Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Friday 6 June 2025 – Afternoon

A Level History A

Y101/01 Alfred and the Making of England 871–1016

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

You must have:
- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

INSTRUCTIONS
- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Answer Question 1 in Section A. Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3 in Section B.

INFORMATION
- The total mark for this paper is **50**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets **[ ]**.
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document has **4** pages.

ADVICE
- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

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Section A

Alfred the Great

Study the **four** sources and answer Question 1.

1 'In dealing with legal issues, Alfred's main aim was to protect the poor'.

Use the **four** sources in their historical context to assess how far they support this view. **[30]**

Source A: King Alfred explains how judges should reach their decisions.

Judge very fairly. Do not give one judgement for the rich and another for the poor, nor one for the person who is more dear and another for the one who is the more hateful. A man can consider this principle alone; that he judges every one rightly. He needs no other law books. Let him think that he should give no judgement to anyone that he would not wish to be given to him.

Introduction to King Alfred's Law Code, drawn up by 895

Source B: A monk writes about how Alfred preserved law and order.

From the example of the barbarians, the English began to lust after violence, so that there was no safe way of travelling without a military guard. Alfred appointed hundreds and tithings so that every Englishman according to law must be a member of both. If anyone was accused of a crime, he was obliged immediately to produce persons from the hundred and tithing to become his surety. Anyone unable to find surety dreaded the security of the law. If anyone who was accused escaped either before of after he found surety, all persons of the tithing and the hundred paid a fine to the king.

William of Malmesbury, Chronicle of the Kings of England, written before 1143

Source C: Alfred's biographer gives an account of the king's approach to the administration of justice.

© trans Simon Keynes and Michael Lapidge, Alfred the Great: Asser's Life of King Alfred and Other Contemporary Sources, Penguin Classics, 1983. From first line " Alfred was a painstaking judge in establishing the truth in judicial hearings and this," to last line " Indeed, everyone was more concerned with his o

Source D: King Alfred defends his actions regarding his inheritance from his brother Ethelred.

When King Ethelred died, no-one made known to me any will or testimony that the position was any other than as we had both agreed before witnesses. When we heard there were many disputes about the inheritance, I brought the will of King Aethelwulf to our assembly and it was read before all the councillors. When it had been read I begged them all that none of them would hesitate either for love or fear of me to state what the law said, lest any man should say that I wronged my young kinsfolk. Then they all rightly declared that they could not conceive any juster title. They told me that now everything had come into my possession, I could give or bequeath it to kinsman or stranger, whichever I preferred.

Alfred, Will, written before 899

Section B

The Making of England 899–1016

Answer Question 2 **or** Question 3.

2* ‘The aim of Aethelstan’s legal codes was to exert his authority.’

How far do you agree? **[20]**

3* How effectively did Edmund deal with challenges from his enemies? **[20]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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