



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate
Principal Subject

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HISTORY

9769/51

Paper 5a Special Subject: The Norman Conquest, 1051–1087

May/June 2011

2 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.

Do **not** use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer Question 1 and **one** other question.

You are reminded of the need for analysis and critical evaluation in your answers to questions. You should also show, where appropriate, an awareness of links and comparisons between different countries and different periods.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.



Answer the following question.

Nominated topic: The Invasion of 1066

- 1** Study all the following documents and answer all the questions which follow. In evaluating and commenting upon the documents, it is essential to set them alongside, and to make use of, your own contextual knowledge.

- A** *An English chronicler, probably writing in Worcester, gives an account of King Harold's campaigns in 1066.*

Harold our king came upon the Norwegians by surprise and met them at Stamford Bridge with a large force of the English and that day there was a fierce fight. William came from Normandy to Pevensey and built a castle. King Harold was told of this, and he mustered a large army, and came against him at the hoary apple tree. William caught him unawares before his army was drawn up in battle array. Nevertheless the King fought boldly. King Harold was killed, and Earl Leofwine and Earl Gyrth his brothers and many good men, and the French remained masters of the field as God granted it to them because of the sins of the people.

Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, 1066.

- B** *A narrative account of the battle of Hastings attributed to Guy, Bishop of Amiens.*

The God-fearing Duke courageously approached the steep slopes of the hill. The French attacked the left, the Bretons the right, the Duke with the Normans fought in the centre. The French, skilled in warfare, pretended to fly as if defeated. The English rejoiced and believed they had won; they pursued with swords. But those who feigned flight turned on the pursuers. The English people, prevailing by their numbers, repulsed the enemy. When the Duke saw his people retreat, he rushed to confront the rout. Raging, he bared his head of his helmet. To the Normans he showed a furious countenance. The Duke then assailed the enemy more strongly. Now the Duke sighted the King far off on the hill. He called Eustace to him. Hugh of Ponthieu escorted these two. The fourth was Giffard. These four bore arms for the destruction of the King. The rumour 'Harold is dead' spread through the fray. The English besought mercy.

Carmen de Hastingae Proelio, c.1068.

- C** *William's chaplain, who had previously been a soldier, gives his account of the Duke's tactics.*

The Duke advanced with the papal banner which had been granted to him. In the van he placed foot-soldiers equipped with arrows and crossbows; in the second rank came the more heavily armed infantry, clad in hauberks; and finally came the squadrons of knights in the midst of whom he rode himself showing invincible courage. The English had the advantage of the ground and profited by remaining within their position in close order. The foot-soldiers and the Breton knights, panic-stricken by the violence of the assault, broke in flight before the English. Seeing the hostile host pursuing his own troops, the Duke thrust himself in front of those in flight, shouting at them and threatening them. He took off his helmet and cried 'I am still alive.'

Inflamed by his ardour, the Normans then surrounded several thousands of their pursuers and cut them down. Realising that they could not overcome an army massed so strongly in close formation, the Normans feigned flight. Twice was this ruse employed with the utmost success. Duke William dominated this battle, checking his own men in flight, strengthening their spirit,

and sharing their dangers. Evening was now falling. The English knew they had lost a great part of their army, and their King with two of his brothers and many of their greatest men had fallen.

William of Poitiers, *Gesta Willelmi Ducis Normannorum et Regis Anglorum*, c.1071.

- D** *A chronicler, probably John of Worcester, writing in the first half of the twelfth century, but with access to earlier sources, reviews the two opposing forces.*

William had arrived with a countless host of horsemen, slingers, archers and foot-soldiers, and had brought with him also powerful help from all parts of Gaul. Therefore King Harold at once, and in great haste, marched with his army to London. Although he knew that some of the bravest Englishmen had fallen in the two former battles, and that one half of his army had not yet arrived, he did not hesitate to advance with all speed against his enemies. Before a third of his army was in order for fighting, he joined battle with them. But as the English were drawn up in a narrow place, many retired from the ranks, and very few remained true to him.

Chronicle of Florence of Worcester, compiled c.1140.

- E** *A modern historian presents an assessment of the opposing forces and commanders at Hastings.*

Why did our Norman ancestors win, and our Saxon ancestors lose this conflict? In fighting power the two armies showed themselves to be practically equal. The commanders were probably the greatest captains of war of their period, and their skills also equal: but William appears to have out-generalled Harold. Having induced him to make the strategic error of attempting to complete his concentration at Caldbec Hill, William struck immediately, and thus threw him on the defensive. Reasons have been given for supposing that Harold counter-attacked prematurely in the second phase, a tactical error. The issue hung in the balance, and the Normans were nearly driven from the field once, and put to flight three times before the end came. One cannot but admire the tactical ability of William whose lightning cavalry charges restored the situation.

Charles H. Lemmon, *The Norman Conquest: the campaign of 1066*, published in 1966.

- (a)** How far does Document D corroborate the evidence provided by Document C concerning the size and composition of Duke William's army? [10]
- (b)** How convincing is the evidence provided by this set of documents for the view that the outcome of the battle of Hastings was determined chiefly by Duke William's leadership?

In making your evaluation, you should refer to contextual knowledge as well as to all the documents in this set (A–E). [20]

Answer one of the following questions. *Where appropriate, your essay should make use of any relevant documents you have studied as well as contextual knowledge.*

- 2 Assess the importance of the part played by the Godwin family in the reign of Edward the Confessor. [30]
- 3 How serious a threat to William I's rule was presented by rebellions in England? [30]
- 4 How greatly did the Norman Conquest affect the government and legal system of England? [30]

Copyright Acknowledgements:

Question 1 Document E

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