



Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate

HISTORY

9769/21

Paper 2a European History Outlines, c.300–c.1500

May/June 2016

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 90

Published

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

Cambridge will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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Section 1: c.300–c.632

1 What best explains Diocletian's achievements as Roman Emperor?

AO1 – The question concerns the reasons for the successes enjoyed by Diocletian as Emperor and evaluation as to the factor which was most important in bringing about that outcome.

AO2 – Explanations might include the vigour with which he pursued his programme of reform, the feeling within the Empire that an end to instability would be welcome and the length of his reign which allowed his policies to take root. The most pressing problem he faced was the need to provide means whereby the Emperor could respond rapidly to any military threat. He did this by introducing the Tetrarchic system, which lessened the potential for a general to revolt in a province. He also made the provinces smaller and separated military and civil administration. He reformed the army, making it more flexible and able to defend the frontiers more effectively. He tried to fix prices to combat inflation. All in all, Roman society became more regulated, but the Romans accepted restrictions as the price of a more settled situation.

2 With what justification can Pope Gregory be described as 'the Great'?

AO1 – The question concerns the extent to which the achievements of Gregory can be judged to be outstanding as opposed to simply successful or significant. Candidates could refer to his promotion of the Benedictine Rule, his sending of missions to outlying parts of Europe, his extensive correspondence and to his efforts at restoration in Rome.

AO2 – Arguments might include the suggestion that Gregory ensured the primacy of one monastic Rule and so prevented dissension. Also he sent the mission which began the conversion of the English, who were to be a great support for the Church. In the end, Roman Christianity was to triumph over the Celtic customs. In Rome itself he was able to increase papal lands and could be claimed to be the founder of the Papal States, on which so much papal power was to rest. His pastoral letters were models for later bishops. He favoured the ascetic approach, which was to echo through the medieval period. But he was not universally recognised or obeyed, so there were limits to his power and achievements.

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3 How far do barbarian incursions explain the fall of the Roman Empire?

AO1 – The question concerns the reasons for the fall of the Roman Empire, one of which is the factor in the question and which should be discussed in some depth. Candidates could refer to other explanations and are then expected to reach a judgement about the most important explanation.

AO2 – Explanations relating to the barbarian incursions could refer to various German groups who were largely herdsmen and hence nomadic and in search of fresh pastures for their flocks. The Goths had initially fled from the Huns and asked for refuge from the Emperor. The Vandals penetrated to Spain and thus were able to cross to North Africa and threaten Rome by sea. The Roman policy of embroiling the Goths with the Huns, as pursued by Aetius, failed and Attila was able to invade Italy. His death in 453 led the Goths to rebel and turn on the Huns and by 476 the Roman Empire in the west was in its last phase. Vandals, Visigoths, Burgundians, Anglo-Saxons and Franks were all in control of parts of the erstwhile Roman territory.

Alternative factors could include the economic decline of the Empire once war no longer provided revenue, since Rome consumed the products of the Empire and manufactured little itself. As the currency was debased, Romans looked to land as an investment and so retreated from the towns to the country, thus impacting on the economy. The falling population was a further factor. The dependency on slaves, sapping the strength from Rome and the conversion to Christianity to similar effect have also been put forward as possible reasons for the decline.

4 Did the successes of Clovis owe more to his personality or to circumstances?

AO1 – The question concerns the reasons why Clovis was a successful king. Two possible explanations are given in the question and these should be the focus of the discussion. Alternatives are not asked for.

AO2 – One of the main sources for the reign of Clovis is Gregory of Tours, who presented Clovis as a model Catholic warrior king; other sources are sparse. Hence other views of Clovis are not fully available. Evidence from letters written to him by bishops suggest he was willing to listen to their advice. His military exploits when in his early twenties indicate he had some talent as a soldier as he subjugated the warlords of northern Gaul.

The circumstances facing Clovis may have been fortunate, but were manipulated by the king to an extent. The conversion of Clovis to Catholic Christianity was an asset as his neighbours were nearly all Arians, and enabled him to defeat the Burgundians with the full backing of the Gallo-Roman Church. He was also helped by the extent of Roman civilization in the south of the Frankish territories in particular, where trade was flourishing and Roman law prevailed. In addition, Clovis had heirs in the shape of his four sons, although this proved less of an asset when his kingdom was divided between them on his death.

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5 'He ruled by coercion and won little popularity.' Assess this judgement on Justinian.

AO1 – The question concerns assessment of two views of the reign of Justinian, so candidates are expected to discuss how far his rule was coercive, how far consensual on the one hand and whether he was popular or not on the other. Some judgement should be made on each of the statements, but candidates are not being asked to decide which statement is the more accurate.

AO2 – Candidates could refer to the wars of conquest fought by Justinian and his generals, which were clearly coercive. Justinian dealt firmly with opposition and some evidence suggests his wife, Theodora, was ruthless in eradicating those she saw as enemies. But the issue of the Corpus Juris Civilis does not indicate an Emperor with no respect for the law or for the customs which had shaped Roman society. The importance Justinian attached to the work of Tribonian and the establishment of a body of 'case law' shows that he was not trying to rule above the law in general terms.

As for popularity, the riots of 532, although arising from the rivalries of the hippodrome, involved a pretender to the imperial throne, so indicate a lack of popularity. The excessive taxation needed to finance Justinian's conquests and imperial dream was not popular. But the achievements of his Empire and the rebuilding of Constantinople gave his subjects a cause for pride, reflected in the six books by Procopius on the Buildings.

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Section 2: c.632–c.919

**6 ‘Lack of effective opposition best explains the spread of Islam in Spain up to 1002.’
Discuss.**

AO1 – This question concerns assessment of the reasons why Islam penetrated into Spain. The factor in the question should be fully considered alongside other possible explanations, such as the power of the Arabs and their determination to forward the interest of their religion.

AO2 – One reason for the lack of resistance in Spain lay in the relatively peaceful Visigothic kingdom, which was unprepared for the rapidity of the Arab attack. They were not organised for war and had few military resources. Their administration was centred on Toledo and so was fatally weakened by its fall early in the conquests. The conquests were followed by the conversion of the people to Islam, probably much more speedily in the towns than in the countryside. In some cases, the conversion resulted from confrontational tactics by the Christians such as the ‘martyr movement’ in Cordoba in the ninth century. This led on to attacks on surviving Christian monasteries in the area and to migrations of monasteries to the Christian areas of northern Spain.

