

GCSE [9-1] BRITISH HISTORY
ANGLO-SAXON AND NORMAN ENGLAND
END OF TOPIC EXAM MARK SCHEME

Question 1

Describe two features of the Anglo-Saxon government. [4 marks]

(One mark for each relevant point plus 1 mark for detail)

e.g.

- Central government = King was head of government and made all important decisions, Witan advised the king and made up of earls and bishops, earls ruled over earldoms and collected taxes and kept peace and law and order
- Local government = 40 shires or counties, hundreds and tithings. The sheriff or reeve was the most important official responsible for organising the fyrd, collecting geld tax and the courts.

Question 2

Explain why there was a dispute about the succession in 1066? [12 marks]

Level	Mark	Description
Level 4	[10-12]	Explains THREE reasons.
Level 3	[6-9]	Explains TWO reasons.
Level 2	[2-5]	Identifies AND/OR describes reasons. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Edward had no heir</i> • <i>Not clear who should be heir</i> • <i>Edward promised throne to others</i> • <i>Several claimants</i> • <i>England was a wealthy country</i> • <i>No system in place to name the next king</i> • <i>William claimed Harold Godwinson promised the throne to him</i> • <i>Harold Godwinson was crowned king</i>
Level 1	[1]	Simple statement.

Question 3

Study Source A

How convincing is this source about how William ruled England? Explain your answer by referring to the source and your knowledge. [8 marks]

Level	Mark	Description
Level 4	[7-8]	As Level 3 but explains with evaluation of 'how convincing.
Level 3	[5-6]	Developed evaluation. Uses contextual knowledge and detail from the source to provide evidence for convincing and not convincing. Source A Convincing 'People flocked to submit or negotiate' evidence = surrender of London and submission of the Anglo-Saxon earls. 'He showed clemency to all' evidence = treatment of Edgar Aethling Source A Not convincing 'Everyone laid down his arms' evidence = rebellions 1068-1071 'He showed clemency to all' evidence = Harrying of the North.

Level 2	[3–4]	‘Nothing was given to any Frenchman which had been taken unjustly from any Englishman’ evidence = change in land ownership and land grabs. Simple evaluation of the interpretation. Explanation of convincing OR not convincing using the source with some references to own knowledge.
Level 1	[1–2]	Basic analysis of interpretation. Accepts the source as being convincing or not convincing – uses information from source and/or contextual knowledge as support.

Question 4

‘The most important change that the Normans brought about was the building of castles.’ How far do you agree? [16 marks]

Level	Mark	Description
Level 4	[13-16]	A balanced, well-argued answer. Answers clearly focused on the question which reaches a considered judgement about whether building castles was the most important change and why.
Level 3	[9–12]	A structured and developed account which explains the changes brought about by castles but also explains the other changes brought about by Norman rule providing support with relevant contextual knowledge. Castles:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of the first castles • The type of castles built and the advantages of motte and bailey • Why building castles was important- base for the barons and provide protection, protect strategic locations like rivers, towns and mountain passes, show how powerful the Normans were, intimidate and prevent rebellion and dominate the local area that the Normans had brought under control. Other important changes:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feudal system • Landownership • Church reforms
Level 2	[5–8]	Deals with both recovery and problems with some development or explanation.
Level 1	[1–4]	Develops only one view, recovery or problems with some relevant description.