Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Thursday 23 May 2024 – Morning

A Level History A

Y303/01 English Government and the Church 1066–1216

Time allowed: 2 hours 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 the question in Section A and **any two** questions in Section B.

INFORMATION
- The total mark for this paper is **80**.
- 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.

© OCR 2024 [Y/506/4290]
DC (ST) 342567/2
OCR is an exempt Charity

SECTION A

Read the **two** passages and answer Question 1.

1 Evaluate the interpretations in **both** of the two passages.

Explain which you think is more convincing as an explanation of Henry I's relationship with the English Church. **[30]**

Passage A

It was on the observance of this 'custom of his ancestors' that Henry I now insisted. It was essential from the king's point of view that he should have some control over the appointment and loyalty of bishops and abbots. The original struggle was for the freedom of the Church from secular interference and for free elections. Henry may have admitted that elections should be free, but in fact they took place under royal influence. The king took care that it became the custom that the bishop-elect should give homage before he was consecrated as bishop. The royal influence in elections was decisive. Moreover the character of the bishops did not materially change as a result of the compromise of Bec.

In spite of the settlement of the investiture question in 1107, the reform movement made slow progress. The king was at heart against it and clung to the 'ancient custom'. The promises in his coronation charter were made when his position on the throne was not secure. Now that he was firmly seated upon it, he could afford to forget his undertakings. The Church was anything but free. In one respect Henry went even further than his brother William in that he continued to make a financial matter out of the marriage of clergy. Henry's government of the Church was far from acceptable at Rome. The pope was effectively prevented from exercising any real control over the government of the Church in England.

A. L. Poole, From Domesday Book to Magna Carta 1087–1216, published in 1955.

Passage B

Historians have always assumed that Henry I was the despoiler of churches, but all the evidence is to the contrary. He was no tyrant. Despite the difficult years at the beginning of the reign, when Henry discovered that the rules of Church-state relations had changed, the remainder of his years passed with the Church enjoying a long period of calm during which it flourished. Henry learned early that he could not win by making an enemy of the Church. What Henry offered the Church is patronage, wealth, justice, and peace.

He demonstrated to the Anglo-Norman Church and the papacy that the man in charge was clever enough to make concessions when necessary, to seek the practical middle road, to treat the Church as the vital element of the realm that it was. Throughout his long reign, Henry admittedly 'managed' the Church, but he did so according to accepted rules. He was extremely generous, helping to make possible the spiritual role of the Church. He sought the support of all elements of the Church. He seems to have been particularly proud of providing justice for his churchmen. In the eyes of his contemporaries, he was an effective guardian of the Church. He might have reflected with pleasure on his achievement: the Church in capable hands; his relations with the papacy friendly and on the king's terms.

C. Warren Hollister, Henry I, published in 2003.

© OCR 2024

SECTION B

Answer any **two** questions.

2* ‘The main impact of the continental possessions of the Crown on English central government was the development of the office of chief justiciar.’

How far do you agree with this view of the period from 1066 to 1216? **[25]**

3* ‘The most important developments in the growth of English Common Law in the period from 1066 to 1216, took place before the beginning of the reign of Henry I (1100).’

How far do you agree? **[25]**

4* ‘Relations between archbishops of Canterbury and the crown were better in the period from 1066 to 1154 than in the period from 1154 to 1216.’

How far do you agree? **[25]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

© OCR 2024

OCR
Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Copyright Information

OCR is committed to seeking permission to reproduce all third-party content that it uses in its assessment materials. OCR has attempted to identify and contact all copyright holders whose work is used in this paper. To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced in the OCR Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download from our public website (www.ocr.org.uk) after the live examination series.

If OCR has unwittingly failed to correctly acknowledge or clear any third-party content in this assessment material, OCR will be happy to correct its mistake at the earliest possible opportunity.

For queries or further information please contact The OCR Copyright Team, The Triangle Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA.

OCR is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, which is itself a department of the University of Cambridge.

© OCR 2024