side of generosity.
- (d) In marking an answer examiners will first place it in a Band and then fine-tune the mark in terms of how strongly/weakly the demands of the Band have been demonstrated.

Question (a)

Band 3: 8–10 marks

The answer will make full use of both documents and will be sharply aware of both similarities and differences. Real comparisons of themes and issues will be made across the documents rather than by separate treatment. There should be clear insights into how the documents corroborate each other or differ and possibly as to why. The answer should, where appropriate, demonstrate a strong sense of critical evaluation.

Band 2: 4–7 marks

The response will make good use of both documents and will pick up the main features of the focus of the argument (depending upon whether similarity or difference is asked) with some attention to the alternative. Direct comparison of content, themes and issues is to be expected although, at the lower end of the Band, there may be a tendency to treat the documents separately with most or all of the comparison and analysis being left to the end. Again, towards the lower end, there may be some paraphrasing. Clear explanation of how the documents agree or differ is to be expected but insights into why are less likely. A sound critical sense is to be expected especially at the upper end of the Band.

Band 1: 1–3 marks

Treatment of the documents will be partial, certainly incomplete and possibly fragmentary. Only the most obvious differences/similarities will be detected and there will be a considerable imbalance (differences may be picked up but not similarities and vice versa). Little is to be expected by way of explanation of how the documents show differences/similarities, and the work will be characterised by largely uncritical paraphrasing.

Band 0: 0 marks

No evidence submitted or response does not address the question.

Question (b)**Band 4: 16–20 marks**

The answer will treat the documents as a set and will make very effective use of each although, depending upon the exact form of the question, not necessarily in the same detail. It will be clear that the demands of the question have been fully understood and the material will be handled confidently with strong sense of argument and analysis. Good use of supporting contextual knowledge will be demonstrated. The material deployed will be strong in both range and depth. Critical evaluation of the documents is to be expected. The argument will be well structured. Historical concepts and vocabulary will be fully understood. Where appropriate an understanding and evaluation of differing historical interpretations is to be expected.

Band 3: 11–15 marks

The answer will treat the documents as a set and make good use of them although, depending on the form of the question, not necessarily in equal detail. There may, however, be some omissions and gaps. A good understanding of the question will be demonstrated. There will be a good sense of argument and analysis within a secure and planned structure. Supporting use of contextual knowledge is to be expected and will be deployed in appropriate range and depth. Some clear signs of a critical sense will be on show although critical evaluation of the documents may not always be especially well developed and may be absent at the lower end of the Band. Where appropriate an understanding and evaluation of differing historical interpretations may be expected. The answer will demonstrate a good understanding of historical concepts and vocabulary.

Band 2: 6–10 marks

There will be some regard to the documents as a set and a fair coverage, although there will be gaps and one or two documents may be unaccountably neglected, or especially at the lower end of the Band, ignored altogether. The demands of the question will be understood at least in good part and an argument will be attempted. This may be undeveloped and/or insufficiently supported in places. Analysis will be at a modest level and narrative is likely to take over in places with a consequent lack of focus. Some of the work will not go beyond paraphrasing. Supporting contextual knowledge will be deployed but unevenly. Any critical sense will be limited; formal critical evaluation is rarely to be expected; use of historical concepts will be unsophisticated.

Band 1: 1–5 marks

The answer will treat the documents as a set only to a limited extent. Coverage will be very uneven; there will be considerable omissions with whole sections left unconsidered. Some understanding of the question will be demonstrated but any argument will be undeveloped and poorly supported. Analysis will appear rarely, narrative will predominate and focus will be very blurred. In large part the answer will depend upon unadorned paraphrasing. Critical sense and evaluation, even at an elementary level, is unlikely whilst understanding of historical concepts will be at a low level. The answer may be slight, fragmentary or even unfinished.

Band 0: 0 marks

No evidence submitted or response does not address the question.

Special Subject: Essay Question

These banding definitions address Assessment Objectives (AOs) 1, 2 and 4, and should be used in conjunction with the indicative content mark schemes for each question. Information about AOs can be found in the 2016–18 Cambridge Pre-U History syllabus.