7 Which was the greater priority for Charlemagne as Emperor: his religious aims or his military ambitions?

AO1 – The question concerns the main intentions of Charlemagne as Emperor. Two alternatives are put forward for discussion so aims other than these are not the focus of the question. Candidates could make a definitive judgement between the two or they could suggest that for Charlemagne the two facets of his policy ran together as a single unity.

AO2 – With regard to Charlemagne’s military ambitions, candidates could argue that the basis of the Carolingian state was the army and that the warlords who served Charlemagne needed to be satiated. In addition, the frontiers of the Franks required defence and definition. Hence conquest was a necessity as well as being desirable. Once Charlemagne had begun on his conquests, maintaining his vast empire became a clear priority. The booty that was acquired helped to keep his army loyal and to finance further undertakings.

But Charlemagne’s religious aims pervaded his whole reign. One of his intentions in defeating the Saxons was to convert them to Christianity. He attacked the Lombards at the request of the Pope. His invasion of Spain was to fight Muslims. His other religious aim was to improve the standard of worship by instigating the process known as *correctio*, with the help of recruits like Alcuin. He also hoped to rule over a Christian state, where law and justice prevailed, and he used both secular and religious leaders to help him as members of his advisory council and as *missi dominici*.

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8 What best explains the decline of the Carolingian Empire?

AO1 – The question concerns the reasons why the Carolingian Empire broke up after the death of Charlemagne and candidates can be expected to make a judgement about what was the main reason.

AO2 – One of the explanations is likely to be the disputes between the heirs of Charlemagne. Louis the Pious attempted the introduction of more uniformity into his empire, enforcing stricter rules on the clergy and monks and trying to make his territories into a single unit, with one legal system, rather than many different entities. This led him to wish to subvert the traditional Frankish custom of partible inheritance (dividing the lands of a ruler among his sons) which, in turn, caused conflict with his younger sons who had the support of Frankish traditionalists. The ambitions of his second wife, Judith, for her son led to a division being proposed, but changing circumstances meant that the proposals were temporary and new ones were constantly being put forward. Deaths among the royal family meant that in 869 a partition was agreed between Charles the Bold and Louis the German.

Alternatively, the Empire was under attack from invaders and was, arguably, too large to be defended successfully. The Vikings attacked from the north and west, the Saracens from the south and the Hungarians from the east. All these groups caused destruction wherever they went. The lack of good naval defences allowed the Vikings to advance and by 911 they were established in what became Normandy. The Saracens also relied on naval power to sweep into Italy and southern France, while the Hungarians, notable horsemen, dominated parts of northern Italy and southern Germany. The rulers under attack often relied on the building of castles and other strong points to deter the invaders, but defence was more easily organised by rulers of small states than of vast empires and so the Carolingians were at a disadvantage.

9 ‘Successful traders using the methods of barbarian warriors.’ How accurate is this view of the Vikings in continental Europe in the ninth century?

AO1 – This question concerns the analysis of different views about the Vikings. On the one hand, they can be described as traders, that is relatively peaceful in their occupations, or, on the other, using barbaric methods, sacking and harrying innocent civilians. It is also possible that both descriptions could be used at different times or of different groups.

AO2 – Much of the evidence for trading activity comes from archaeology as the only written sources in Scandinavia are runic inscriptions. Trading centres at places such as Hedeby bear witness to the strength of trade. King Godofred was enriched by tolls on goods passing through. Ports in northern France and at sites like Hamwic and Ipswich in England are further evidence.

The reasons for the outbreak of raiding in the tenth century are quite obscure, although the civil wars in Denmark may have contributed in that the losers decided to seek their fortunes elsewhere and that rivals could have gone raiding to build up wealth to pay for armies and reward their followers. In Norway and Sweden, there were a number of petty rival kingdoms. Some of the raiding resulted from the displacement of Saxons in northern Germany in favour of Slavs who were allies of the Franks. The sacking of Frankish towns was certainly barbaric, but the Vikings were also ready to accept bribes to go away. By the end of the century, they were beginning to settle in the river valleys and were easier to contain. They never threatened the territorial integrity of the Franks, but were successful in battle on several occasions.

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10 Why was there so much instability in Germany in the period 843–919?

AO1 – This question concerns the reasons for the problems which developed in Germany after the treaty of Verdun, which divided up Charlemagne’s Empire. These problems were exacerbated in Germany as compared with other parts of the former Carolingian Empire.

AO2 – One of the reasons for instability lay in the break-up of the Carolingian Empire, since the three heirs of Charlemagne were eager to obtain more lands. Lewis, called the German, was no exception and tried to seize parts of France. Moreover, he was under attack from the Northmen and from the Slavs. Another feature was the power of the Church. The rulers often depended on their bishops and on the Pope and tried to ensure the election of a favourable pontiff. The bishops, in turn, claimed supreme authority, undermining the secular rulers. Lewis suffered too from the plotting of his sons and of the nobles in Germany. Some of the rulers who succeeded him were incapable such as Charles III, whose ineffective defence of his Empire resulted in his deposition. Lewis III was a child when he became king and disorder became rife, not helped by Magyar invasions. Conrad III faced endless rebellions by the tribal dukes as the disunity worsened to such an extent that when he died he favoured the election of the most powerful of the rebels, Henry of Saxony.

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Section 3: c.919–1099

11 How successful a ruler was Otto III?

AO1 – The question concerns an assessment of the reign of Otto III, 994–1002, and how much Otto achieved during his relatively brief personal rule.

AO2 – The main limiting factor to the success of Otto may be taken to be the shortness of his reign, which meant he did not have time to see his plans fulfilled, particularly his policy of binding leaders in Italy and Poland to him personally. After he left Rome, the city rebelled again. He died childless. His success can be seen in his appointment of his former tutor as Pope, who took the name Silvester, significant as the name of the Pope who was supposed to have baptised Constantine. He was inclined to religious asceticism and sometimes abandoned government to go on pilgrimage. His insistence on the Roman nature of his empire led him to try to become more like a Roman or Byzantine ruler – his mother was a princess from Byzantium. He visited Aachen in 1000 and opened the tomb of Charlemagne and the memory and legend of Charlemagne benefited the Ottonian Empire. Otto continued the traditional empire, building on Christianity, Rome and Charlemagne. Thus, his success lay in continuation rather than innovation. But he recognised that it was necessary to be seen by his people and travelled all over his lands.

12 ‘Norman rule in Sicily depended entirely on the achievements of Roger II.’ Discuss.

