



Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate

HISTORY (PRINCIPAL)

9769/01A

Paper 1A British History Outlines, c. 300–1547

For Examination from 2016

SPECIMEN MARK SCHEME

2 hours 15 minutes

MAXIMUM MARK: 90

The syllabus is approved for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as a Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate.

This document consists of **31** printed pages and **1** blank page.

These banding definitions address Assessment Objectives (AOs) 1, 2 and 4, and should be used in conjunction with the indicative content mark schemes for each question. Information about AOs can be found in the 2016–18 Cambridge Pre-U History syllabus.

Introduction

- (a) The banding definitions which follow reflect, and should be interpreted within the context of, the following general statement:

Examiners will give their highest marks to candidates who show a ready understanding of the relevant material and a disciplined management of the discussion the question provokes. They will be impressed more by critical judgement, careful discrimination and imaginative handling than by a weight of facts. Credit will be given for evidence of a good historical intelligence and for good use of material rather than for a stereotyped rehearsal of memorised information.

- (b) Examiners will use these banding definitions in combination with the paper-specific mark schemes.
- (c) It goes without saying that any explanation or judgement is strengthened if informed by the use of source material.
- (d) Examiners will also bear in mind that analysis sufficient for a mark in the highest band may perfectly legitimately be deployed within a chronological framework. Candidates who eschew an explicitly analytical response may yet be able, by virtue of the very intelligence and pointedness of their selection of elements for a well-sustained and well-grounded account, to provide sufficient implicit analysis to justify a Band 4 mark.
- (e) The Band in which an essay is placed depends on a range of criteria. As a result, not all essays fall obviously into one particular Band. In such cases a 'best-fit' approach will be adopted with any doubt erring on the side of generosity.
- (f) In marking an essay, examiners will first place it in a Band and then fine-tune the mark in terms of how strongly/weakly the demands of the Band have been demonstrated.

Band 5: 25–30 marks

The answer will be sharply analytical in approach and strongly argued. It will show that the demands of the question have been fully understood and that a conscious and sustained attempt has been made to respond to them in appropriate range and depth. It will be coherent and structured with a clear sense of direction. The focus will be sharp and persistent. Some lack of balance, in that certain aspects are covered less fully or certain arguments deployed less strongly than others, need not preclude a mark in this Band. The material will be wide-ranging and handled with the utmost confidence and a high degree of maturity. Historical explanations will be invariably clear, sharp and well developed and historical concepts fully understood. Where appropriate there will be conscious and successful attempts to engage with the historiography, to evaluate source material critically and to demonstrate an awareness of competing interpretations.

Band 4: 19–24 marks

The answer will be characterised by an analytical and argued approach, although there may be the occasional passage which does not go beyond description or narrative. It will show that the demands of the question have been very well understood and that a determined attempt has been made to respond to them in appropriate range and depth. The essay will be coherent and clearly structured and its judgements will be effectively supported by accurate and relevant material. Some lack of rigour in the argument and occasional blurred focus may be allowed. Where appropriate there will be a conscious and largely successful attempt to engage with the historiography, to evaluate source material and to demonstrate an awareness of competing interpretations. The material will be wide-ranging, fully understood, confidently deployed and well controlled with high standards of accuracy. Historical explanations will be clear and well developed and there will be a sound understanding of historical concepts and vocabulary.

Band 3: 13–18 marks

The answer will attempt an analytical approach, although there will be passages which do not go beyond description or narrative. It will show that the demands of the question have been understood, at least in large part, and that a conscious attempt has been made to respond to them. There will be an effective focus on the terms of the question and, although in places this may break down, standards of relevance will be generally high. Although it may not be sustained throughout the answer, or always fully supported, there will be a recognisable sense of argument. The material will be clearly understood, with a good range, and organisation will be sound. There will be a conscious attempt to draw conclusions and form judgements and these will be adequately supported. Some understanding of differing and competing interpretations is to be expected and some evaluation of sources may be attempted but probably not in a very sophisticated form. Historical explanations and the use of historical concepts and vocabulary will be generally sound but some lack of understanding is to be expected.

Band 2: 7–12 marks

The answer may contain some analysis but descriptive or narrative material will predominate. The essay will show that the demands of the question have been understood, at least in good part, and that some attempt has been made to respond to them. It will be generally coherent with a fair sense of organisation. Focus on the exact terms of the question is likely to be uneven and there will be a measure of irrelevance. There will be some inaccuracies in knowledge, and the range may be limited with some gaps. Understanding of the material will be generally sound, although there will be some lack of tautness and precision. Explanations will be generally clear although not always convincing or well developed. Some attempt at argument is to be expected but it will lack sufficient support in places and sense of direction may not always be clear. There may be some awareness of differing interpretations and some attempt at evaluating source material but this is not generally to be expected at this level and such skills, where deployed, will be unsophisticated.

Band 1: 1–6 marks

The answers will respond in some measure to the demands of the question but will be very limited in meeting these. Analysis, if it appears at all, will be brief and undeveloped. If an argument is attempted it will be lacking in real coherence, sense of direction, support and rigour. Focus on the exact terms of the question is likely to be very uneven; the answer is likely to include unsupported generalisations, and there will be some vagueness and irrelevance. Historical knowledge, concepts and vocabulary will be insufficiently understood and there will be inaccuracies. Explanations may be attempted but will be halting and unclear. Where judgements are made they will be largely unsubstantiated and investigation of historical problems will be very elementary. Awareness of differing interpretations and the evaluation of sources are not to be expected. The answer may be fragmentary, slight and even unfinished.

Band 0: 0 marks

No evidence submitted or response does not address the question.

Section 1: c. 300–c. 670**1 To what extent were the problems in Britain in the fourth century caused by the Roman Emperors?**

AO1 – Candidates could refer to the relatively frequent changes of Emperor which affected the government of Britain. New rulers such as Constantine and Magnus Maximus emerged from Britain. Some challenges to the Empire also included Britain such as the rebellion of Magnentius. Valentinus also raised a rebellion when exiled to Britain. The problem with the Emperors lay in their spasmodic interest in Britain. After the 367 barbarian conspiracy, Valentinian sent troops to restore order but others, like Maximus and Honorius, removed troops to support their interests and garrisons were disrupted as a result. Candidates could suggest that some Emperors, such as Diocletian, tried to improve the administration of Britain so were not to blame. Also there were attempts to repair Hadrian's Wall and to build defences. Other causes of problems could include the raiding of the Scots and the Picts, the forts and the Wall falling into disrepair, some religious conflicts once Rome had become Christian and the fact that Britain was on the edge of the Empire.

AO2 – The question asks for a judgement and candidates may conclude that the Emperors were not in a position to exert much influence on Britain and thus problems arose, but that a greater impact came from their need to withdraw troops to meet the threat from the barbarian invaders. Once there was no Roman army to keep order, there were bound to be difficulties.

2 Assess the view that the establishment of towns was the most important legacy left by the Romans in Britain.

AO1 – Candidates could argue that, as there were no towns in Britain prior to 43CE, the statement is true. The native aristocracy were ready to co-operate with the Romans in the founding of towns. The role of towns in Roman Britain is largely explained by archaeological evidence and candidates may use this. Baths, amphitheatres, the water supply and commercial and governmental buildings could feature. Candidates could consider other important legacies such as roads, villas, the church and fortifications.

