



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2010

History

HIS2A

Unit 2A Conqueror and Conquest, c1060–1087

Thursday 10 June 2010 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.
- 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.
- 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.

HIS2A

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

Question 1

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

Source A Adapted from *The Deeds of William Duke of the Normans and King of the English*, by William of Poitiers, writing in about 1071

- Edward, King of the English, gave William, whom he loved like a brother or a son and whom he had already appointed as his heir, a promise even more serious than he had given before. He sent Harold, his richest and most powerful earl, to William to confirm his promise. He hoped that Harold's authority would persuade the English to accept
- 5 William as their king. In a council assembled at Bonneville, Harold took an oath of fealty to William that after Edward's death he would use all his influence and resources to secure the English throne for William.

Source B In 1064, Edward sent Earl Harold to Normandy to confirm the king's earlier promise that William would be his heir. Harold became the vassal of the duke, binding himself to support William's succession to the English throne. Harold took care to safeguard his own position as the most important magnate in England by confirming his possessions

5 and dignities. It would seem that he had not yet dared to plan the unprecedented step of taking the crown. Although he was in no way a member of the royal kin, his supremacy within the kingdom may have led him to think of taking the throne for himself.

Adapted from R ALLEN BROWN, *The Normans and the Norman Conquest*, 1985

Source C In 1051, Edward promised the throne to Duke William and gained the approval of leading English magnates. He sent his most influential adviser, Harold, earl of Wessex, to Normandy to confirm the promise. His visit was probably made in 1064. Beyond those who were linked to the king by ties of blood, there were other claimants and as

5 the old king lay dying, he designated Earl Harold as his successor. Harold was crowned in great haste, as his hopes of commanding loyalty throughout the kingdom were not strong. In the north, he was accepted largely through the influence of Wulfstan, bishop of Worcester, while in the Midlands, he strengthened the links between himself and the two brothers Edwin and Morcar, by marrying their sister.

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

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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 Harold's attitude to William's claim to the English throne. (12 marks)

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

How far was Harold in a strong position to hold the English throne in 1066? (24 marks)

EITHER**Question 2**

0 3 Explain why William introduced the system of military feudalism into England. *(12 marks)*

0 4 'The Norman Conquest had a disastrous effect on the lives of the English peasantry.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

OR**Question 3**

0 5 Explain why William became involved in Wales in the years 1066 to 1087. *(12 marks)*

0 6 'Scotland presented major problems for William in the years 1066 to 1087.'
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 B: R ALLEN BROWN, *The Normans and the Norman Conquest*, Boydell & Brewer, 1985

Question 1 Source C: D WALKER, *The Normans in Britain*, Wiley-Blackwell, 1995

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