AO1 – The question is concerned with the reasons why the Normans were able to maintain their hegemony in Sicily. The achievements of Roger II need to be set against other factors explaining Norman success.

AO2 – The foundation of Norman power in Sicily could be explained by their early role there as mercenaries. The sons of Tancred de Hauteville were conspicuous in this role and, of them, Robert Guiscard was pre-eminent. He was little better than a bandit and the Popes tried and failed to subdue him, partly because they could not rely on aid from the Emperor. He became the Duke of Sicily at the hands of Pope Nicholas II and his younger brother was authorised to invade the parts of Sicily under Muslim rule. He died in 1085 by which time he was lord of southern Sicily. His brother, Roger I, also contributed and built up a principality to rival that of his kinsmen in England. He died in 1101 and from 1113 to 1154 Roger II governed Sicily in person. Roger had been born in the south and so was less influenced by the northern Normans and aimed to integrate the different groups in Sicily. He kept a largely Greek administration and relied on Normans for his army. He issued a revised legal code, based on Roman models and made Sicily one of the best run and autocratic kingdoms of his day. Robert of Salisbury was his Chancellor in his later years.

Thus the argument is between the laying of the foundations in Sicily and of building on them. Roger’s ambitions in Italy are only relevant where they affected his rule in Sicily.

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13 How serious were the problems facing Byzantine Emperor Alexius I on his accession?

AO1 – The question is concerned with the difficulties which Alexius faced when he became Emperor and how serious they were. Candidates could refer to the circumstances of Alexius' accession and to his early campaigns against the Normans, along with problems he encountered in Thrace.

AO2 – One view could be that the problems were considerable. He came to the throne in 1081 as a result of a conspiracy and initially as a co-emperor. He faced invasion from Robert Guiscard and his son, Bohemond, and suffered defeats and loss of territory. There was discord in Thrace from the heretical Bogomils and threats from the Pechenegs. He was never all that popular and faced numerous plots to overthrow him.

Alternatively, he was able to secure his position by imprisoning some of his co-conspirators and deposing his co-emperor. His marriage to Irene gave him a useful alliance and the birth of two children, one a son and heir, strengthened his position. He made alliances to help against the Normans and eventually won back most of the land they had gained and he was able to defeat his internal enemies.

14 Did the Papacy win the Investiture Contest?

AO1 – The question is concerned with the outcome of the dispute over lay investiture and not with the details of the Contest. The argument could be centred on the extent to which the Pope gained his intended aims and on how far the rulers of Europe managed to hold on to their powers in church appointments.

AO2 – The aims of the Papacy, notably Gregory VII, can be defined. Gregory wanted to end the handing of the pastoral staff and ring to a bishop, which implied that the bishop's pastoral authority depended on the king as well as his temporal possessions. The political situation in Germany allowed Gregory to appear totally victorious at the surrender of Henry IV at Canossa in 1076. But this did not last and Gregory was to die in exile in 1085, apparently defeated.

But, in the longer term, the Papacy gained. When Urban II became Pope in 1088, his authority was bolstered by preaching the First Crusade and its subsequent success, and he was able to repeat the decrees against lay investiture. In both France and England, lay investiture was given up, but kings continued to appoint bishops and to expect homage from them. The Papacy had become more powerful. Even in Germany the point was eventually conceded. The claims of the Papacy were later further developed as it asserted its independence from Imperial control.

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15 (Candidates offering Paper 5b: The Crusades should not answer this question.)
Was profit more important than piety for those who fought in the First Crusade?

AO1 – The question is concerned with the motives of those who went on the First Crusade and suggests two possible reasons for crusaders to embark on the project. Candidates are asked to make a judgement between the two. Other explanations are not required. The so-called People's Crusade can be included.

AO2 – Piety was one theme of the preaching of Urban II at Clermont. It is emphasised in the *Gesta Francorum*, one of the earliest of the many accounts of the crusades. The stirring preaching of Peter the Hermit inspired many peasants to join in the initial response. The presence of a papal legate and of chaplains confirmed the religious aspects and events like the discovery of the Holy Lance suggest that religious feeling was strong. Armies processed round the churches of Antioch and men made their confessions and were absolved in Antioch. The reaction of some to the fall of Jerusalem was joy at being able to visit the scene of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. Godfrey was seen as genuinely pious.

Profit, however, may well have figured as a motive. Unlike later crusades, the First was led by men like Robert of Normandy and Raymond of Toulouse, who were not monarchs, and by landless nobles like Baldwin and especially Bohemond. These could have hoped for profit. The Emperor Alexius certainly believed that acquisitive motives were dominant and, hence, his eagerness to move the crusaders on as fast as he could. Bohemond was appeased with the grant of Antioch. The sack of Jerusalem provided many crusaders with amazing amounts of booty.

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Section 4: c.1050–1250

16 What factors best explain the weakness of the German emperors in the years 1125–1152?

AO1 – The question concerns the reasons why the German emperors could not maintain much power in this period. A range of explanations can be offered and candidates should reach a judgement about which was the most vital factor.

AO2 – The impact of the struggle over the Investiture Contest in Germany was still being felt in 1125, although it had been formally brought to an end by the Concordat of Worms in 1122. Germany was divided between the supporters and opponents of Henry IV, that is the Guelfs and the Ghibellines, and in a state of virtual civil war.

A further factor was the death of Henry V without a direct heir. The problem here lay in the lack of a defined system for choosing the next monarch. A combination of the hereditary principle and an elective element meant that a free-for-all developed in 1125. This resulted in the election of Lothar, an ambitious Guelf, as opposed to Frederick of Swabia, the Ghibelline candidate. In 1127, the Ghibelline cause was taken up by Conrad, the brother of Frederick. Conrad was a weak personality, but was able to make good his claim in 1137 after Lothar died. He proved unable to settle the problems of Germany. He made them worse by attempting to deprive Henry the Proud of one or both of his duchies of Bavaria and Saxony. Henry's son, Henry the Lion, was able to make good his claim to Saxony and threatened to take Bavaria. From 1145–47, Conrad was absent from Germany on the Second Crusade, which did little to enhance his authority. Civil war was imminent when Conrad died in 1152, reflecting the situation in 1125.

17 Was the reign of Louis VII more notable for the King's mistakes than for his successes?

AO1 – This question concerns a judgement on the reign of Louis VII, as to whether he was successful or prone to making mistakes. Candidates can discuss these issues in tandem or separately.