AO2 – Candidates are asked to make a judgement and could conclude that the evidence does suggest that towns were a vital legacy. Even if some were deserted once the Roman army left, enough survived to be centres of population to justify the statement. London is the prime example and it is clearly very important in the legacy of Rome.

3 How powerful a ruler was Penda of Mercia?

AO1 – It could be argued that Penda was very powerful. He killed three successive kings of East Anglia as well as Oswald of Northumbria. He raided beyond Hadrian's Wall, which implies he had plenty of horsepower. He extended Mercian power from a small area on the river Trent to the whole of the Midlands and his son went on to control East Anglia, and thus gain an outlet to the sea. The alternative view might rest on the evidence that Penda was not included in Bede's list of Bretwaldas and so was not recognised by contemporaries as a great power. He was killed by Oswu of Northumbria, although succeeded by his son Wulfhere without much question. As a pagan king, Penda is likely to be reviled by Bede and other sources which were connected with the church at Canterbury, so his status may have been undermined in that way.

AO2 – Candidates are asked to come to a view and may conclude that on analysing the evidence, Penda was a powerful, although probably not the most powerful, Anglo-Saxon king of his day.

4 'The achievements of the Roman mission to the English up to c. 660 have been exaggerated.' Discuss.

AO1 – The work of Augustine in Kent from 597 led to the conversion of Kent and eventually East Anglia. Canterbury soon became a recognisably Christian capital and paganism was forbidden in Kent. A local priesthood was trained up and local bishops appointed. Admirers of Rome, like Wilfred, brought Roman customs to the English church. On the other hand, candidates could argue that there were regular setbacks. Even in Kent, Ethelbert's successor was not a Christian and there were reversals in East Anglia and Northumbria when Edwin was killed and Paulinus returned south. England did not seem attractive to possible appointees to Canterbury who were in Rome, and filling the archbishopric was not always easy, especially after the death of Deusdedit. The work of converting northern England was largely done by missionaries from Iona and then Lindisfarne.

AO2 – Candidates might argue that the Roman mission was generally successful and so its achievements have not been exaggerated. It maintained its presence in Kent and kept up contacts with Rome. It was not a success if its aim had been to convert the whole of England

5 'The most significant contribution to the development of Celtic Christianity up to the Synod of Whitby (664) was made by Saint Aidan.' Assess this verdict.

AO1 – Candidates may suggest that Aidan was crucial because the mission from Iona, which sparked the conversion of Northumbria, was led by him. His achievements are lauded by Bede with plenty of anecdotal evidence. He seems to have had the personal skills to engage with people of all classes. Alternatively, candidates could argue that other figures played an important role. The initial encouragement of Oswald meant the mission got started and iconic leaders like Cuthbert had a great impact.

AO2 – Candidates may conclude that the work of Aidan in establishing what became a much respected monastic centre at Lindisfarne and which attracted Cuthbert to it, was the essential first, step in the advance of Celtic Christianity, or they may prefer a synthesis.

Section 2: c. 690–978**6 Consider the claim that Saint Wilfred's main aim was the enforcement of the supremacy of Roman Christianity.**

AO1 – Candidates who wish to argue in favour of this statement might point to Wilfred's role as spokesman for the Roman view at the Synod of Whitby, his frequent visits to Rome and his papal charter to protect his monastic foundations from outside interference. He was also a keen preacher in Frisia and Sussex where he converted the last pagan British kingdom. He claimed to have introduced the rule of St Benedict to Northumbria and he appealed to the Pope when he ran into difficulties in his diocese. Alternatively, candidates could argue that his background included time spent on Lindisfarne and that he was a wealthy Northumbrian nobleman. The problems he had, leading to him being deprived of his see on three occasions, have been viewed as being similar to the disputes that arose between kings and their secular lords. He was a patron of hermits and encouraged women in vows of virginity, which are more typical of the Celtic church. When he died, his possessions mostly went to the Abbots of Ripon and Hexham and he named his own successor, thus behaving again like a Northumbrian noble.

AO2 – Candidates could conclude that there was no clear-cut division between Roman and Celtic churches – that the Irish were active in Gaul as well as Northumbria and that Wilfred did not see his role in those terms.

7 How great was the contribution of the monasteries of Monkwearmouth and Jarrow to the cultural achievements of Northumbria up to 735?

AO1 – Candidates might argue that the monasteries led the cultural achievements. Examples could include the construction of buildings, the *Codex Amiatinus* and the Lindisfarne Gospels. The wide range of Bede's writings is further evidence. The Ruthwell Cross was possibly made by an artist trained at Jarrow. In addition, much influence came from Europe and even Byzantium. Some of the items found in Cuthbert's tomb reflect these trends and the calligraphy and illumination of manuscripts were similarly influenced.

AO2 – Candidates may well feel that the contribution of the monasteries is so crucial that no other explanation can begin to match their role. But they may add that the culture was a conglomerate and derived from classical motifs in many cases.

8 Who contributed more to the development of Mercia as a major power in the eighth century, Aethelbald or Offa?

AO1 – Candidates could refer to the ways in which the two rulers governed, their personal characteristics and their relationship with the church.

AO2 – Candidates may argue that the fact that the reigns of the two kings spanned 80 years is a reason in itself for the dominance of Mercia. This length of time was unprecedented and not to be repeated until the thirteenth century. With regard to Aethelbald, he had some good fortune in the deaths or abdication of fellow rulers, allowing him to extend his sovereignty. He controlled London and raided into Northumbria, but sub-kings in his territories retained some jurisdiction. He was praised by Boniface for his charity and maintenance of law and order, but his private life did not meet with the same approval. As for Offa, a relative of Aethelbald who may have helped to overthrow him, he was able to bring the power of Mercia to a peak, suggesting his was the greater role. He took direct control of Sussex and Kent. He authorised no sub-kings and Wessex was under a client ruler. He was on corresponding terms with Charlemagne and he constructed the famous dyke.

9 ‘The Vikings brought little but destruction to English society.’ How valid is this judgement up to 871?

AO1 – Candidates may feel that this is an accurate judgement. They can point to the raid on Lindisfarne, the sack of Sheppey, attacks on London, Rochester, Winchester and Southampton. In addition, the drying up of books and charters from Northumbria, Mercia and East Anglia indicates further destruction and Alfred was to lament the decline of learning. Three bishoprics disappeared and the East Anglian king was killed by the Vikings, perhaps as a pagan sacrifice. There may have been areas where the Viking raids did not penetrate and there were Britons in Cornwall, for example, who welcomed the Vikings as allies against the Angles, but cultural and urban life was seriously damaged.

AO2 – Candidates are likely to argue that, within the dates given, the Vikings were destructive. Their aim was to raid and steal and return to their ships. When they first wintered in England and commandeered horses, they ranged all over eastern England. Their more constructive contribution came when they settled down in the Danelaw.

10 To what extent is Alfred's ultimate success against the Vikings explained by his character?

AO1 – Candidates may assess a number of factors. One should be Alfred's character. It was his determination and perseverance in the dark days at Athelney which ensured the resistance to the Danes continued. His military planning, leadership skills and tactics also contributed. Other explanations include the view that the royal house of Wessex was stronger than some other royal families. It was united so the Vikings could not use a possible rival against Alfred. It was popular and had not been robbing the church, as kings elsewhere had done. Wessex was ready to rally to Alfred. After the victory at Edington, Alfred made a realistic peace with Guthrum and, by making him into a fellow-Christian ruler, made it harder for Guthrum to break the treaty. Further Danish incursions were met by the defences Alfred had put in place, the burhs, the standing army and the navy.