Introduction

- (a) The banding definitions which follow reflect, and should be interpreted within the context of, the following general statement:

Examiners will give their highest marks to candidates who show a ready understanding of the relevant material and a disciplined management of the discussion the question provokes. They will be impressed more by critical judgement, careful discrimination and imaginative handling than by a weight of facts. Credit will be given for evidence of a good historical intelligence and for good use of material rather than for a stereotyped rehearsal of memorised information.

- (b) Examiners will use these banding definitions in combination with the paper-specific mark schemes.
- (c) It goes without saying that any explanation or judgement is strengthened if informed by the use of source material.
- (d) Examiners will also bear in mind that analysis sufficient for a mark in the highest band may perfectly legitimately be deployed within a chronological framework. Candidates who eschew an explicitly analytical response may yet be able, by virtue of the very intelligence and pointedness of their selection of elements for a well-sustained and well-grounded account, to provide sufficient implicit analysis to justify a Band 4 mark.
- (e) The Band in which an essay is placed depends on a range of criteria. As a result, not all essays fall obviously into one particular Band. In such cases a 'best-fit' approach will be adopted with any doubt erring on the side of generosity.
- (f) In marking an essay, examiners will first place it in a Band and then fine-tune the mark in terms of how strongly/weakly the demands of the Band have been demonstrated.

Band 5: 25–30 marks

The answer will be sharply analytical in approach and strongly argued. It will show that the demands of the question have been fully understood and that a conscious and sustained attempt has been made to respond to them in appropriate range and depth. It will be coherent and structured with a clear sense of direction. The focus will be sharp and persistent. Some lack of balance, in that certain aspects are covered less fully or certain arguments deployed less strongly than others, need not preclude a mark in this Band. The material will be wide-ranging and handled with the utmost confidence and a high degree of maturity. Historical explanations will be invariably clear, sharp and well developed and historical concepts fully understood. Where appropriate there will be conscious and successful attempts to engage with the historiography, to evaluate source material critically and to demonstrate an awareness of competing interpretations.

Such answers may be expected, where appropriate, to make use of or refer to relevant primary sources. Nevertheless, where the answer is strong in all or most of the other criteria for this Band, limited or no use of such sources should not preclude it from being placed in this Band.

Band 4: 19–24 marks

The answer will be characterised by an analytical and argued approach, although there may be the occasional passage which does not go beyond description or narrative. It will show that the demands of the question have been very well understood and that a determined attempt has been made to respond to them in appropriate range and depth. The essay will be coherent and clearly structured and its judgements will be effectively supported by accurate and relevant material. Some lack of rigour in the argument and occasional blurred focus may be allowed. Where appropriate there will be a conscious and largely successful attempt to engage with the historiography, to evaluate source material and to demonstrate an awareness of competing interpretations. The material will be wide-ranging, fully understood, confidently deployed and well controlled with high standards of accuracy. Historical explanations will be clear and well developed and there will be a sound understanding of historical concepts and vocabulary.

Such answers may be expected, where appropriate, to make use of or refer to at least some relevant primary sources. Nevertheless, where the answer is strong in all or most of the criteria for this Band, very limited or no use of these sources should not preclude it from being placed in this Band.

Band 3: 13–18 marks

The answer will attempt an analytical approach, although there will be passages which do not go beyond description or narrative. It will show that the demands of the question have been understood, at least in large part, and that a conscious attempt has been made to respond to them. There will be an effective focus on the terms of the question and, although in places this may break down, standards of relevance will be generally high. Although it may not be sustained throughout the answer, or always fully supported, there will be a recognisable sense of argument. The material will be clearly understood, with a good range, and organisation will be sound. There will be a conscious attempt to draw conclusions and form judgements and these will be adequately supported. Some understanding of differing and competing interpretations is to be expected and some evaluation of sources may be attempted but probably not in a very sophisticated form. Historical explanations and the use of historical concepts and vocabulary will be generally sound but some lack of understanding is to be expected. Use of English will be competent, clear and largely free of serious errors.