AO2 – Louis could certainly be credited with successes. He was able to expand his feudal control, benefiting from the homage of lords who needed guarantees against their neighbours. The legends around Charlemagne assisted his monarchy and the Song of Roland, probably written in his reign, reflected this. In his early days, he profited from the wise advice of Abbot Suger and perhaps from the support of Bernard of Clairvaux. His support of the Church and his sheltering of two prominent exiles in Thomas Becket and Alexander III could have been viewed initially as errors, but eventually added to his reputation.

His biggest mistake was considered to be divorcing Eleanor of Aquitaine, who promptly married his enemy, Henry of Anjou. His burning of the church at Vitry led to his role in the Second Crusade which, in turn, contributed to the breakdown of his marriage. But it could be argued that Louis gained a son from his second marriage and so secured his dynasty, while the feud with Henry II turned in the favour of France as a result of the quarrels in the Angevin family.

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18 How far did Philip Augustus' success depend on his mastery of political intrigue?

AO1 – This question concerns an analysis of the reasons for the success of Philip Augustus. Political intrigue must be considered in some detail, along with other possible explanations, and a judgement is to be expected about the main factor.

AO2 – Philip's skills in political intrigue came to the fore in his dealings with the Angevins. When members of the rival family fell out, an aggrieved party could be sure of a welcome at Philip's court. Hence he was able to foment trouble and to gain concessions in return for his help. He exploited fully the problems of King John with his nephew Arthur of Brittany and gave judgement for John in his feudal court which involved John recognising Philip as his overlord. This proved crucial when John abducted Isabella of Angouleme and was summoned by Philip to answer to the Lusignans. John's failure to appear severely weakened his case and led to his loss of Normandy.

But Philip had other skills. He supervised the administration and made it one of the most effective in Europe. He raised taxes and put French finances on a firm footing, allowing him to hire mercenaries. He dealt firmly with any signs of revolt and extended his territories through marriage and negotiation as well as conquest. His victory at Bouvines gave him control of Flanders and its wealth, and was one of the decisive medieval battles. His absence from France on the Fourth Crusade was brief.

19 How influential were the wishes of Innocent III on the decisions of the rulers of Western Europe?

AO1 – This question concerns the impact that the reforms proposed by Innocent III had on the rulers of Western Europe. Given his claims to full powers over all Christ's people, the discussion is expected to consider how far he was able to make his claims a reality.

AO2 – Innocent's wishes might be ignored by rulers at their peril. At various times, the kings of Leon and of France were under an interdict for matrimonial irregularities, while England, Portugal and Aragon were held as fiefs from the Pope for more serious breaches. He preached a Crusade which attracted some enthusiasm from rulers and their nobles, but ended in the sack of Constantinople, far from reflecting papal wishes. Philip Augustus declined to lead a crusade against the Albigensians, leaving Innocent to organise it himself. Innocent was most ignored by the rulers of Germany, who resented his claim to decide between the rivals for the position of Emperor in 1197. His choices proved unsatisfactory and the emergence of Frederick as Emperor showed the limits of papal power. Frederick proceeded to disregard his promise to abdicate from the Sicilian monarchy once he had been crowned as Emperor.

King John was one of the most defiant of Western European rulers, but detailed knowledge of events in England is not to be expected, although it may be included.

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20 Was the government of Frederick II more successful in Germany or in Sicily?

AO1 – This question concerns making a judgement about the relative success of Frederick II in governing his territories in Germany and Sicily. It is not focused on his conquests or on his wars in Italy, although they may be referred to in analysing his government.

AO2 – Candidates could mention that Frederick had promised to surrender Sicily once he was crowned as Emperor, but had no intention of keeping to this. The situations in Germany and Sicily were very different. Germany had been suffering from intermittent civil war since 1197 and royal administration had been severely weakened. Powers such as the right to the income of vacant sees and abbacies had been ceded to the princes and Frederick could not recover his position easily. His later involvement in Italy did not assist the restoration of good government in Germany. In Sicily, however, an absolute monarchy had been established and there was a flourishing bureaucracy. The court was no longer peripatetic, but based permanently in Palermo, where Frederick ruled in some state, with his civil service. His revenues came as much from trade as from his vassals. But Frederick was determined to bring Sicily further under his control and revoked the privileges of many towns. He founded the University of Naples to train up his bureaucrats.

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Section 5: Themes c.300–c.1200

21 Did the development of feudal society do more to promote or to discourage social instability in the early Middle Ages?

AO1 – This question concerns the impact of feudalism on society. One view could be that as a system based on maintaining the fighting strength of a ruler it led to instability, whereas it could also be argued that it led to a more settled society with a clear, if rigid, hierarchy.

AO2 – Feudalism was most highly developed in northern France and the Low Countries, in England and in southern Italy after the Norman Conquest. The essence of the system was the bond of service and loyalty between the lord and his vassals, based on the possession of the fief. The fief gradually became hereditary, which made for a more stable society. The loyalty due to a lord to whom the vassal had sworn homage should have made for stability as well, but vassals were not always loyal to their oaths. The fact that a vassal could have several lords was another issue leading to instability. The system was originally designed to provide a fighting force for the lord and so obviated compulsory service, but by 1200 lords were beginning to prefer monetary rather than personal contributions to the coat of their armies. This could be interpreted either way: better armies could keep better order or they could lead to prolonged and damaging warfare.

One outcome of the feudal system was the establishment of the manor as an economic unit. This made for stability in that the cultivation and produce was shared, thus spreading the risks of famine. Peasants could not afford heavy ploughs individually, but the manor could and hence led to increased production of grain. In time, peasants came to resent the duties they had to perform and the system became less stable, but largely after 1200.

22 What best explains the growth of towns in the early medieval period?

AO1 – This question concerns the reasons for the development of towns in this period after the steep decline in urban life as the Roman Empire collapsed. Candidates are asked to come to a clear conclusion about the main factor.

AO2 – Many towns in this period grew as a result of trade. The growth in long-distance trade, made possible by technological advances and by increasing prosperity and demand, has been described as ‘revolutionary’ with regard to Italy. Hence towns grew up as places for the secure exchange of goods and many had walls and defences from an early stage in their development. Some were built on old Roman sites while others were in new locations, at river crossings or around monasteries. The seats of Church leaders also developed often into large towns.