AO2 – Candidates should try to reach a judgement which may well be a synthesis, arguing that Alfred's character explained his success along with his methods of dealing with the Vikings.

Section 3: 978–1135

11 How justified is the view that Ethelred II was personally responsible for the failure of the English to prevent Danish conquests during his reign?

AO1 – Candidates may argue that Ethelred was to blame and his famous soubriquet *the Unready* did not emerge from nowhere. They could cite his readiness to pay Danegeld, which simply encouraged the Danes to return, his failure to build a navy and the fiasco in 1006 when he did, the lack of resistance to Thorkell and the murder of the archbishop of Canterbury. He also infuriated the Danes by the ill-advised massacre of Danes on St Brice's Day in 1002. On the other hand, they could refer to other factors. The Danes themselves were more inclined to settle in England as well as to raid and their king, Swein, was ambitious. There were divisions at court. Eadric Streona came to power after murdering his rivals and Wulfnoth turned against the king when he lost favour and began to attack on his own behalf. The Danes were a formidable enemy and in 991 defeated Byrthnoth at the battle of Maldon.

AO2 – Candidates may conclude that Aethelred was unlucky rather than 'unready' in coming up against a determined and ferocious enemy and that he lacked the personality and the support to defeat the Danes. They can discuss the wisdom or not of paying Danegeld and consider how far Ethelred was himself in control of policy.

12 'Cnut's reign was marked more by continuity than change.' Discuss.

AO1 – Candidates may feel that continuity was the keynote. Cnut went so far as to marry the widow of Ethelred. He paid off many of his Danish supporters and they went home richer than before. This was financed by confiscated English lands but such transfers were the norm in a change of dynasty. On the same lines he got rid of Eadric Streona, the main threat to Cnut from the English nobles. He promised to rule according to the laws of King Edgar. Cnut wanted reconciliation and so made amends for the murder of Aelfeah. He founded a church at Assandun to mark his victory there, but also remembered the English dead. He even went to Rome as English kings before him had done. He continued another Anglo-Saxon governmental trait, that of imposing high levels of taxation. There were some changes. The ealdormen were replaced with earls and the chief three were Cnut's men: Siward, Leofric and Godwine. They presided over the shire courts, where the law was enforced with greater vigour. The rivalries between them were a dubious legacy from the reign. The main change, it could be suggested, was the ending of Danish raids.

AO2 – Candidates may conclude that Cnut inherited a system of government that worked and so had no need to change it, just to make it work more effectively. His personal religious devotion developed during his reign and his benefactions to the church ensured him a good press among the chroniclers. It can be argued that the change of regime was far less brutal than in 1066, although the dispersal of English wealth abroad was common to both and the Danes left no great architectural inheritance.

13 'The power of the Godwins was the main problem facing Edward the Confessor during his reign.' Assess this view.

AO1 – Candidates may largely agree with this view. The Godwins were certainly powerful and the crisis of 1050–52 underlined their strong position. By 1060 all the English earldoms, apart from Mercia, were held by a Godwin, and Harold was the richest man in the kingdom. Edward's wife was Harold's sister. But Edward faced other problems. His Norman upbringing and Norman favourites were unpopular. His efforts to get a Norman friend as archbishop of Canterbury lacked support, notably from the Londoners, as well as annoying Godwin. His expenditure on Westminster Abbey caused some resentment.

AO2 – Candidates may conclude that Edward never managed, despite a brave attempt in 1051, to deal with the power of the Godwins. Even if he extorted a promise to support a Norman succession from Godwin, it was disregarded. Candidates may discuss the nature of the sources for the reign and debate about them.

14 Assess the view that the reign of William I had done more harm than good to the people of England by 1087.

AO1 – Candidates may argue that it depended very much who you were and where you lived as to whether you were adversely affected by the conquest. On the positive side, those landowners who maintained their positions benefited. The church was, on balance, a net winner from the change of ruler. Law and order were maintained. But there is likely to be more evidence put forward to argue the contrary view. Clearly, all those who rebelled against William and were punished felt they had been harmed and the harrying of the north was so vicious that it was remembered in folklore for many years. Those who lost land and position were victims. For the ordinary person the Norman yoke was hard in the imposition of feudalism and all it entailed, in the building of awesome castles, in the enforcement of the forest laws and even in the linguistic changes. Norman arrogance made the Anglo-Saxons feel their culture was devalued.

AO2 – Candidates may conclude that the conquest may have made England stronger, but that the results for most of the inhabitants were often harmful. They may, however, challenge the idea, popular later in the period, that the Normans imposed a near slavery on free-born Englishmen.

15 How effective was William II as king of England?

AO1 – Candidates may discuss the sources for information about the reign and point out that the largely clerical sources are often critical of William, most notably Eadmer, whose hero was Anselm. This makes it harder to judge effectiveness. On the positive side William's administration, under Ranulf Flambard, raised the necessary taxation and kept order. Record keeping improved. These developments peaked under Henry I who was given more of the credit, but who ruled in much the same way as his older brother had done. William II built his power by buying support as he did from William of Warenne, during the rebellion of Odo early in his reign. With regard to the church, he was effective in maintaining his own power, if not in keeping Anselm in England or in promoting the interests of the church. The question focuses on England, but candidates may argue that William was less effective in England because he spent so much time, effort and money on maintaining his position in Normandy and fighting Robert. The criticisms of the writers of chronicles about the moral turpitude of the court, exemplified by the wearing of long, pointed shoes, do not necessarily demonstrate that William was not effective.

AO2 – Candidates may conclude that William, praised for his knightly skills and attitudes, was unfortunate to die when he had not accomplished all his aims and then to be denigrated by his successor, whose claim to the throne lacked weight and so needed to be presented as an improvement on the previous regime.

Section 4: Themes c. 300–c. 1066**16 How dramatically did Anglo-Saxon kingship develop in the period c. 560–871?**

AO1 – Candidates could contrast the kings of the sixth century with those of the ninth. They could select characteristics of kingship and consider how far these altered over the period. Examples from a variety of centuries and areas could be utilised. Some of the key changes might be that the territories ruled over by kings grew in size and hence the administration needed to run kingdoms was more complex. The later kings had to combat the Viking invasions, whereas the earlier ones fought amongst themselves. Some factors remained constant, such as the alliance between the church and the kings, once they became Christian, the role of the kings as patrons of the arts and of later learning, the need for a king to be a warrior and the desirability of wealth with which to win and reward supporters.

AO2 – Candidates could argue that there were considerable changes in the way kings carried out their roles, and in some ways in the role itself, but there was less change to the concept and core functions of kings in the period. Candidates may suggest how far the wider changes in Anglo-Saxon society over this long period were responsible for bringing about changes in the roles and notion of kingship.

17 Assess the view that the strengths of the agrarian economy outweighed the weaknesses from c. 650 to c. 1000.

AO1 – Candidates might suggest that the strengths of the agrarian economy lay in the way it was organised in villages, although settlements had a variety of different names. Most villages had a lord in charge and the work was organised by his officials and carried out by serfs and ceorls. In general, enough was produced to feed the population with the emphasis on corn, probably mostly barley. The number of mills recorded in Domesday, although outside the period, shows how widespread they were and it is unlikely they were all constructed in the eleventh century. There was spare land available to be cleared and taken into cultivation if needed. Less fertile land was avoided and much unused land was in forests, which did provide useful materials for the agrarian economy. The weaknesses lay in the way it was open to attack by invaders who could lay waste whole areas and cause real hardship. Tools were primitive, although oxen were used for ploughing. The serfs were exploited and the ceorls, although free in theory, had heavy burdens in taxation. These grew worse once the Danes demanded geld and defences had to be financed.