Use of or reference to relevant primary sources is a possibility. Candidates should be credited for having used such sources rather than penalised for not having done so.

Band 2: 7–12 marks

The answer may contain some analysis but descriptive or narrative material will predominate. The essay will show that the demands of the question have been understood, at least in good part, and that some attempt has been made to respond to them. It will be generally coherent with a fair sense of organisation. Focus on the exact terms of the question is likely to be uneven and there will be a measure of irrelevance. There will be some inaccuracies in knowledge, and the range may be limited with some gaps. Understanding of the material will be generally sound, although there will be some lack of tautness and precision. Explanations will be generally clear although not always convincing or well developed. Some attempt at argument is to be expected but it will lack sufficient support in places and sense of direction may not always be clear. There may be some awareness of differing interpretations and some attempt at evaluating source material but this is not generally to be expected at this level and such skills, where deployed, will be unsophisticated.

Use of or reference to relevant primary sources is unlikely at this level but credit should be given where it does appear.

Band 1: 1–6 marks

The answers will respond in some measure to the demands of the question but will be very limited in meeting these. Analysis, if it appears at all, will be brief and undeveloped. If an argument is attempted it will be lacking in real coherence, sense of direction, support and rigour. Focus on the exact terms of the question is likely to be very uneven; the answer is likely to include unsupported generalisations, and there will be some vagueness and irrelevance. Historical knowledge, concepts and vocabulary will be insufficiently understood and there will be inaccuracies. Explanations may be attempted but will be halting and unclear. Where judgements are made they will be largely unsubstantiated whilst investigation of historical problems will be very elementary. Awareness of differing interpretations and the evaluation of sources are not to be expected. The answer may be fragmentary, slight and even unfinished. Use of or reference to relevant primary sources is highly unlikely at this level but credit should be given where it does appear.

Band 0: 0 marks

No evidence submitted or response does not address the question.

- 1 (a) **How far does Document D corroborate the evidence provided by Document C concerning the size and composition of Duke William’s army?** [10]

Document C refers to three ranks of soldiers and this is supported by Document D which mentions a ‘countless host’, possibly indicating an even larger force. Document C gives more detail of the composition of the force with references to the way they were drawn up, but both documents mention foot-soldiers, archers and horsemen. Document D adds slingers and states that the army was recruited from across Gaul, which C partly supports as it instances knights from Brittany. Both documents are likely to be reliable, William of Poitiers as an eye witness and John of Worcester from the variety of sources he used. In any case they agree that the army was large and composed of a number of different types of soldiers.

- (b) **How convincing is the evidence provided by this set of documents for the view that the outcome of the Battle of Hastings was determined chiefly by Duke William’s leadership? In making your evaluation, you should refer to contextual knowledge as well as to all the documents in this set (A–E).** [20]

Most of the documents give William some credit. Document A states that he caught Harold unawares. In Documents B and C William shows his qualities in halting the retreat and in refuting rumours that he was dead, which could well have led to retreat. In both cases he takes off his helmet, thus exposing himself to the danger of a stray arrow and showing his courage and quick thinking. C also credits him with the idea of feigning flight and, again, shows how he was in the thickest fighting, setting a strong example and making it difficult for others to retreat. Document E praises his tactical ability against an enemy general who was his equal. Other possible determinants could be: the weariness of the Anglo-Saxons, hinted at in A, which refers to Stamford Bridge; and the haste with which Harold gave battle, mentioned in D, along with the fact that his best troops were not with him.

The terrain had an impact – the narrowness is seen as a problem for the Normans in C and for the Saxons in D. Harold was attacked before he was ready according to A, D and E. The death of Harold and his brothers had a decisive influence and led the Saxons to flee, as A and C reveal. Candidates might argue that the battle was not easily won by the Normans. It lasted a long time and Harold resisted. In A he fought boldly. In B at first the English repulsed the Normans. In C Harold’s army was so tightly packed that the Normans could not get at them and in E the Normans were nearly driven from the field. Only E by its tone implies that Harold lacked the skill to win. Candidates could indicate how luck favoured William in the way the wind changed to allow him to cross the Channel at the most opportune moment when Harold was absent in the north. Despite the praise for Harold in the documents, candidates may well conclude that, on the day, Duke William was the better general. Candidates are unlikely to be convinced that William won the battle through divine intervention (A) or because he was God-fearing (B) and carried a papal banner (C).