Other towns grew for specific reasons. The presence of the papal Curia in Rome and the increase in pilgrim traffic led the city to grow. Paris and Palermo were capital cities of kingdoms and centres of the arts and of scholarship. The idea of a capital city spread as royal courts became less peripatetic. Some towns grew almost in defiance of the feudal lords of the country and in Italy strove to throw off the feudal yoke. Elsewhere, kings and merchants formed an alliance as a strong merchant body could maintain order and collect taxes. Many towns at the end of the period were buying charters from kings to perpetuate their privileges.

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23 How serious were the pressures resulting from demographic change in the tenth and eleventh centuries?

AO1 – This question concerns the impact of the increase in population in Europe at this time and involves discussion of the extent of the impact. Candidates may be aware that the evidence about how far the population increased is quite sparse and can rely on a relatively narrow range of examples.

AO2 – One way to see if the population is going up is to consider food production. In this period, more land came under cultivation, indicating that more corn was being grown to provide the staple food of the day, namely bread. This is one example of the impact. Forests were being felled and uncultivated land brought under the plough. Marshes were drained in some areas. The pace of change was very variable in different parts of Europe but it was a steady movement. Other results can be seen in the greater numbers of monks and secular clergy. More were living celibate lives, but whether as a response to papal reforms or as an economic necessity is hard to judge. Merchants and artisans were also more numerous. As long as the extra mouths could be fed, pressures were containable.

24 ‘The impact of the friars owed more to their positive appeal than to disillusionment with monasticism.’ Discuss this view.

AO1 – This question concerns the reasons why the friars had such an effect in Europe. The establishment of the Franciscans and the Dominicans strengthened the Church and attracted considerable devotion. The causes of this could be seen as positive factors relating to the men and their message and also more negative perceptions of other parts of the Church. It is possible that both explanations had some validity.

AO2 – The Popes of the early medieval Church were determined on reform within the Church and on the energetic defence of their privileges. In this situation, the experience of the individual worshipper was not always a priority and some feeling of hostility towards the Church developed. The founding of the orders of friars helped to provide new inspiration and leadership. The attractions of the friars lay in their determination to avoid falling into the traps of property ownership as many monastic orders had done. Their emphasis on poverty, and keen embracing of it in the case of St Francis, won them much respect. They lived in the world, not shut up in monasteries, and relied on casual work or alms to finance their preaching and caring ministries. The Dominicans were notable for the quality of their preaching and learning and St Thomas Aquinas was their greatest scholar. The Franciscans boasted Robert Grosseteste and St Bonaventura. The more colloquial style of preaching that they favoured led to the establishment of fraternities of penitents among their hearers. They also served as missionaries in Persia and the Far East. They were strictly orthodox doctrinally and the Dominicans were influential in preaching to the Albigensians. Their way of life was a strong contrast with that of the monks and often seemed closer to the original monastic ideals, but they too, as time went on, found themselves burdened with property and losing some of their initial fervour.

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25 How substantial were intellectual developments of the twelfth century in continental Europe?

AO1 – This question concerns the degree to which the intellectual advances of the period could be seen as real changes. One view might be that much of the scholarship consisted of a revival and rediscovery of classical works, rather than innovatory thought. The establishment and growth of universities could be seen as something new. Candidates could discuss how vital developments were in laying foundations for the future.

AO2 – The study of Civil Law was one branch of learning which developed in this period. Justinian’s Code was one focus and Bologna became a centre for such study. Roman law spread into parts of France and Germany, and in Italy a school of commentators grew up to establish how the text could be applied to their own times. This latter factor does suggest some moving on from simple re-discovery of the Code. In science there was also a quest for knowledge, using sources such as Pliny, and many classical scientific works were translated from versions which had been preserved in the Middle East. This provided more information but few new interpretations.

The setting up of universities as communities of scholars was a greater advance. In northern Europe they often evolved from cathedral schools, while in Italy they arose from lay gatherings to study law or medicine. The earliest examples were Salerno in Italy and Montpellier in France, both of which began as centres for the study of medicine. Bologna followed and early in the next century Padua and Naples. The prime example in northern Europe was Paris, set up by groups of Masters and much helped by the presence of Peter Abelard, the foremost scholar of his day and a man of some originality of thought. The statutes were not passed until 1209, but the university was functional before this date.

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26 How far were the heretical movements of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries the result of dissatisfaction with the Church?

AO1 – This question is concerned with the reasons why the heretical movements grew. One explanation could be that the Church was in need of reform and did not meet the requirements of the faithful. Another could be that the heretical movements had a positive appeal, which could be both religious and social.

AO2 – One view could be that the Church reform initiated by Innocent III was more concerned with the rights of the Church and less with the experience of its individual members. Hence the clergy were often seen as resembling feudal lords more than humble servants. There were heretical movements which preached that the clergy should live strict lives, without any property rights, and depend on the alms of the people for subsistence. From this kind of thinking emerged the friars eventually, but other groups were less orthodox and they were not ready to recognise papal leadership.

The main heretical groupings were the Waldensians and the Cathars. The former reflected the desire for purity of life, but also believed that all members could preach and expound the gospel, which was a clear heresy in the view of Rome. Their motivation did lie in some disillusionment, but even more in the attractions of being in control of their substitute Church.

The Cathars had links with movements in the east, resulting from the First Crusade. The shortcomings of the local churchmen may have contributed to their growth, but their beliefs in the opposition of the material and spiritual worlds appealed to their followers, being related to the ancient heresy of Manichaeism. As only the leaders of the Cathars were expected to embrace the full asceticism of their way of life, the members of the creed had some considerable leeway in their way of life. Like the Waldensians, they established a rival Church with a developed organisational base. Count Raymond of Toulouse had his own reasons for adopting Catharism, which were political in part.

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Section 6: 1250–c.1378

27 'Limited both geographically and politically.' How justifiable is this assessment of the Mongol threat in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries?

AO1 – This question concerns the degree to which the Mongols were a threat in Europe. The apparently irresistible Mongol advance across Asia made them appear invincible, but both their capacity and desire for the conquest of Europe can be doubted.

AO2 – The conquests of Genghis Khan were undoubtedly vast. He has been described as the greatest conqueror in history. One of his talents was for choosing generals of real ability, but his use of destruction and massacre as weapons of conquest spread terror and submission wherever he went. His successors were men of less ability but continued the conquests, moving into the southern parts of Russia, Croatia, Hungary and Poland. These incursions involved huge numbers of casualties and up to a quarter of the people in Hungary may have died. But, though Christian Europe trembled, the Mongols had reached their limits. The Hungarian rulers built stone castles to deter Mongol horsemen and the Angevin rulers of the fourteenth century revived Hungarian power and fortified the Dalmatian coast. The focus of the Mongols moved away to China under Kublai Khan. The area of Europe which was most affected by the Mongols politically was the part of Russia ruled by the Golden Horde for nearly 200 years. There were some benefits from Mongol rule in that the trade routes and the Silk Road were now under one empire and became safer for European travellers. Candidates could point out that the Mongols were essentially nomadic peoples and so settlement in Europe was not all that likely.