AO2 – Candidates may conclude that the agrarian economy was basically a strong one but that it wavered when it ran into difficulties. The attractiveness of England to invaders does suggest it was economically strong.

18 Did England contribute more than it gained from the cultural and religious contacts with Europe in the seventh and eighth centuries?

AO1 – Candidates could point out that the main contributions from Britain included the work of Bede, the production of books such as the *Codex Amiatinus* which was taken to Rome as a present for the Pope, and the role played by Alcuin of York at the court of Charlemagne. Boniface and Willibrord went from England to help convert pagans on the continent. Many English visitors reached Rome. England did have gains. Benedict Biscop and Wilfred both brought back Roman ideas from their travels and the rule of St Benedict, Roman singing of the psalms and Roman church building were all influential. Christianity itself came in part from Rome. There was also considerable trading contact. Artistic styles from Europe and beyond influenced items in the Sutton Hoo Burial and other archaeological finds. Charlemagne's court had a real impact.

AO2 – Candidates may find a precise judgement quite difficult and could argue that the balance varied at different times. It has been suggested that Boniface took a host of educated men with him to Germany and that once Alcuin left Northumbria the study of Latin declined there. But in the early part of the seventh century England was probably a net gainer.

19 How persuasive is the argument that there was a tenth-century Renaissance in culture and the arts?

AO1 – Candidates might argue that examples of the achievements of the tenth century support the view that there was a Renaissance. They could instance the poetry recorded in the Exeter and Vercelli books, the latter including the *Dream of the Rood*, the writing of the Anglo-Saxon chronicle, the work of Wulfstan and Aelfric, the output of monastic scriptoria at centres like Canterbury and Winchester, work in ivory, and church buildings inspired by reformers like Dunstan. This illustrates a revival of some of the traditions prevalent before the Viking invasions.

AO2 – Candidates should form a judgement but may point out that there are difficulties in dating much literature and art so that poems written down in the tenth century were not necessarily composed then. There was also much exterior influence, so it is arguable how far this was a true Renaissance. The destruction of churches after the conquest makes it harder to judge how fine their architecture was.

20 How significant were developments in urban society in late Anglo-Saxon England?

AO1 – Candidates might refer to: the expansion of towns in size and number; the development of trade; towns as mints and as defensive strongholds; and the beginnings of guilds.

AO2 – Candidates could argue that the developments were significant in the context of the period. Major towns included London, York, Norwich, Lincoln, Winchester, Thetford, Oxford, Colchester, Cambridge and Ipswich. Only London and York had populations over 8000. London and Winchester supplied the standards of weights and measures, which Edgar wished to impose, showing another aspect of urban development. London probably had a court to decide on trade disputes. English traders had penetrated to the Mediterranean. London by the eleventh century was a thriving port and able to impose tolls on foreign merchants. Guilds evolved in some towns for merchants. Candidates could also indicate that much of the evidence for urban society in late Anglo-Saxon England is sparse and hence generalisations may be all that can be expected.

21 Discuss the view that late Anglo-Saxon England was well governed.

AO1 – Candidates are likely to argue that the governmental structure with the king and his ealdormen forming the witan worked reasonably well. The danger lay in any one person, such as Harold Godwinson, taking over. The earls were often given control of large areas of England and if disloyal could expect dismissal, punishment and probably death. One of the other problems was the dynastic insecurity where the succession to the throne was not laid down. The threat of renewed Danish invasions helped to encourage the thegns to remain reasonably united. There was the beginning of the replacement of verbal conveyance of instructions with written and sealed orders. The legal system was largely that established under Alfred which was grounded on the oath of an oath-worthy man. Powers of law enforcement were not strong and for murder the dependence on the wergild obviated a tendency to vendetta. Alfred drew up an extensive legal code, but his judgements were not always written down. Later Wulfstan tried to apply the laws of God to human society.

AO2 – Candidates are likely to concur with the judgement if they consider that the Anglo-Saxon systems worked in that law and order was maintained, taxes collected and government functioned, but they could suggest that evidence for success in these aspects of the period is not very widespread.

Section 5: 1135–1272

22 'The most serious challenge to Henry II's control of his Empire was his quarrel with the church.' Discuss this view.

AO1 – Candidates could argue that it was not so much the quarrel in itself but its repercussions which were a threat. The exile and later murder of Becket gave moral justification to Henry's enemies and allowed them to claim that he no longer enjoyed his God-given right to rule. The rebellion of the Young King in 1173 was supported by Louis of France with this in mind and it was a considerable threat. Its defeat after Henry had done penance at Becket's shrine only underlined the basic premise. But there were other aspects. The feuds in the Angevin family were one. The growing power of France another and Henry's own character could be seen as undermining his control at times. There is also the view that the Empire was too large to be held by a single ruler for any length of time.

AO2 – Candidates may conclude that the quarrel with the church set in motion the series of threats to Henry's control and was thus the first cause. They could suggest that the other causes were important in continuing the threat, since once Henry had done his penance, the church issue subsided.

23 'Richard I served his own interests and not those of England.' How far do you agree with this judgement?

AO1 – Candidates could agree with this view and argue that Richard disregarded the needs of England and rushed off on a crusade to satisfy his own ego, pausing only to extract as much money as he could from his kingdom. He then proceeded to antagonise Philip Augustus and Raymond of Toulouse, which led to him having to return home in disguise and by a route which allowed him to fall into the hands of Leopold of Austria. This caused the levying of a vast ransom in England. There is an alternative judgement. This considers that Richard was duty bound to fulfil his oath to crusade, and the fall of Jerusalem made this an urgent task. It could also allow Richard to get the better of Philip Augustus, which was arguably in the interests of England, as well as in Richard's own interests. He provided for the government in his absence, even though his appointment of Longchamp was misguided. In the period 1194–99, with Hubert Walter at the helm, English government flourished and developed its record keeping to become a formidable instrument. There was no anarchy in the absence of the king, who, in fighting the French, was maintaining the traditions of English kingship.

AO2 – Candidates may make a clear judgement between the two different interpretations, arguing that Richard was a capable and talented ruler and that the crises of his reign united his people in a new way. Or they may consider Richard was not a good ruler and that England suffered financially.

24 How far was the loss of John's lands in Normandy and France the result of his lack of financial resources?

AO1 – There is debate about whether John had greater financial resources than Philip. Candidates can argue that it was a contributory factor, but are likely to suggest that there were other, more vital, reasons. John acted without due thought for the consequences in both authorising the death of Arthur and in his marriage to Isabella. He was up against a determined and often unscrupulous opponent, who won over the Norman barons. John's strategy was to attempt to recover Normandy from Poitou and this caused more problems, with the reluctance of the English barons to serve in, or pay taxes for, a war so far south. It also meant he was in the wrong place at the time of Bouvines. His quarrel with the church was a moral boost for the French. As Normandy had become more French, it was always likely it would revert to the French king.

AO2 – Candidates may conclude that the odds were stacked against John and that even a far more able king might have had problems in retaining the French lands. Or they may argue that he made a series of errors and that these were exploited eagerly by Philip Augustus. Either way, finance could be seen as a contributory rather than a deciding issue.

