GCSE History Paper Two

Norman Conquest Exam Questions

1. Interpretation question (8 marks = 10 minutes)
   e.g. How convincing is Interpretation A about...
   Hint: DO NOT USE PROVENANCE! Select aspects of the interpretation you can support and/or challenge using your subject knowledge.

2. Importance question (8 marks = 10 minutes)
   e.g. Explain what was important about...
   Hint: One reason for importance per paragraph with supporting detail. Multiple paragraphs needed.

3. Write an account question (8 marks = 10 minutes)
   e.g. Write an account of...
   Hint: Include plenty of subject knowledge and organise your ideas into separate paragraphs.

4. Site question (16 marks = 20 minutes)
   e.g. “Statement” plus question. The statement is likely to focus on the functions and features of your nominated site so make sure you revise these!
   Hint: One idea per paragraph with examples from your nominated site leading to a conclusion.
Interpretation Question

Interpretation A

William put the rebellions down with great brutality; any pretence he had to being the legitimate heir of Edward the Confessor ended during this period. To underpin his occupation he built hundreds of castles across the kingdom, garrisoned by armed mounted troops.

Adapted from a history textbook by Toby Purser, 2004. Purser is a specialist in Norman history and his book focuses on how Anglo-Saxon England was transformed into Anglo-Norman England.

How convincing is Interpretation A about the way in which William dealt with rebellions? Explain your answer using Interpretation A and your contextual knowledge.

One way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it says/does not say...

From my own subject knowledge, ...

A second way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it says/does not say...

From my own subject knowledge, ...

A final way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it says/does not say...

From my own subject knowledge, ...
How convincing is Interpretation A about the impact of the Normans on English monasteries? Explain your answer using Interpretation A and your contextual knowledge.

One way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it says/does not say...

From my own subject knowledge, ...

A second way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it says/does not say...

From my own subject knowledge, ...

A final way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it says/does not say...

From my own subject knowledge, ...
How convincing is Interpretation A about the Norman legal system? Explain your answer using Interpretation A and your contextual knowledge.

One way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it shows/does not show...

From my own subject knowledge, ...

A second way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it shows/does not show...

From my own subject knowledge, ...

A final way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it shows/does not show...

From my own subject knowledge, ...
How convincing is Interpretation A about the Norman response to Anglo-Saxon rebellions? Explain your answer using Interpretation A and your contextual knowledge.

One way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it shows/does not show...

From my own subject knowledge, ...

A second way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it shows/does not show...

From my own subject knowledge, ...

A final way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it shows/does not show...

From my own subject knowledge, ...
How convincing is Interpretation A in showing why William had a valid claim to the English throne? Explain your answer using Interpretation A and your contextual knowledge.

One way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it shows/does not show...

From my own subject knowledge, ...

A second way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it shows/does not show...

From my own subject knowledge, ...

A final way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it shows/does not show...

From my own subject knowledge, ...
How convincing is Interpretation A about the Harrying of the North? Explain your answer using Interpretation A and your contextual knowledge.

One way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it shows/does not show...

From my own subject knowledge, ...

A second way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it shows/does not show...

From my own subject knowledge, ...

A final way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it shows/does not show...

From my own subject knowledge, ...
How convincing is Interpretation A in showing life in a Norman village? Explain your answer using Interpretation A and your contextual knowledge.

One way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it shows/does not show...

From my own subject knowledge, ...

A second way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it shows/does not show...

From my own subject knowledge, ...

A final way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it shows/does not show...

From my own subject knowledge, ...
Interpretation Question

Interpretation A

A modern drawing showing a trial by battle in Norman times.

How convincing is Interpretation A in showing the Norman legal system? Explain your answer using Interpretation A and your contextual knowledge.

One way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it shows/does not show...

From my own subject knowledge, ...

A second way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it shows/does not show...

From my own subject knowledge, ...

A final way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it shows/does not show...

From my own subject knowledge, ...
How convincing is Interpretation A about William the Conqueror and the Battle of Hastings? Explain your answer using Interpretation A and your contextual knowledge.

One way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it shows/does not show...

From my own subject knowledge, ...

A second way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it shows/does not show...

From my own subject knowledge, ...

A final way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it shows/does not show...

From my own subject knowledge, ...
Interpretation A

Edwin and Morcar had led a rebellion in London immediately after the Battle of Hastings. William of Poitiers claimed that the movement was capable of raising a ‘numerous and formidable force’. However, William sent his knights to deal with the rebels and the knights at once inflicted ‘great sorrow upon London by the death of many of her sons and daughters’. It was perhaps this that finally moved the leading citizens of London to give hostages and to submit themselves. Edwin and Morcar submitted to William at Berkhamstead, whereupon William returned all of their possessions and titles to them.

Adapted from ‘A New History of the Norman Conquest’ by historian, Peter Rex, 2011.

How convincing is Interpretation A about how William dealt with Edwin and Morcar? Explain your answer using Interpretation A and your contextual knowledge.

One way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it shows/does not show...

From my own subject knowledge, ...

A second way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it shows/does not show...

From my own subject knowledge, ...

A final way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it shows/does not show...

From my own subject knowledge, ...
Importance Question

Explain what was important about land holding and lordship in Norman England.

Hint: Land-holding = who owned the land; Lordship = who were the lords.

One aspect of landholding and lordship was who owned the land after 1066. For example...

This was important because...

A second aspect of landholding and lordship was the amount of land that a noble would oversee. For example...

This was important because...

A final aspect of landholding and lordship was through the Feudal System. For example...

This was important because...
Importance Question

Explain what was important about the Harrying of the North for Norman England.

One aspect of the Harrying of the North was...
For example...

This was important because...