28 'He served the Church well.' Discuss this view of Louis IX.

AO1 – This question concerns the extent to which Louis IX should be seen as a servant of the Church. Candidates could argue that he did or did not serve the Church well, or they could argue that he served the Church well, but was also notable for other achievements.

AO2 – It could be suggested that Louis served the Church well by his readiness to go on Crusade twice, despite being captured and ransomed in Egypt. But he achieved little as his first effort was becalmed in the Nile Delta and fell apart. When released, he captured some seaports but little more. His second attempt was diverted to Tunis and failed again. Jerusalem remained in alien hands. He served the Church by his organisation of the Inquisition in France and his encouragement of Dominican friars. Royal officials were present at the burning of heretics. He was seen as a model Christian monarch, which view served some of the interests of the Church. His attitudes to his bishops and to the Pope could be interpreted variously. He considered himself as a divinely appointed monarch able to criticise bishops for unjust excommunications and Innocent IV for excessive financial demands. How far this served the interests of the Church depends on how fully the Church can be identified with its leaders.

In other ways he served the interests of France. He made no new conquests but consolidated the government, and his dynastic connections strengthened the role of France in Europe. He was much in demand as an arbiter, notably for Henry III and his barons, and this boosted French prestige. Even his insistence on favourable terms for Henry III at the Treaty of Paris, which can be viewed as a contributory cause to the Hundred Years' War, was applauded by the Sire de Joinville, who wrote the story of his life.

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29 What best explains the quarrel between Philip the Fair and Boniface VIII?

AO1 – This question concerns the reasons why Philip the Fair and Boniface VIII were on such bad terms. Both the unresolved issues as to the relative power of the religious and secular spheres and the particular personalities involved can be discussed.

AO2 – Candidates could suggest that one cause was financial. Philip needed money to finance his wars with Edward I and the Count of Flanders. He wanted to tap clerical wealth and Boniface was determined that he should not do so without papal consent. The fact that this issue was resolved in Philip's favour simply made Boniface more recalcitrant. Hence the second factor in the quarrel, the question of the immunity of the clergy, was pursued by Boniface and merged with the issue of papal control over the lay rulers. A further factor lay in the uncompromising nature of both participants. Moreover, Boniface had failed to appreciate how the growth of national feeling in France meant that the French, however devout, would side with their king. Philip's tactics allowed the quarrel to develop into a full-blown breach and he indicted the Pope at an assembly in Paris. The shocking events at Anagni may have back-fired on Philip, but in the long term showed how papal power had been diminished.

30 Was their residence in Avignon more beneficial to the popes than it was to the French?

AO1 – This question concerns the impact of the so-called Babylonish Captivity of the papacy during its residence in Avignon. While it seemed obvious that the French would profit from the presence of the popes, it can be argued that the papacy was less weakened than might have been expected.

AO2 – The papacy benefited from its sojourn in Avignon in that it was preserved in safety. Rome had become too dangerous. The popes did not abandon their Italian ambitions, but were forced to moderate them and so concentrated on Church reform. The Avignon papacy saw an extension of the centralising process in the Church as the work of the Curia was formalised. Popes took control of appointments in the clergy from lay rulers as far as they could. As a result, fees and taxes flowed to their coffers. They made some efforts at reform and greater attempts to eradicate heresy.

Initially, when Clement V moved to Avignon the French gained. The papal bulls issued by Boniface were annulled and the attack on the Templars was justified by their abolition. The alliance with the papacy was of some help in the wars with England and clerical taxation helped to finance the fighting, but the rapid turnover of French monarchs and the military might of the English reduced French gains from the papal presence.

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31 Were the Italian city-states in the fourteenth century characterised more by prosperity than by instability?

AO1 – This question is concerned with the nature of the Italian city-states in the fourteenth century. Candidates are expected to refer to more than one city-state, but may focus largely on Florence and Venice. A clear conclusion could be drawn, but it could be argued that some states were prosperous and others unstable or that a particular state was sometimes prosperous and sometimes unstable or could even be both.

AO2 – Both Venice and Florence were at war for part of the century. The wealth and prosperity of Venice depended on control of the trade of the eastern Mediterranean and the Levant and hence war with Genoa was waged to maintain this control. The war was costly but Venice emerged the victor and remained prosperous. Venice was less successful against Padua and had to cede Dalmatia to Hungary. For Florence, gaining control of Lucca and Pisa involved warfare, which weakened the state, leading to attempts to overthrow the government.

Venice benefited from its geographical position, safe within the lagoons, and from its generally firm oligarchic government. In Florence there was more of a crisis with the bankruptcy of the Bardi and Peruzzi and attempts by various factions to seize power. The Black Death exacerbated social and economic problems in Florence, and half the population may have died and led to the Ciompi riots. The restoration of the oligarchy allowed Florence to prosper again, and the joint-stock company, the bill of exchange and the use of insurance all stemmed from this period.

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Section 7: c.1400–c.1461

32 What best explains the protracted nature of the Great Schism?

AO1 – The question concerns the reasons for the longevity of the Schism and the problems encountered by those who tried to reunite the Church under a single spiritual leader, for example, the refusal of incumbents of the rival papacies to compromise in any way. Candidates could refer to the tradition established of the Avignon Papacy, the international ‘taking of sides’ and the personalities of the popes involved.

AO2 – Explanations for the protracted nature might include the refusal to accept the sensible compromises of Pisa, and the time it took for awareness of the harm being done to both the papacy and the Church in general to sink in to the minds of decision takers. There was also the role of the King of France to be considered, and there was a wider antagonism between France and Italy. Europe also took sides, with Castile and Aragon amongst others supporting the Avignon papacy, while much of central Europe supported the Roman Pope. It was much more than an internal Church argument.

33 To what extent did their relationships with external powers influence the development of the Italian city states in this period?

AO1 – The question concerns the impact on the Italian city states’ development of the various relationships they had with foreign powers. The five principal territories to consider are Milan, Florence, Venice, the Papal States/Rome and Naples, although not all need to be covered. Issues which could be considered are the control that Milan exercised over the passes between France and Italy, and the ‘Iberian’ impact on Naples.

