



Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate

HISTORY (PRINCIPAL)

9769/51

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

May/June 2015

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 an HB pencil for any diagrams or graphs.

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

DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

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.

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 **4** printed pages.

Answer the following question.**Nominated topic: The reign of Edward the Confessor**

- 1 Study the following documents and answer 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 *A chronicler from the north of England describes events in 1051.*

Godwin and his sons marched with their forces on Gloucester and sent messages to the king demanding the surrender of Eustace, the earl of Boulogne, whose men had killed a number of men and women in Dover, and had trampled infants under their horses' feet. Godwin was greatly enraged that such things should happen in his county of Kent. Edward was alarmed at this demand and did not very well know what to do. But when he found that the army of the earls Leofric and Siward was at hand he stoutly replied that he would not give up Eustace on any account. The king's army was so excited that, if the king had allowed, they would have gone at once to fight Godwin's army. But, since some of the best men of all England were gathered on one side or the other, it seemed to Earl Leofric that it would be a great mistake for them to engage in battle with their fellow countrymen. So, hostages were given on each side and a day appointed for the king and Earl Godwin to settle matters in London.

Simeon of Durham, *A History of the Kings of England*, 1072.

B *A Saxon Chronicle gives its view on the downfall of Godwin.*

Every Englishman would have thought it incredible if they had known the outcome of events in advance. Godwin had been raised to such a height that he ruled the king and all England. His sons were earls and the king's darlings. His daughter was wedded to the king. But, in September 1051, Godwin went into exile to Bruges with much treasure. Soon afterwards the king dismissed the queen and ordered all her land and gold and silver to be taken from her. He sent her to his sister at the nunnery at Wherwell. Soon after, Duke William of Normandy came from across the sea with a large retinue of Frenchmen and the king entertained him.

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, 1051.

C *A chronicler outlines events on the south coast and in London in 1052.*

Earl Godwin escaped the observation of the king's look-outs and returned to Dover. He sent secret messengers to persuade men to support his cause and won over the Kentishmen and then the people of Sussex, Essex and Surrey and many seafaring men. All these declared with one voice that they were ready to live and die with him. His sons Harold and Leofwine joined him. They now ceased plundering and laying waste the country and collected all the men they could. Meanwhile Godwin dealt with the citizens of London, some in person and others through his messengers. Having enticed them with a variety of promises, he persuaded nearly all of them to come over to his side.

Florence of Worcester, *Chronicle*, written before 1118.

D *Another chronicler gives his version of the events of 1052.*

The king's forces resisted the exiles and Edward himself was active on board his ship. His wisdom compensated for his inability to lead his forces in person. Godwin eventually returned with peaceful intentions and met the king in London. Godwin, although an old man, was skilled in leading the minds of his audience and in a short time prevailed so that he recovered all his honours undiminished together with those of his children. He was able to drive all the Normans from England and get sentence passed on Robert, the Archbishop of Canterbury, for disturbing the peace of the kingdom and poisoning the royal mind against his loyal subjects.

William of Malmesbury, *Chronicle of the Kings of England*, written about 1125.

E *A modern historian assesses the events of 1051–52.*

In September 1052 Godwin recovered Wessex, Harold regained East Anglia and the queen recovered her position at court. There were, no doubt, checks which prevented Godwin and Harold from pushing their victory too hard. Earls Leofric and Siward would not have tolerated the complete humiliation of the king. But Godwin hardly needed much external restraint. He wanted to recover his losses and punish his personal enemies, but he also wanted to work with Edward again. It is unlikely that Godwin was ever tempted to get rid of Edward. He himself cannot have aspired to the crown. His hopes lay in a grandson, yet unborn, and his aim was to restore harmony in the royal household and create conditions under which, even at this late hour, an heir might be produced. So, once those who had poisoned the king's mind had been removed, everything was done to conciliate the king and soften the blow.

Frank Barlow, *Edward the Confessor*, 1970.

- (a) To what extent are the views about Godwin in Document D corroborated by the evidence in Document A? [10]
- (b) How convincing is the evidence provided by this set of documents for the view that in 1051–52 Earl Godwin was more powerful than Edward the Confessor?

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 How justified is the view that the victory of the Normans at the Battle of Hastings resulted from their superior military strength? [30]
- 3 What best explains the changing levels of English resistance to William I during his reign? [30]
- 4 'More continuity than change.' How valid is this judgement on the impact of the Norman Conquest on English government and law? [30]

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (UCLES) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in the Cambridge International Examinations Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at www.cie.org.uk after the live examination series.

Cambridge International Examinations is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is itself a department of the University of Cambridge.