WESTMINSTER SCHOOL
THE CHALLENGE 2016

HISTORY

Tuesday 26 April 2016

You have ONE HOUR for this paper. Answer ALL the questions in Section A and ONE essay from Section B.

You should spend 30 minutes on Section A and 30 minutes on Section B.

Please write in black or blue ink.

Section A:
Queen Margaret I of Denmark (1387-1412) and the Kalmar Union (1397)

Historical background

Queen Margaret I (1387-1412) was queen of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, and the founder in 1397 of the 'Kalmar Union', which attempted to unify Scandinavia under one ruler. Against all expectations, the Union eventually prospered, and lasted until 1523.

Margaret inherited the crown of Denmark from her father, King Valdemar IV. She obtained the crowns of Norway and Sweden through her marriage to King Haakon VI of Norway. As it was unprecedented for a woman to rule alone in Scandinavian society, she managed to have these titles conferred on her adopted son, King Eric VII, and at the same time (1397) to push through her idea of the Kalmar Union. She continued to exercise extensive power even while Eric ruled. Queen Margaret I is now regarded as one of the most formidable rulers in medieval Europe.

Don't worry at all if you have never studied Queen Margaret I, or the history of medieval Scandinavia. No 'own knowledge' is expected or required. All the information you need is to be found in the paper.

Source A

An extract of the 'Letter of Union' (1397). This was a draft agreement between powerful landowners in Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, on the nature of the union between them. It never got beyond the stage of a proposal, and was never fully enforced in the entire period of the Kalmar Union (1397-1523).

'We, the magnates [major lords] of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden consent to a union being formed between us, so long as it is fully understood that each country shall continue with its own laws, practices and customs, to be administered by its own dignitaries and judges….

Taxes on goods sold within the Union shall be outlawed…

There will be no common coinage, but coins of each realm shall be freely accepted throughout the Union…

We shall defend one another, especially on our coasts, and defend our interests in trade in the North Sea and Baltic Sea from the German merchants…'

Source B

A basic map of the Kalmar Union (in red). It comprised most of modern-day Demark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. It was governed mainly from Copenhagen (marked as *København*), but with major council meetings also taking place in Oslo, Stockholm, and Viborg.



Source C

An extract of a letter from Queen Margaret I to one of the members of her Council, 1398:

'We despair for our Union. No lord seems prepared to surrender even the appearance of his own power, though he is happy enough to be bribed by me to keep the peace. We face common challenges from across the sea, and yet we fight ourselves and argue over the building of walls and the construction of ships. We would be stronger as one crown, not three, but I cannot declare that for fear of losing the agreements we have made. I am called by my advisors 'all powerful lady and mistress', but I often wonder whether I will outlive my kingdom.'

Source D

Queen Margaret's seal. This image, in wax, was attached to official documents to show the Queen's agreement to important matters. It could also be carried those who needed to travel under the Queen's protection. She certainly used this image from 1390-1393, and possibly (with others) until her death in 1412.



Source E

Queen Margaret's tomb, Roskilde Cathedral, Denmark. Finished in 1423, it is considered one of the finest tombs in Scandinavia. Partly built by a master craftsman from Lübeck (a major German trading and cultural centre), and partly built by Danish masons, it displays the Queen lying on a base supported by biblical figures and saints with a special connection to Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. It was built by her adopted son and co-ruler, King Eric VII.



Answer ALL of the following questions:

1. **Read Source A**
   What does the 'Letter of Union' say about the nature of the relationship between Denmark, Sweden, and Norway? [5 marks]

2. **Look at Source B**
   What does the geographical layout of the Union's territory suggest about the issues it faced? [4 marks]

   Look at Source D
3. What does Queen Margaret's seal tell you about her view of her own power, and that of the Kalmar Union?
   [4 marks]

   Examine ALL the Sources
4. How far do the sources reveal Queen Margaret as a successful stateswoman?
   [12 marks]

Total: 25 marks

Section B: Essay

Answer ONE of the following questions.

In answering your chosen question, you should try to use examples and comparisons from your study of History, together with your wider knowledge and reading, and you must write in good English. Remember to explain your answer fully. Each question carries 25 marks.

1. What makes the destruction of historical sites so offensive? Explain your answer.

2. Make a case for any one person having exercised the most influence on British or English History. You must explain your case carefully, and support it with as much evidence as possible.

3. How would you improve the teaching of History in British schools? Explain your answer.

4. What might be the dangers of writing an historical account based on past election (or referendum) results? Explain your answer.

5. Do films about the past need to be historically accurate? Explain your answer.

Total: 25 marks