25 Assess the extent to which Henry III's difficulties in England after 1258 arose from his favouring French advisers.

AO1 – One view could be that Henry had relied heavily on Poitevins in his household and, after his marriage, on the Savoyard and Provençal relations of his wife. The opposition to 'aliens' was a focus in the civil war after 1258 and some of the chronicles and the *Song of Lewes* take up this theme. Defence of England was a strong motive for the barons who led the opposition to Henry. But there are other explanations. Henry was extravagant in his building programme and he decorated his palaces to illustrate his view of the supreme power of the monarchy. He was unsuccessful in France. The trigger to the events of 1258 will probably be seen to be the Sicilian adventure which united Henry's enemies against him and left him dangerously isolated. The barons and especially Simon de Montfort had an important role in the developments after 1258.

AO2 – Candidates are asked to come to a view about why Henry faced problems and may conclude that he was much to blame personally for his ambitious aims, the fulfilment of which had led him to the use of French advisers.

26 How important was the personality of the monarch in explaining the development of the Scottish monarchy from 1165 to 1268?

AO1 – The three Scottish kings during this period, William the Lion, Alexander II and Alexander III, were all men of ability who were popular monarchs for the most part. William made one error in joining the rebellion of the Young King and paid for this. Otherwise the affairs of Scotland proceeded quite peaceably, with the development of taxation and justice and the maintenance of control over the Church. Both the Alexanders concentrated on conquests in the north and west, aimed at the Isle of Man and the Scottish islands held by Norway. The other explanation for this could be that events in England were helpful. After William had been released by Henry II and paid homage to him, he regained his position and benefited from Richard I's eagerness to go on crusade. Alexander II tried and failed to exploit the problems at the start of Henry III's reign and henceforward lived in peace with Henry and married his sister. The English king was as eager as Alexander for peace. Alexander III had a difficult minority but he married Henry's daughter and Henry intervened in Scotland to help maintain his rights.

AO2 – Candidates may conclude that the circumstances, as much as the personality, of the kings allowed developments in Scotland. The absence of a long war with England could be seen as crucial.

Section 6: 1272–1399**27 'Too ruthless to be considered a great monarch.' Examine this view of Edward I.**

AO1 – Edward, was certainly ruthless at times. He used extraordinary force and sums of money to bring down Llywelyn in 1277 and he executed Llywelyn's brother Dafydd. This example probably influenced Alexander III into doing homage to Edward. John Balliol was humiliated by Edward. When William Wallace rebelled, the whole government machine moved to York to co-ordinate his undoing. Edward was determined to invade France despite the near civil war in England. His financial exactions could be described as ruthless. He expelled the Jews. However, by the standards of his day, Edward fought within the conventions and was justified in punishing severely those he saw as rebels. His legal reforms could be seen as the attributes of a great monarch, even if his own role in them is not clear. He certainly cared about miscarriages of justice. His achievements could be seen as sufficient to make him a great monarch.

AO2 – Candidates are likely to conclude that Edward was well suited to rule at the time and his ruthlessness was necessary to realise his ends. The views of his contemporaries suggest that he was seen in this light and his death led to an outburst of praise.

28 How far were English monarchs to blame for the Welsh resistance from 1267 to 1416?

AO1 – The initial resistance from Llywelyn was the result of the actions of Edward I. Edward saw the Welsh prince as a rebel and disturber of the peace, but it was Edward who made war in 1277. In 1282 the resistance was begun by Welsh princes who had been loyal to Edward in 1277 but felt they had been insufficiently rewarded. Edward's policy of dispossessing the Welsh in favour of English barons was a further cause of resistance. In time, many of the English lordships reverted to the crown, which again caused resistance. The overthrow of Richard II by Henry IV encouraged the Welsh to resist again and Glyndwr joined the general revolt against the new king. There were other factors, notably rivalries within Wales, where one faction hoped to gain ground by alliance with the English king, and later between English baronial houses. Welsh national feeling was also a factor.

AO2 – Candidates may conclude that the English monarchs precipitated most of the wars. Certainly Edward I was determined to end Welsh resistance. Once the principality had been subdued, English rulers had less of a motive to incite opposition. Henry IV had little choice once the Welsh were added to his many enemies.

29 To what extent were the barons responsible for the breakdown in relations with Edward II?

AO1 – Candidates might point out that the barons made no secret of their dislike of Edward's favourites such as Gaveston and demanded his removal, along with other royal appointees, from the royal household. They established the reform Ordinances, which Edward felt encroached on his rights. The barons included some who had previously been loyal to Edward I. The Earl of Warwick was responsible for the death of Gaveston. Thomas of Lancaster ran the royal government, but missed opportunities for reform and met an unhappy end. The rise of the Despensers infuriated the barons and the Despenser despotism was the final straw. The alternative explanation is that Edward himself, by his unkingly activities, his preferment of favourites, his failure at Bannockburn and conversely his success at Boroughbridge, was the author of his own troubles. His revenge and dismemberment of the Lords Ordainers' programme led to the domination of the Despensers. In the end his behaviour caused his wife to launch the events which led to a total breakdown in relations.

AO2 – Candidates may conclude that either party was more to blame, the barons for provoking the king or the king for provoking the barons. Some baronial grievances looked back to Edward I's reign and so were less the fault of Edward II, but, equally, he caused a whole new set of grievances to arise.

30 'Edward III's victories in France were the result of English strengths.' How far do you agree with this statement?

AO1 – Candidates might suggest that Edward III's strengths were formidable, so much so that the English, who had been dismissed as warriors in 1327, were the most feared of armies in Europe within a generation. The leadership of the English troops was a factor. Both Edward and the Black Prince could inspire their men and they had competent commanders under them. The soldiers were well equipped and armed and the archers were well trained and disciplined. Army pay was relatively satisfactory. The Scottish wars had taught the English some useful lessons about fighting methods and also the value of the plundering raid. There was also enthusiasm for the war in England to an unusual extent and propaganda was used. The government was quick to publicise victories and slow to mention defeats. Candidates could present an alternative view and indicate that the French were disunited, with much internal rivalry between the great princes. Philip VI left Calais to its fate and John II was captured at Poitiers, which left the French regime in considerable disarray. In addition, a vast ransom had to be paid. The ravaging of the countryside weakened France, there was revolution in Paris and the peasants rose in the Jacquerie, which was as destructive as the English troops.

AO2 – Candidates may conclude that the English were, by the 1340s and 1350s, too strong for the French. They could point out that the Treaty of Bretigny did not make Edward king of France and the latter years of the reign were not marked by much success in France, thus indicating that it was the English who were the instigators of their success.

31 Have the achievements of Richard II been under-estimated?

AO1 – In defence of Richard II, it could be argued that he had a coherent set of aims. He wanted to reverse the situation of the period before 1386, when, he felt, the magnates had pursued a fruitless war with France, built up their own power with vast retinues and raised excessive taxation which had led to popular revolt in 1381. Therefore he followed a policy of peace with France and married a French princess. He tried in 1397–9 to replace the bad old ways with sheriffs and JPs as royal agents, bringing a new order of peace and justice. He had some support in this ideal. Candidates may mention his courage in the face of the Peasants' Revolt and his patronage of the arts. But the alternative argument is likely to be more dominant. This would be that Richard, by his initial favouring of supposedly low-born men at court, by his personal desire for revenge after humiliation, by his lavish expenditure when he recovered power in 1389, by again building up his own party among the nobility and by his ill-judged expedition to Ireland, cancelled out any positive achievements. He saw the house of Lancaster as a barrier in his way and hence he confiscated their estates on the death of Gaunt, an action which provoked real fear among other lords.

