



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
January 2009

## History

## HIS2A

**Unit 2A Conqueror and Conquest, c1060–1087**

**Friday 16 January 2009 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm**

**For this paper you must have:**

- a 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 **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is HIS2A.
- Answer **two** questions.  
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

**Information**

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- There are 36 marks for each question.
- 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.

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

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

**Source A** Adapted from *The Deeds of William the Conqueror*, written by William of Poitiers, c1073

Wherever William went, all laid down their arms. There was no resistance and everywhere men surrendered and came to make peace. He treated many Englishmen generously and gave them more than they had inherited from their fathers, or had been given by their previous lords. He appointed castellans with  
 5 strong forces of infantry and cavalry in his castles. These were men brought over from France whose loyalty and competence he trusted. He gave them rich lands in return for which they willingly endured hardship and danger. But no Frenchman received anything that had been taken unjustly from an Englishman.

**Source B** Adapted from *The Ecclesiastical History* by Orderic Vitalis, written between 1114 and 1141

King William gave the county of Northampton to Earl Waltheof, one of the greatest of the English, and married him to his own niece Judith to strengthen the bonds of friendship between them. He later divided up the chief provinces of England and made even the humblest of the Normans very rich, giving them wealth and power.  
 5 Earls and magnates too numerous to name received great revenues and fiefs. Foreigners grew wealthy with the spoils of England, whilst her own sons were either shamefully slain or became exiles, wandering hopelessly through foreign kingdoms. He allocated lands to knights in such a way that he should always have 60 000 ready to be mustered at a moment's notice in the king's service.

**Source C** In the early years of his reign, William envisaged a society in which Englishmen would acknowledge him and work with him. It was not an impossible ambition. When the Conqueror marched against Exeter in 1067 he had English soldiers in his army and William's writs were addressed to English sheriffs. English bishops  
 5 appeared at the royal court as did the greater nobles: Earl Edwin and Earl Morcar and Waltheof, who was given William's niece Judith in marriage.

Adapted from D WALKER, *The Normans in Britain*, 1995

(a) 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 William's attitude towards his English subjects. (12 marks)

(b) Use **Sources A**, **B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How far did the social and political position of the English aristocracy change in the years 1066 to 1087 as a result of the Norman Conquest? (24 marks)

**EITHER**

- 2 (a) Explain why Harold was able to take the English throne in 1066. *(12 marks)*
- (b) 'William became king mainly because of Harold's mistakes.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**OR**

- 3 (a) Explain why William attempted to exclude papal influence from England. *(12 marks)*
- (b) 'In the years 1066 to 1087, the English Church benefited from the Norman Conquest.'  
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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Source C: D WALKER, *The Normans in Britain*, Blackwell, 1995.

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