AO2 – The extent to which external powers, such as the Empire, France, Spain and the Ottomans, impacted on the city states needs to be contrasted with other factors such as the strong separatist traditions, the traditional rivalries, the agricultural resources of Milan and the international connections of a city like Venice. There were religious and dynastic considerations, and the quality of local government and the republican traditions of Venice all played their part.

34 ‘The Hussite rebellion was more about nationalism than theology.’ Discuss.

AO1 – The question concerns both the causes of the outbreak and the reasons for its continuation well into the fifteenth century. For example, anti-German feeling compounded by Hus’ support for the ideas of Wycliffe could be used when explaining the former, and the Emperors’ refusal to uphold the safe-conduct for the latter.

AO2 – There is a good case to be made for both, and they were intertwined. Anti-clericalism blended with anti-‘Romanism’ and theology with foreign domination and Bohemian nationalism. The ideas of Hus might well be considered in some depth, and the later Utraquists/Taborites split might be brought in to explain and illustrate both continuation and the theological aspect of the question. Separating theological advances from dislike of certain Roman Catholic practices such as indulgences is challenging, but may be an approach attempted.

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35 How important was good leadership in explaining the development of Valois Burgundy in the period 1434–1467?

AO1 – The question concerns the reasons for the growth in status and overall development of Valois Burgundy primarily in the reign of Philip the Good; for example, the excellent basis laid by Philip the Bold, Philip the Good's ability to take advantage of the French and English conflict of the period and his own longevity and wealth.

AO2 – The role of good leadership by the Burgundian leaders, the two Philips and John the Fearless, could be considered as well as a range of other factors relating to the Kingdom itself. External factors could also be considered such as the weakness of France after Agincourt and the continuity provided by Philip the Good's long reign. An excellent basis had been laid in the fourteenth century with a growth in both wealth and cohesion. The prosperity of the Low Countries was clearly a major factor to be considered, as well as the quality administration and sensible decisions of leadership. Both John and the second Philip made errors, and the diplomacy of both could be at fault, but certainly there is a good case to be made arguing for the importance of quality leadership.

36 'English incompetence best explains the outcome of the Hundred Years War.' Discuss.

AO1 – The question concerns the principal reasons for the final outcome of the Hundred Years War, for example, the competence of Henry VI and his military leaders such as Bedford and Talbot, the revival within France of the monarchy and other factors such as English political disunity.

AO2 – There are a wide range of possible explanations for the outcome of the war and they might consider specifically English factors like the long minority of Henry VI and the competence of both his political as well as military leaders and advisors. The military revival of France under Charles VII could also be seen as a major factor, and also the skills of Louis XI in dealing with his internal enemies as well as his external ones could be seen as very important. Resources played a large part in it all, as did actual will, especially after the defeat at Castillon.

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Section 8: c.1461–c.1516

37 What best explains the outbreak and the continuation of the Italian Wars 1494–1516?

AO1 – The question concerns the reasons for both the initial outbreak and then the longevity of the Italian Wars up to 1516; for example, the ambitions of French rulers as well as those of the Habsburgs. Candidates could refer to the role of the papacy as well as disputes between individual Italian city states which dragged in foreign rulers.

AO2 – Explanations of both the initial outbreak and why the conflict lasted to 1516 (and reasons which go on into the 1520s need not necessarily be excluded) might include: a desire to acquire the wealth of the Northern Italian states and dynastic disputes between Milan and Naples, with leaders like the Sforzas of Milan being prepared to invite in France against Venice. Simple French-Imperial rivalry was also a factor which could be considered, as well as control of the papacy, the easy availability of Swiss mercenaries and a desire to gain greater control of the Mediterranean and its wealth.

38 Was the post-conciliar papacy dominated by secular interests?

AO1 – The question concerns the primary focus of the post-conciliar papacy and the extent to which purely secular interests dominated to the neglect of the religious; for example, the aspirational 'renaissance' ideals of Pius II, the nepotism of Sixtus IV, and the treatment of Savonarola by Alexander VI. The absence of any serious reform and the presence of issues which aroused the concern of Luther later could also be stressed, as well as the growth of what became major concerns to the reformers such as indulgences and the increasing involvement of the popes in both Italian and wider conflicts.

AO2 – The issue of dominance needs to be dealt with and the satire of Erasmus' 'In praise of folly' might be utilised to highlight papal priorities. There are few, if any, examples of papal activities which would enhance the standing of the Roman Catholic Church; it was mainly individuals like Cisneros who achieved anything resembling the needed reform. The need to raise money, develop and support a family dynasty, play politics, provide military leadership like Julius II and patronise the arts seemed to be the dominant concerns of the papacy in the period.

39 What best explains the rapid expansion of the Ottoman Empire in the period c.1451–1520?

AO1 – The question concerns the principal reasons for the expansion of the Ottoman Empire in the period and might include factors such as the weakness of their opponents and the particular military and naval skills of the Ottomans themselves. Candidates could refer to the lack of good 'Western' leadership and the degree to which the Ottomans were prepared to innovate both in their fighting methods and in the way they ran their Empire and conquered territories.

AO2 – Explanations for the rapidity of the expansion could range from the inability of those invaded to attract sufficient allies of substance to the great spirit of religious militarism which pervaded the Ottomans, which was a considerable contrast to that of their opponents. The Ottomans' military skills might also be considered, such as the clever manoeuvrings before the capture of Constantinople, as well as their intelligent rule of conquered territories which made them perhaps less feared than they might have been. The drive and determination of the leadership was, of course, a vital factor.

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40 'The conquest of Granada was the most significant of all the achievements of Ferdinand and Isabella.' Discuss.

AO1 – The question concerns the range of achievements on the part of Ferdinand and Isabella; for example, the degree of unity and fusion attained in Spain and the creation of a 'New Monarchy'. Candidates could refer to the advance of the Pyrenean frontier, the management of nobility and towns and the approach to religious unity.

AO2 – A survey of the principal achievements of Ferdinand and Isabella and reflection on which could be considered the most significant (as opposed to important) are looked for. Analysis of several possible achievements is expected, such as: their advances in finance and administration; their intelligent exploitation of the Mesta; and their gradual ending of the political and financial weakness of Castile to their sensible approach to integration given the long background of diversity. Approaches might focus on just the reign itself, but those who take a longer view should also be considered.

41 'Ivan III's defeat of the Tatars was his most important contribution to the rise of Muscovy.' Was it?