AO2 – Candidates should form a judgement about Richard, and any attempts to present him in a more favourable light may be rewarded. But they are more likely to present Richard as overbearing and lacking in wisdom.

Section 7: 1399–1485**32 How great a threat did Owain Glyndwr represent to Henry IV?**

AO1 – Candidates should cover the whole period of the uprising and evaluate change and development in the scale as well as the nature of the threat. Candidates might well take a chronological approach, which so long as it is not descriptive, might work well. Owain Glyndwr declared himself Prince of Wales in 1400 and ruled Wales for nearly 10 years. Candidates might look at his parliaments and what they achieved, his dealings with the French, the Papacy and his dynastic ambitions by marrying his daughter to the rival for the English throne, Edmund, Earl of March. Candidates will need to explain how the problems with Owain Glyndwr exacerbated other problems for Henry IV. Glyndwr should be set in the wider perspective of Henry IV's reign, although the focus should always be on the threat posed. Candidates may also wish to consider the social, economic and political consequences of almost continual fighting in Wales and the Marches over this period. Although Henry was triumphant in 1409, candidates may evaluate the legacy of Glyndwr.

AO2 – Here the focus will be on an evaluation of the nature and seriousness of the threat, especially since it comes so soon after Henry IV's usurpation. Candidates should consider how the threat changes and develops and how Henry deals with it. The threat can be seen both in its own terms, how it destabilises Wales and the effort and expense of putting it down, but also in terms of how it constrains Henry IV, a new monarch, in other areas of his rule.

33 'Nothing more than a great soldier.' Discuss this view of Henry V.

AO1 – This question requires an evaluation of both Henry V's military career and his domestic policy. Candidates will probably agree with the view that he was a great soldier, though they need to go further than simply recount his successes. Material that might be referred to includes: an assessment of his campaigns, not just his success at Agincourt but his ability to plan, equip and sustain those campaigns, sometimes against overwhelming odds. It could be argued that he left his successor dangerously over exposed, yet he did not expect to die so young. In the end what he achieved in a comparatively short space of time was remarkable. Yet, candidates may argue that he would have been unable to triumph abroad, had England not been so well governed, especially given the unrest of his father's reign. Candidates may review his interest in the law and the improvements that were made; his ability to reposition the authority of the crown is generally seen as very successful; his relationship with his nobility was secure, although this may be closely linked to his success as a soldier. He was even able to institute and inspire reforms in the Church.

AO2 – Here the focus is clearly on seeing the inter-relation of his work as a soldier and his achievements as the King of England. This is not an evaluation of whether he was a good soldier or not. The historical debate generally holds that Henry V was both a great soldier and a great king, although some evaluation of contemporary views which might have coloured historical thinking could be discussed. Clearly Henry was very aware of his own image; nevertheless he did gain the French crown, reign over a quietly-governed country and institute useful reform. Moreover the throne was passed on to his baby son, whole and secure, and the minority years of Henry VI's reign may well be a testament to the fact that Henry V was far more than just a great soldier.

34 To what extent was the civil strife of 1455–61 caused by ‘overmighty subjects’?

AO1 – There are many reasons for the civil strife of this period; candidates are expected to evaluate these issues and find links between them. Nevertheless There should be a significant focus on the issue of overmighty subjects. Candidates could explain and analyse how issues change and develop over the period. In terms of overmighty subjects the Beauforts are certainly candidates as is York and his Neville allies; Margaret of Anjou might also lay claim to the title. At the heart of the issue is an undermighty King who relies on factionism and might be accused of creating the problem by over-rewarding the Beauforts. Both the Beauforts and York have a claim to the throne and are excessively wealthy. The issue of the claim to the throne is especially important to Margaret of Anjou as the mother of the heir. Other issues are important: the failure of the war in France and the financial problems it caused and social unrest. The wider noble feuds might be assessed. Success in various battles might be considered as well as significant turning points, such as the desertion of London by Henry VI after 1456, the Parliament of Devils, the Act of Accord and the death of York.

AO2 – Here the focus is on the causes and continuation of civil strife. It is not sufficient simply to consider the reasons for its outbreak in 1455, as issues change and develop over the period. A very persuasive case can be made for the argument, although the point might be made that Henry VI was indeed responsible for the creation and mishandling of overmighty subjects. An argument can also be found in evaluating the claims and personalities of the various overmighty subjects, especially York and Margaret of Anjou.

35 How secure was Edward IV in his first reign (1461–70)?

AO1 – The first reign of Edward IV starts and ends with a usurpation, and it might be argued that the throne cannot be regarded as secure if Edward IV has to leave the country in such a hurry in 1470. However, there is much to be said for his efforts to establish a secure hold on the throne during this period. The first three years of the reign are concerned with securing his position; by 1464 he is secure in the north, especially after the battle of Hexham, but he might be criticised for his over-reliance on Warwick and the Nevilles in this area and in that Henry VI and Margaret of Anjou remained at large. He can be commended for his efforts in re-establishing the administration and going some way towards reviving crown finances. He also makes substantial headway with foreign alliances and coming to terms with the Percys. However, he does make a terrible mistake with his marriage and, arguably, with his collection of taxation. It might be argued that Edward could never be secure while Warwick wanted to rule, and Edward proved, especially after 1464, that he had a mind of his own. Edward could also be criticised for his inaction in 1468–9.

AO2 – Here the focus is on an assessment of the security of Edward IV’s throne during his first reign. A traditional evaluation might see this period as highly unstable, but the very fact that Edward is relatively secure from Lancastrian and foreign interference and threat by 1464 might suggest otherwise. The fact that the threat comes from within his own faction and, indeed, family might not have been foreseen. The argument may well revolve around an evaluation of Edward’s mistakes and Warwick’s unquenchable ambition. Nevertheless, some sense of the positive steps Edward made to strengthen his position should be included.

36 'For all his good qualities as King, Richard III was never likely to achieve stability.' Discuss.

AO1 – Candidates may consider the circumstances of Richard's accession and the events of 1483 as evidence that the reign could not achieve stability. Richard overcame the rebellion of the Duke of Buckingham in 1483. A progress of 1483 was careful to cultivate the cities he passed through, refusing sums of money offered. Richard held a parliament which met in January and February 1484 and which abolished benevolences. There were judicial reforms introducing bail, introducing property qualifications for jurors and restricting the powers of 'piepowder' courts. Richard accepted the protection of English merchants from foreign competition, but the regulations excluded books. Richard offered a charter to the College of Arms and gave it a house for its records. There was a forerunner of the Court of Requests in December 1483 to consider the legal petitions from poor people. In July 1484 the Council of the North was re-established. Richard continued to patronise ecclesiastical building and gave money for the completion of St George's Chapel, Windsor and King's College, Cambridge. He was active in promoting building – Sudeley Castle's great hall and the hall at Middleham. In April 1484 Prince Edward died, leaving Richard without an heir, and when Richard's wife Anne died there were rumours that he had killed her, hoping to marry Elizabeth of York. He publicly denied this and sent Elizabeth away. Richard had to appoint his nephew as heir presumptive. Hostile forces gathered round Henry Tudor, and the Battle of Bosworth saw key lords either failing to engage or changing sides. Richard's death in battle was a decisive, if unusual, event.

