



Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate

HISTORY (PRINCIPAL)

9769/01A

Paper 1A British History Outlines c. 300–1547

For Examination from 2016

SPECIMEN PAPER

2 hours 15 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper



READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Answer **three** questions, which must be chosen from **at least two** sections of the paper.

You are reminded of the need for analysis and critical evaluation in your answers to questions. You should also show, where appropriate, an awareness of links and comparisons between different countries and different periods.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions in this paper are worth 30 marks.

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 **5** printed pages and **1** blank page.

Section 1: c. 300–c. 670

- 1 To what extent were the problems in Britain in the fourth century caused by the Roman Emperors?
- 2 Assess the view that the establishment of towns was the most important legacy left by the Romans in Britain.
- 3 How powerful a ruler was Penda of Mercia?
- 4 'The achievements of the Roman mission to the English up to c. 660 have been exaggerated.' Discuss.
- 5 'The most significant contribution to the development of Celtic Christianity up to the Synod of Whitby (664) was made by Saint Aidan.' Assess this verdict.

Section 2: c. 690–978

- 6 Consider the claim that Saint Wilfred's main aim was the enforcement of the supremacy of Roman Christianity.
- 7 How great was the contribution of the monasteries of Monkwearmouth and Jarrow to the cultural achievements of Northumbria up to 735?
- 8 Who contributed more to the development of Mercia as a major power in the eighth century, Aethelbald or Offa?
- 9 'The Vikings brought little but destruction to English society.' How valid is this judgement up to 871?
- 10 To what extent is Alfred's ultimate success against the Vikings explained by his character?

Section 3: 978–1135

- 11 How justified is the view that Ethelred II was personally responsible for the failure of the English to prevent Danish conquests during his reign?
- 12 'Cnut's reign was marked more by continuity than by change.' Discuss.
- 13 ***(Candidates offering Paper 5a: The Norman Conquest (2016 only) should not answer this question.)***
- 'The power of the Godwins was the main problem facing Edward the Confessor during his reign.' Assess this view.
- 14 ***(Candidates offering Paper 5a: The Norman Conquest (2016 only) should not answer this question.)***
- Assess the view that the reign of William I had done more good than harm to the people of England by 1087.
- 15 How effective was William II as king of England?

Section 4: Themes c. 300–c. 1066

- 16 How dramatically did Anglo-Saxon kingship develop in the period c. 560–871?
- 17 Assess the view that the strengths of the agrarian economy outweighed the weaknesses from c. 650 to c. 1000.
- 18 Did England contribute more than it gained from the cultural and religious contacts with Europe in the seventh and eighth centuries?
- 19 How persuasive is the argument that there was a tenth-century Renaissance in culture and the arts?
- 20 How significant were developments in urban society in late Anglo-Saxon England?
- 21 Discuss the view that late Anglo-Saxon England was well governed.

Section 5: 1135–1272

- 22 'The most serious challenge to Henry II's control of his Empire was his quarrel with the church.' Discuss this view.
- 23 'Richard I served his own interests and not those of England.' How far do you agree with this judgement?
- 24 How far was the loss of John's lands in Normandy and France the result of his lack of financial resources?
- 25 Assess the extent to which Henry III's difficulties in England after 1258 arose from his favouring French advisers.
- 26 How important was the personality of the monarch in explaining the development of the Scottish monarchy from 1165 to 1268?

Section 6: 1272–1399

- 27 'Too ruthless to be considered a great monarch.' Examine this view of Edward I.
- 28 How far were English monarchs to blame for the Welsh resistance to English rule from 1267 to 1416?
- 29 To what extent were the barons responsible for the breakdown in relations with Edward II?
- 30 'Edward III's victories in France were the result of English strengths.' How far do you agree with this statement?
- 31 Have the achievements of Richard II been under-estimated?

Section 7: 1399–1485

- 32 How great a threat did Owain Glyndwr represent to Henry IV?
- 33 'Nothing more than a great soldier.' Discuss this view of Henry V.
- 34 To what extent was the civil strife of 1455–61 caused by 'overmighty subjects'?
- 35 How secure was Edward IV in his first reign (1461–70)?
- 36 'For all his good qualities as King, Richard III was never likely to achieve stability.' Discuss.

Section 8: 1485–1558

- 37 Assess the view that in his aims and methods, Henry VII was a deeply conservative ruler.
- 38 *(Candidates offering Paper 5c: The Reign of Henry VIII should not answer this question.)*
Why did Henry VIII enjoy limited success in foreign policy from 1509 to 1529?
- 39 *(Candidates offering Paper 5c: The Reign of Henry VIII should not answer this question.)*
How serious was opposition to the Henrician Reformation?
- 40 How consistently troubled was the reign of Edward VI?
- 41 'Mary I's attempt to restore Catholicism was an impossible dream.' Discuss.

Section 9: Themes c. 1066–1558

- 42 How feudal was English society between 1066 and c. 1400?
- 43 Who contributed more to English religious and intellectual life in the thirteenth century, the monks or the friars?
- 44 Assess the factors which led to the development of English literature in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.
- 45 How serious a threat was Lollardy to the medieval church?
- 46 To what extent had the House of Commons become more powerful by 1529 than it had been in 1399?
- 47 'A century of remarkable achievement in architecture.' What best explains this verdict on the fifteenth century?

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