AO1 – The question concerns the contributions which Ivan III made to the rise of Muscovy in this period; for example, his termination of the Tatar dependency, the expansion of Muscovy's borders, the growth of a centralised state and the growth in the authority of the monarchy.

AO2 – An analysis of the implications of the defeat of the Tartars and a comparison of this with the other contributions Ivan made to the development of Muscovy into a major European state are looked for. There were substantial territorial gains in the South and West, Novgorod, Lithuania and in the Ukraine, for example, but other factors like his administrative and military reforms could be considered. The rise of Moscow as the 'third Rome' might be considered as well. Muscovy had become a major European and Asian power in his reign.

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Section 9: Themes c.1200–c.1516

42 ‘An impossible ideal.’ How valid is this view of the code of chivalry?

AO1 – This question concerns a discussion about the nature of chivalry. The debate lies in how far it was a practical code of conduct and how far an idealised one. Candidates are expected to reach a clear conclusion.

AO2 – Candidates may be aware that the root of the term chivalry was that it related to horses and so concerned knights on horseback. One of the assets of the code was that it distinguished the knightly class from the lower classes. The elite knights had been dubbed a knight in an almost mystical ceremonial. The training of a knight in the art of warfare was a practical preparation for the future and the holding of tournaments allowed knights to maintain their skills. Rulers tapped into this by establishing military orders like the Golden Fleece as a means of rewarding loyal service. Chivalry came into play in the treatment of noble or royal prisoners, notably in the Hundred Years War, although not in the way that lower classes were treated, for instance, after the siege of Limoges.

But other aspects of the code were idealised. The ‘romance’ literature of the time emphasised these features and the Arthurian legends and the stories of Charlemagne’s paladins reflected them. Some of the heroes of the day, such as Du Guesclin and Marshal Boucicaut were viewed in this way, but they are the exceptions. The chivalric ideal of courtesy and respect for women was not often apparent in medieval society and William Caxton, in his translation of the Order of Chivalry, saw it as outdated by his day.

43 How seriously did Conciliarism threaten the Papacy?

AO1 – This question is concerned with the extent to which the emergence of the Conciliar Movement was a constraint on the power of the Papacy. The belief that a General Council of the Church had a power superior to that of the Papacy was a threat to the Popes, but candidates could argue that the Papacy was able to avoid the threat by some skilful manoeuvring.

AO2 – General Councils of the Church had been held since the days of the Early Church, but in the fifteenth century the issue was centred on the question of sovereignty over the Church. The Avignon Papacy and the Great Schism had led to the emergence of Conciliarism, especially at the University of Paris. Scholars like Pierre d’Ailly argued that the Church should be governed by General Councils which represented the whole body of the Church. General acceptance of these views would have greatly diminished the role of the Papacy. But history was largely on the side of the Popes. The recent problems with the pontiffs could be overcome by the election of a new and universally recognised Pope in the person of Martin V in 1417. The actions of the Councils did not indicate any unity in the Church. That of Pisa in 1409 was hijacked in the territorial interests of the Papacy and no reforms were achieved. At Constance in 1414, the only real area of agreement was over the declaration that Hus was a heretic and his subsequent punishment. The enmity between France and England and the lack of unity within Christendom sabotaged the Council. Each of the national groups had different aims and hopes for reform. The Council of Basle came to an agreement with the Hussites, but then split over the need for reform and the powers of the Papacy. Eugenius IV gained some prestige by the negotiation of a Union with the Eastern Church at Florence, although this was only really recognised in the west.

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44 How substantial were developments in agriculture in the later Middle Ages?

AO1 – This question concerns the extent to which agricultural practice altered in this period. Candidates could suggest that basic agricultural methods changed little over this time, but that the organisation of farming underwent some change, especially after the Black Death.

AO2 – Methods of cultivation remained much the same in the later medieval period. Until there was some technological advancement little was likely to alter. The rising population had led to some pressures on food supplies, but the Black Death wiped out this factor. The impact of the plague is a matter of debate and there is a view that it was relatively short-lived. Agriculture remained the occupation of the majority of Europeans. As the population fell, the control of the feudal lords was reduced in response to the labour shortage. In France and western Germany, a rentier class emerged and their wealth depended on how often they could increase rents. In eastern Germany and Prussia, the knightly classes began to build up their estates, however, and benefited from these rich corn-growing areas. Peasants could be evicted or forced to pay higher dues here.

45 What best explains why Italy underwent a cultural renaissance in the fifteenth century?

AO1 – The question concerns the reasons why Italy in particular underwent a major cultural renaissance in the fifteenth century. A wide range of factors could be considered, for example: the established tradition of learning and scholarship; the status of the scholar; the quality of education; the wealth of many of the city states; patronage; and personal and civic rivalry.

AO2 – Identification and prioritisation of the major factors which explain the dominance of Italy in the early renaissance are looked for. Italy was very much at a major crossroads and the recipient of many influences. There was substantial wealth there and also the attitude which valued artistic creativity and was prepared to support it with money and the award of status. With a reasonably stable political system, a culture where innovation and talent were valued together with a competitive atmosphere, it was an ideal breeding ground for cultural renaissance.

46 To what extent were the later Middle Ages a period of social change?

AO1 – The question concerns the extent to which either of the two centuries could be seen as periods of social change. Factors which might be considered include: population growth; the rise of an urban bourgeoisie; the growth of industry leading to social change; the attitude towards and treatment of the peasant; the degree of social mobility; and the role of women in society.

AO2 – There are signs of change in the fifteenth century. The population began to grow which led to greater mobility. While it remained a subsistence economy for most, there was the gradual growth of a richer urban bourgeoisie and men such as the Fuggers were to play a larger role in society. Serfdom did decline, but the noble still dominated society. The role of women changed little. It is only in specific regions like the Low Countries where there was significant change, with the growth of industry and commerce and the rise of an urban middle class.

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47 How important a role did towns and cities play in the European economy of the fifteenth century?

AO1 – The question concerns the role that towns and cities played in the European economy in this period. Factors could include how they became suppliers of capital for agriculture and the way in which they were to become centres of commerce and industry, such as Lyons did. Some played a key role in banking and finance such as Antwerp, while others like Seville became centres of a major transatlantic trade.

AO2 – The link between towns and cities and the wider European economy needs to be explored. A largely subsistence economy outside of towns and cities inevitably made urban areas central to any economic development. It was the Hanse towns and cities like Antwerp which provided for some much of commerce and industrial development.