AO2 – The arguments may focus on the usurpation destroying credibility – the bloody elimination of rivals, the imprisonment of the princes and the rumours of the murders; the Buckingham Rebellion in the same year may indicate a lack of stability from which the reign could not recover. However, the justification in Edward's precontract and the petition of parliament and the desire not to repeat the instability of the minority of Henry VI, together with Richard's high reputation in the North and his military prowess and piety, may challenge this. His loyalty to Edward and his good qualities as soldier and administrator may not have made him inherently likely to have been overthrown. Other medieval kings had come to the throne in violent and disturbed circumstances. The productive parliament of 1484; the efforts Richard made to get support by making his council include former Lancastrians; his successful progress and the generally efficient way that the Yorkist conciliar government operated do not suggest to some an ongoing state of emergency. What may have been more significant was the death of his son and then his heir – unforeseen in 1483 – and the fortunes of the battlefield. Either the treachery he faced is indicative of inherent instability or it is merely typical of the period. His race to strike down Henry Tudor which ended in his death is either a result of his fear for the loyalty of his followers; or it is a sign of his bravery and his kingly qualities.

Section 8: 1485–1558**37 Assess the view that in his aims and methods, Henry VII was a deeply conservative ruler.**

AO1 – A good range of factors should be considered with some discussion over the issue of ‘New Monarchy’. It might be argued that Henry VII’s main aim was to secure the throne and his dynasty and he did this by repositioning the monarchy and the nobility and addressing issues of law and order. Candidates should consider the following: Henry’s relations with and treatment of the nobility; his use of attainders, bonds and recognisances; the Council Learned in the Law and whether Henry might be seen as ‘anti-nobility’; his alleged use of ‘new men’; his style of government, use of council, use of Chamber finance and his personal scrutiny of government; his policies to restore law and order, especially his use of JPs; his financial dealings, as well as his foreign policy, dynastic policies and dealings with other rulers.

AO2 – Here the focus is on whether Henry introduced new policies that perhaps amounted to a ‘New Monarchy’ or whether he used the traditional policies and methods, albeit very efficiently. The candidate should argue that the idea of a ‘New Monarchy’ has lost any real credibility. Henry might be seen as innovative in his financial policy, especially in his use of Chamber finance. Although this was used by Edward IV, Henry certainly appears to be rapacious, but tends to use traditional methods in an over-scrupulous way. He has been seen as being anti-nobility, but all of the methods he uses, with the exception of the Council Learned in the Law, are traditional. It might be argued that he was attempting to restore the monarchy to its traditional position after a period of civil war. It is difficult to see any real areas of innovation, although perhaps he does understand the new order in Europe and this is partly why he does not attempt a particularly ambitious foreign policy.

38 Why did Henry VIII enjoy limited success in foreign policy from 1509 to 1529?

AO1 – Judged against his grandiose schemes and aims to dominate Europe and follow in the footsteps of Henry V by winning the French crown, Henry VIII’s successes in foreign policy look slender. It will be important to consider the context of Europe, that England lacked the finance and manpower compared to France, Spain or the Empire, especially once the Empire and Spain are combined under Charles V in 1519. Henry is frequently the ‘dupe’ of his allies, consistently let down by rulers whose real focus tended to be Spain. A chronological approach is possible, but should avoid narrative. In his early forays, he makes little impact save for the, Battle of the Spurs. He is let down by his father-in-law, Ferdinand, and the real success comes in Scotland whilst he was out of the country. He achieves some temporary success with the treaty of London, where the diplomatic skills of Wolsey ensured that for a moment London was the centre of European diplomacy. The Field of the Cloth of Gold was an expensive piece of window dressing at a time when Henry had decided to renew his alliance with Charles V. In the early 1520s he is again let down by his allies and is unable to capitalise on Habsburg victory at Pavia for lack of money. After this his efforts switch to his attempts to gain a divorce.

AO2 – Here the focus of the argument must be on an evaluation of success and why, given the outlay of money, there seems to have been little success. However, at times Henry is courted by the other European powers. They certainly cannot ignore him, despite the fact that they frequently fail to adhere to their agreements with him. Candidates may point to the treaty of London as a high point and argue that Henry is more successful in diplomacy than war. An evaluation of Wolsey may be part of the argument; however the focus of the answer should always be an evaluation of foreign policy.

39 How serious was opposition to the Henrician Reformation?

AO1 – Opposition to the Henrician Reformation takes a variety of forms and candidates will need to show that they know about a range of these; however candidates should not describe this range but are expected to evaluate the threat they posed to the throne and to the Reformation itself. There was individual opposition, for example from Fisher, More and Elizabeth Barton. Candidates should show that they understand that the opposition of each of these was for different reasons. Fisher and More were well known and well respected; there was a struggle with all three to silence them. There are groups, especially monks, whose opposition was passive but again these were well respected individuals. Most important in terms of threat is the Pilgrimage of Grace and candidates should not spend some time on this. It is arguably the largest revolt of the century and was not easy to put down. It could be argued that it did not threaten Henry, but his advisors; nevertheless it does constitute serious threat. Some candidates might include the issue of perceived threat, for example it is argued that rebellion was a possibility in 1539, which is one reason why Henry himself ended the Reformation. Candidates might also discuss why there was not more opposition.

AO2 – Here the focus is on an evaluation of the nature and seriousness of the threat. Some sense of evaluation of the different forms of opposition will be expected, and candidates might also evaluate whether the threat was greater at certain times than others. There is historical debate on why opposition was not greater; this might include arguing that the Pilgrimage of Grace was not primarily a religious uprising, although this is contentious. There is also debate on the fact that since the Reformation in Henry's reign was piecemeal, people did not really know at what point to rebel. Candidates might also mention the fact that the population tended to be in the habit of obeying the King and that Henry took unprecedented steps to threaten and punish opposition.

40 How consistently troubled was the reign of Edward VI?

AO1 – There is often a tendency to write off the whole of Edward's reign as a disaster, however there are several areas that need to be evaluated. The reign began with war against France and Scotland, neither of which succeeded and which put the regime under intolerable financial stress. Religion is also an important area. There was opposition to the religious policies, but not in all areas of the country; nevertheless this should be linked to the Western Rebellion. The issue of the economy is also important both in terms of government policy, such as debasement and in terms of economic events, such as poor harvests which were beyond their control. It could be argued that under Somerset there was a breakdown in consiliar rule and that governance broke down completely in the summer of 1549. Yet it is possible to reassert governance fairly quickly and it could be argued that the second half of the reign does witness a better administration. The last months of the reign can also be highlighted as a time of acute crisis as well. Candidates could also compare the abilities of Somerset and Northumberland.

AO2 – Here the focus must be on an evaluation on the issue of consistency. The best answers will identify different forms of crisis and will perhaps highlight the summer of 1549 and the last months of the reign as periods of particular difficulty. Much has been written recently which focuses on the role of the council and how well it was used. There is considerable debate over the abilities of both Somerset and Northumberland which could be used very effectively in this question.

41 'Mary I's attempt to restore Catholicism was an impossible dream.' Discuss.