2 Assess the importance of the role played by the Godwin family in the reign of Edward the Confessor. [30]

AO1/AO2 – Descriptions of the reign can be given some credit but comment, analysis and assessment will be needed for higher marks. One view is likely to be that the role of the Godwins was crucial. Edward was linked to them by marriage. He needed their support and their men to maintain his power. His main interests, in any case, were in matters on a higher plane. At the time of Edward's death, Harold was a dominating figure who had been in control of the country for some years. The alternative view is that Edward made attempts to assert his kingship. He never forgave Godwin for being involved in the murder of Alfred, Edward's brother. He promoted his Norman supporters such as Robert of Jumieges. He went so far as to expel the Godwins after trouble in Dover in 1051 and reigned very much on his own account for a brief time, but the return of the Godwins meant he again became their puppet and Normans were replaced. Candidates may conclude that the Godwins had a great impact, with Harold, Gyrrh and Leofwine all holding earldoms. Their influence on what happened after Edward died attests to this. The question asks candidates to make a judgement about the Godwin family but they may argue that their impact changed over time from being minimal to being excessive.

3 How serious a threat to William I's rule was presented by rebellions in England? [30]

AO1/AO2 – Candidates could argue that the rebellions were a serious threat as they came early in the reign before William was established. Some took place while he was in Normandy. A variety of rebels from landowners to townsmen were involved. Several rebellions came together, so dealing with them was more difficult. Some, like that of Hereward, were in areas which were hard to penetrate. Rebellions in Northumbria were dangerous because the Scots or the Danes might join in and add to the threat. William had not had time to build substantial castles. Candidates might feel that the 'harrying of the north' reflects William's fears.

Alternatively, the fact that William dealt with the rebellions relatively easily suggests they were not so threatening. He was careful to send Norman earls to border areas and he used churchmen on whom he could rely in some places. In 1068, when he marched against Exeter, he was even able to call out the English *fyrð* to aid him. When revolt began in the north in 1068, the Archbishop of York acted promptly. In 1069 when rebellion was widespread, again the *fyrð* remained loyal. William acted against the northern rebels while others dealt with the western risings. William's harsh punishment of the north prevented further trouble and the Danes realised they needed more men to be successful and so went home. William's enemies rarely acted in concert and, in time, castles kept the country subjugated. Candidates are asked to reach a judgement and might suggest that there was the potential for a serious threat but William's combination of leniency, wise appointments and brute force prevented it from becoming a reality.

4 How greatly did the Norman Conquest affect the government and legal system of England? [30]

AO1/AO2 – Candidates may argue that the changes were considerable. The power of the monarchy, at the head of the feudal system, was increased. William took on the prerogatives of both Norman dukes and English kings. He inherited a vast royal demesne and garnered more land from the earldoms he destroyed. He collected Danegeld as vigorously or more so than the Saxon kings and his compiling of the Domesday Book is a testimony to his administrative power. The office of Chancellor and the Chancery came into use. On the legal front William increased the area of royal forest and enforced the forest laws with enthusiasm to protect his hunting. Trial by combat was added to legal procedures. But there were some areas of continuation. The royal treasury operated in much the same way and was kept at Winchester. The office of sheriff continued, albeit largely in Norman hands. Land was held on similar condition to previously, apart from revisions for military service. Government remained in the hands of the King and his chief barons and, often, the church. Anglo-Saxon laws remained in existence and feudal law took time to penetrate. Many of William's English subjects probably did not notice much change, apart from that in personnel. Candidates could comment that in the long term the Norman Conquest would have far-reaching results, but up to 1087 these were only in their early stages.

