



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2015

History

HIS2A

Unit 2A Conqueror and Conquest, c1060–1087

Wednesday 20 May 2015 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is HIS2A.
- Answer **two** questions.
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on each question.

Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

Each question has **two** parts. Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.

Question 1

Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

- Source A** In the matter of the succession, the wishes of the reigning king were most important. Therefore, Edward The Confessor's nomination of William as his heir in 1051, the summoning of the Aetheling Edward from Hungary in 1054 and the alleged dying bequest to Harold in 1066 were all acceptable. However, leaving such an important matter to the last moment may be thought unwise or even irresponsible. Edward's dying speech may even be considered as putting the kingdom under the protection of Harold as William's representative. His main concern, however, seemed to be for his wife, Edith, and we are bound to wonder if the dying king was in any condition to know what he was doing. 5
- Adapted from R Allen Brown, *The Normans and the Norman Conquest*, 1998
- Source B** The critical problem for the kingdom was that Edward was childless and he therefore made formal arrangements for the future. Edward's exile had been spent with his kinsmen in Normandy and in 1051 he promised the throne to Duke William and formalised this by gaining the approval of the leading English nobles. In 1057, the Aetheling Edward, the son of the Confessor's half brother, was brought to England. He died within a few weeks but he had brought his son Edgar. In 1065, Edgar's claims were set aside and the promise to William was ignored. As the old king lay dying, he designated Harold Godwinson as his successor. 5
- Adapted from David Walker, *The Normans in Britain*, 1995
- Source C** Edgar Atheling was directly descended from the royal dynasty and the blood of Alfred flowed in his veins. This, combined with the considerable efforts to secure his return from Hungary, must have led many to suppose that he would succeed Edward the Confessor. Harold himself had sworn to the king that he would uphold Edgar's cause. In 1066, Edgar was little more than thirteen years old, with no power of his own, but he was a far more legitimate candidate than Harold. Meanwhile, William regarded himself as betrayed because Harold had violated the fealty and the sacred oaths he had sworn. By choosing direct confrontation, William was submitting his cause to the judgement of God and his belief in its righteousness was reflected in his appeal to the pope. 10
- Adapted from Marc Morris, *The Norman Conquest*, 2012

0	1
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Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source B** differ from those in **Source A** in relation to Edward the Confessor and the succession.

[12 marks]

and

0	2
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Use **Sources A, B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How far was William of Normandy's claim to the English throne stronger than that of his rivals?

[24 marks]

Either

Question 2

0	3
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Explain why knights were important in the system of military feudalism in the reign of William I.

[12 marks]

and

0	4
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'It was Norman military organisation that had ended English rebellion by 1072.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[24 marks]

or

Question 3

0	5
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Explain why English monasteries were badly affected by Norman rule.

[12 marks]

and

0	6
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'Lanfranc's main purpose in the years 1070 to 1087 was to increase royal authority over the Church.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[24 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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Question 1 Source A: R. Allen Brown, *The Normans and the Norman Conquest*, Boydell Press, 1985

Question 1 Source B: David Walker, *The Normans in Britain*, Blackwell, 1995

Question 1 Source C: From *The Norman Conquest* by Marc Morris, published by Hutchinson. Reprinted by permission of The Random House Group Ltd.

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