AO1 – Mary I is most often associated with her religious policies, and whilst there may be some other aspects of her rule that link to religious policies, not least her marriage and foreign policies, the focus of the answer should be on religious matters. The argument that she faced a good deal of opposition has been challenged, yet there are significant areas of opposition. An evaluation of her dealings with parliament, both the Commons and the Lords, will be important, but candidates might note that much of this is to do with property and heresy laws, and these issues are settled. Candidates should refer to the exiles and to the burnings; they should also refer to Wyatt's Rebellion, but might evaluate this as being mainly about other issues such as the Spanish marriage. She was successful in returning England to the papacy and had she lived longer, or had a Catholic heir, she might have succeeded in a permanent counter-reformation. Candidates might refer to her lack of inspirational clergy, lack of money, the harshness of people like Pole, or the population's distaste for the burnings. They might note that one of the problems was not anti-Catholicism, but a deeply rooted anti-papal attitude.

AO2 – Here the focus is clearly on religious policy. The historical debate could be used effectively to argue that Protestantism was far from secure and that there were very real differences in various parts of the country. Mary took heart from her enthusiastic elevation to the throne and her attitudes and understanding could be key, especially as she took an increasingly hard line. There were areas, such as the property issue, that were never going to be resolved in her favour, and in the end she struggled with a lack of time, of money and perhaps of real enthusiasm for Roman Catholicism.

Section 9: Themes c. 1066–1558**42 How feudal was English society between 1066 and c. 1400?**

AO1 – One effect of the Norman Conquest was that English society became very feudal, with the aristocracy enmeshed in the system. All land was deemed to be held from the king. The ramifications of the feudal hierarchy meant that it was never that precise. Another view might be that during times of crisis, such as the reign of Stephen or the years after the Black Death, the feudal bond loosened and could even be broken, and personal service was neglected or replaced by money. The levying of scutage was an early example of this.

AO2 – Candidates may conclude that society could never be wholly feudal as other relationships were bound to intrude and that the advantages, even for feudal lords, could be muted. Hence, kings found it in their interests to use mercenaries rather than a feudal host, and to rent out land rather than farm it with the unwilling service of tied peasants.

43 Who contributed more to English religious life in the thirteenth century, the monks or the friars?

AO1 – In favour of the monks, candidates might suggest that monasteries were well established by 1200 and the routine of prayer and work was secure. Provision was made for the poor, both within and without the confines of the monastery. Monastic chroniclers, such as Jocelin of Brakelond and Roger of Wendover and Matthew Paris at St Albans, made a considerable contribution to historical writing. Alexander Neckham was a philosophical author. Some monasteries had monks of an artistic inclination, notably St Albans, and in others the abbot might be a patron of painters. Some ran schools or supported students at other schools and universities. Some lent out volumes from their extensive libraries. But the friars are likely to be the favoured alternative. Both the Franciscans and Dominicans spread rapidly in England once they arrived and brought preaching to many towns and cities. The training of the Dominicans as preachers led them to establish schools and then move on to universities. The Franciscans, helped by the patronage and encouragement of Grosseteste at Oxford, produced many lecturers for colleges and monasteries, and Roger Bacon, John Pecham, William of Occam, Duns Scotus and Adam Marsh were all Franciscans.

AO2 – Candidates may conclude that the thirteenth century saw the glory of the friars, while the monasteries produced few great minds, and even the illumination of manuscripts was being carried out by lay brothers. But by 1400 the friars, too, showed signs of losing some of their initial fervour.

44 Assess the factors which led to the development of English literature in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

AO1 – Candidates might argue that the factors would include the matter of patronage, both from the crown under Edward III and Richard II, and from nobles like Humphrey of Gloucester or Anthony Woodville. The aristocratic interest in chivalry was spurred by the Hundred Years War, marking a revival in Arthurian themes, notably taken up by Malory. Chaucer played a pivotal role and appealed to the interests of the male nobility. William Langland, John Gower and John Lydgate developed new genres. The impact of Wycliffe's Bible affected religious works. By the 1450s, English was the language of choice for most writers. The invention of printing was another impetus with Chaucer and the *Brut Chronicles* being early works printed by Caxton. Greater literacy helped as well.

AO2 – Candidates may suggest that the extraordinary development in English literature almost defies explanation and that a good deal depends on the genius of Chaucer, recognised at the time as one who adorned English with his eloquence.

45 How serious a threat was Lollardy to the medieval church?

AO1 – There is a great deal of debate here over the size of the problem. Candidates will need to consider the nature and extent of the threat and may conclude that the threat diminishes over the period. The threat is more prevalent in some areas, in particular the south. Candidates may conclude that Lollardy had already had its day by 1399. Wycliffe died in 1384 and his sometime supporter John of Gaunt died in 1399. The movement is increasingly persecuted and driven underground, although there are some notable survivals. Candidates may take the view that Lollardy did encourage a greater sense of individual piety and a focus on the gospels; it also encouraged criticism of Church institutions and anti-clericalism. Most candidates will probably conclude that it was not a particularly serious threat in itself, but was more of a threat in terms of encouraging criticism.

AO2 – Here the focus is on evaluation the nature and extent of threat. The historical argument is interesting. Traditionally Lollardy was credited with having encouraged the Reformation in terms of its survivals and the habits of criticism it encouraged in the English people. However, this view has been convincingly challenged, with many historians largely discounting Lollardy after the mid-fifteenth century. Some candidates might argue that rather than being a threat, Lollardy gave the Church the opportunity to examine itself and rectify some of the problems.

46 To what extent had the House of Commons become more powerful by 1529 than it had been in 1399?

AO1 – Responses to this question will need to range across the whole period and should take careful note of the key dates. Candidates should consider change and development over the period. A thematic approach could also be used in considering issues such as: taxation; support for war; usage for succession; punishment of nobility during rebellion and civil war; and increased use by individual members. In terms of taxation, supply for Henry V and Henry VIII's wars could be contrasted with growing hostility to the taxation for the failing war in the reign of Henry VI and the reluctance of Henry VII to ask for taxation. There is considerable material to be referred to when dealing with succession, most notably after an usurpation and in relation to such issues as the Act of Accord. Candidates should mention: the use of Parliament for attainders; resumptions and treason; the Parliament of Devils; the growing use of Parliament for issues related to trade and local issues. The focus must clearly be on the House of Commons, with some sense of how this relates to the power of the House of Lords.

AO2 – Here the focus will be to evaluate usage and importance. Most candidates may conclude that it waxes and wanes, but that by the end of the period there is no profound change. Candidates may well reflect on the nature of Parliament, in particular its relationship to the Lords through patronage and faction, how the Commons can be 'packed' and influenced by significant figures. Some candidates might reflect on how its significance and power relates to that of the King.

47 'A century of remarkable achievement in architecture.' What best explains this verdict on the fifteenth century?

AO1 – The issue of church architecture is important. However, candidates may also wish to consider domestic architecture as well. There is a good deal to be written in terms of fifteenth-century halls and barns and in terms of buildings erected by towns, universities and individuals. Despite the civil war in the century, it is a time of considerable prosperity, particularly in certain areas of the country. The 'cloth churches' of East Anglia and the Cotswolds are a case in point. Candidates might explore the unique building style of this period. Simple prosperity is not enough to explain this and candidates might comment on the increases in lay piety, with a movement away from monastic building towards the building of parish churches and indeed private chapels. Changes in the way in which lay piety is expressed might also go some way to explain the buildings in Oxford and Cambridge. In terms of lay architecture, issues such as the rise of the yeomanry and civic pride might be considered. It is important that examples are used to support the argument.

AO2 – Here the focus is on evaluating the relative reasons for the growth. Candidates might consider that this growth was far from uniform; some might argue that this calls into question the whole premise of the question. This is a reasonable issue to raise but should not constitute the bulk of the argument.