A second aspect of the Harrying of the North was...
For example...

This was important because...

A final aspect of the Harrying of the North was...
For example...

This was important because...
Importance Question

Explain what was important about the reforms of the monasteries for Norman England.

Hint: Reform = Making changes for the better - improvements.

One aspect of monastic reforms included...
For example...

This was important because...

A second aspect of monastic reforms included...
For example...

This was important because...

A final aspect of monastic reforms involved...
For example...

This was important because...
Importance Question

Explain what was important about William, Duke of Normandy's claim to the English throne.

One aspect of William's claim was...
For example...

This was important because...

A second aspect of William's claim was...
For example...

This was important because...

A final aspect of William's claim was...
For example...

This was important because...
Importance Question

Explain what was important about the reforms of local and national government for Norman England.

One reform of national government was in the use of writs. For example...

This was important because...

A further reform in national government was in inheritance rules. For example...

This was important because...

A reform in local government included the creation of new courts. For example...

This was important because...
Importance Question

Explain what was important about the Norman reforms of the Church.

Hint: Reform = Making changes for the better - improvements.

One aspect of the Norman reforms of the Church included...
For example...

This was important because...

A second aspect of Norman reforms of the Church included...
For example...

This was important because...

A final aspect of Norman reforms of the Church involved...
For example...

This was important because...
Importance Question

Explain what was important about the actions taken by William to deal with rebellions in establishing Norman control.

One action that William took to deal with the rebellions was...
For example...

This was important because...

A second action that William took to deal with the rebellions was...
For example...

This was important because...

A final action that William took to deal with the rebellions was...
For example...

This was important because...
Importance Question

Explain what was important about Edward the Confessor’s lack of an heir in 1066.

Edward’s lack of an heir led to a succession crisis. For example...

This was important because...

Edward’s lack of an heir led to conflict between people who said they had been nominated. For example...

This was important because...

Edward’s lack of an heir led to the invasions of 1066. For example...

This was important because...
Importance Question

Explain what was important about William’s preparations for invasion in 1066.

One aspect of William’s preparations involved military preparations. For example...

This was important because...

Another aspect of William’s preparations involved religious preparations. For example...

This was important because...

Another aspect of William’s preparations involved political preparations. For example...

This was important because...
Importance Question

Explain what was important about the Norman reforms of the English legal system.

Hint: Reform = Making changes for the better - improvements.

One aspect of the Norman reforms of the English legal system included...
For example...

This was important because...

A second aspect of Norman reforms of the English legal system included...
For example...

This was important because...

A final aspect of Norman reforms of the English legal system included...
For example...

This was important because...
Importance Question

Explain what was important about the reforms to law and order under William I.

Hint: Reform = Making changes for the better - improvements.

One aspect of the Norman reforms of law and order included...
For example...

This was important because...

Another aspect of the Norman reforms of law and order included...
For example...

This was important because...

A final aspect of the Norman reforms of law and order included...
For example...

This was important because...
Write an account of the ways in which the lives of Anglo-Saxon villagers stayed the same under the Normans.

One way in which the lives of Anglo-Saxon villagers stayed the same under the Normans was...

A second way in which the lives of Anglo-Saxon villagers stayed the same under the Normans was...

A final way in which the lives of Anglo-Saxon villagers stayed the same under the Normans was...
Write an account Question

Write an account of the ways in which law and order changed under the Normans.

One way in which law and order changed was...

A second way in which law and order changed was...

A final way in which law and order changed was...
Write an account Question

Write an account of the ways in which the feudal system changed under the Normans.

One way in which the Feudal System changed was...

A second way in which the Feudal System changed was...

A final way in which the Feudal System changed was...
Write an account Question

Write an account of the ways in which life in England changed under the Normans.

One way in which life in Norman England changed was...

A second way in which life in Norman England changed was...

A final way in which life in Norman England changed was...
Write an account Question

Write an account of relations between the Norman monarchs and the Papacy.

Relations between King William I and the Papacy were...

For example...

Relations between King William II and the Papacy were...

For example...

Relations between King Henry I and the Papacy were...

For example...
Write an account of why William won the Battle of Hastings.

One reason for William’s victory was...

This led to his victory because...

A second reason for William's victory was...

This led to his victory because...

A final reason for William's victory was...

This led to his victory because...
Write an account Question

Write an account of the ways in which the Normans used the legal system to control England.

One aspect of the legal system was...

This was used to control England by...

A second aspect of the legal system was...

This was used to control England by...

A third aspect of the legal system was...

This was used to control England by...
Write an account Question

Write an account of the ways in which town life changed under the Normans.

One way in which town life changed under the Normans was...

Another way in which town life changed under the Normans was...

A final way in which town life changed under the Normans was...
Write an account Question

Write an account of the problems caused by the death of Edward the Confessor in 1066.

One way in which the death of Edward the Confessor caused problems was...

Another way in which the death of Edward the Confessor caused problems was...

A final way in which the death of Edward the Confessor caused problems was...
Site Question

"The main change that Norman castles brought about was that they allowed the Normans to defend their new lands." How far does a study of Pevensey Castle support this statement? Explain your answer. You should refer to Pevensey Castle and your contextual knowledge.

Introduction

First change:
National evidence

PC evidence

Second change:
National evidence

PC evidence

Third change:
National evidence

PC evidence

Conclusion
Site Question

“The most important reason that the Normans built castles was to control the local population.” How far does a study of Pevensey Castle support this statement? Explain your answer. You should refer to Pevensey Castle and your contextual knowledge.

Introduction

First reason:
National evidence

PC evidence

Second reason:
National evidence

PC evidence

Third reason:
National evidence

PC evidence

Conclusion