

A-level HISTORY

Component 2A Royal Authority and the Angevin Kings, 1154–1216

Wednesday 3 June 2020 Morning Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7042/2A.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the two questions in Section B.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Source A

From a letter by Thomas Becket to Henry II in 1166 whilst Becket was exiled in France.

I have greatly desired to see you so that you might recall the services I rendered faithfully to you. I also owe you my counsel. In that you are my king, I am bound by my office to chasten and correct you. For the Church of God consists of two orders, clergy and people. It is the clergy who are committed to the care of the Church; it was St Peter and rulers of the Church who were given this charge and not kings or princes. And since it is certain that kings receive their power from the Church, and the Church receives theirs from Christ, you do not have the power to give orders to bishops, nor drag clerks before secular trials. Be mindful of the promises you made at your coronation when you promised to preserve Church liberties. Restore then, to Canterbury, the rank and status it held in the time of your predecessors. Otherwise you may know for certain that you will experience divine severity and vengeance.

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Source B

From Edward Grim's 'Life of St Thomas', published c1180. Grim was a clerk and an eyewitness to the events he describes. He was injured in the attack on Becket.

So then the miserable wretches, as soon as they landed in England, summoned the King's officials who had already been excommunicated by the Archbishop. By falsely proclaiming that that they were acting with the King's approval, they got together a band of knights who believed that they were to settle the affair by the order of the King. The four knights forced their way into the Archbishop's household and were received with respect as servants of the King. The Archbishop met them in a friendly manner, but the wretches, who had already made a pact with death, answered his greeting with curses. These wretches so desired the slaughter of the Archbishop that they might have killed him there and then with the shaft of his own cross. Before long, the murderers came back in full armour. The Archbishop's servants cried to him that he should flee, but Thomas rejected flight. He, who had long since yearned for martyrdom, now saw that the occasion to embrace it had arrived.

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Source C

From a letter sent to Pope Alexander III by Arnulf, Bishop of Lisieux, in early 1171. Arnulf was the chief negotiator on the King's behalf after the death of Becket.

While we assembled in council we received the sudden news about the death of the Archbishop of Canterbury and it plunged us all into the deepest distress. We learnt on unimpeachable authority that certain enemies of the Archbishop, provoked by frequent causes of exasperation to anger and madness, had assaulted his person and put him to a cruel death. The King burst into a loud expression of grief upon hearing this and exchanged his royal robes for sackcloth and ashes. The King fears that the perpetrators of the crime, counting upon his old hostility with the Archbishop, had promised themselves exemption from punishment on that account. He worries that his name will be discredited by the lies that the crime was committed with his knowledge. The King called upon Almighty God to witness that he had neither willed this wicked deed, nor had known that it had been committed. He will submit himself entirely to the judgement of the Church and he will humbly abide by its decision.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the conflict between Henry II and Thomas Becket.

[30 marks]**Turn over for Section B**

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 'Henry II was in a strong position at the time of his accession in 1154.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3 To what extent, by 1199, had Richard fully recovered from the problems that he had faced upon his return from captivity in 1194?

[25 marks]

0 4 'John's failures in Normandy, in the years 1204 to 1214, were more the result of his own incompetence than Philip II's strength.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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