



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

**Wednesday 7 June 2023 – Afternoon**

**GCSE (9–1) History B (Schools History Project)**

**J411/11** The People’s Health, c.1250 to present  
with The Norman Conquest, 1065–1087

**Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes**



**You must have:**

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Section A – The People’s Health, c.1250 to present: Answer Questions 1 (a–c), 2, 3 and **either** Question 4 **or** Question 5.
- Section B – The Norman Conquest, 1065–1087: Answer Questions 6 (a–b) and 7, and **either** Question 8 **or** Question 9

**INFORMATION**

- The total mark for this paper is **80**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [ ].
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (\*).
- This document has **8** pages.

**ADVICE**

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

**Section A****The People's Health, c.1250 to present**

Answer Questions 1 (a–c), 2 and 3.

- 1 (a) Name **one** way in which the authorities in medieval Britain (1250–1500) tried to prevent the spread of disease in towns. [1]
- (b) Give **one** example of a problem with living conditions caused by the rapid growth of towns in the period 1750–1900. [1]
- (c) Give **one** example of a government action since 1900 that was introduced to improve air quality. [1]
- 2 Write a clear and organised summary that analyses public health in medieval monasteries. Support your summary with examples. [9]
- 3 Why did national and local governments find it difficult to deal with public health issues in the early modern period (1500–1750)? Explain your answer. [10]

Answer Question 4 **or** Question 5.

- 4\* How far were improvements in public health in the 1800s brought about by improved scientific understanding about disease? Give reasons for your answer. [18]
- 5\* 'Responses to epidemics between 1900 and 2000 were **not** effective.' How far do you agree? Give reasons for your answer. [18]

## Section B

## The Norman Conquest, 1065–1087

Answer Questions 6 (a–b) and 7.

- 6 (a) In **Interpretation A**, the image gives the impression that early Norman castles were threatening and intimidating.

Identify and explain **one** way in which it does this.

[3]

**Interpretation A**

An image from a virtual reconstruction of a motte and bailey castle on a history website.



- (b) If you were asked to do further research on **one** aspect of **Interpretation A**, what would you choose to investigate?

Explain how this would help us to analyse and understand Norman castles built in England between 1066 and 1087.

[5]

**7 Interpretations B and C** both focus on the impact of the Norman Conquest on England.

How far do they differ and what might explain any differences?

[12]

**Interpretation B**

**An extract from a book called 'The History of the Norman Conquest of England' by Edward Freeman. It was written in the 1860s and 1870s. Freeman was a historian who believed in the superiority of Anglo-Saxon culture and society.**

In this book, we have gone on a journey through our national history. We have tracked the story of Harold Godwinson and the other heroes of our own blood. And now we must trace the results of the Norman Conquest.

The Conquest is the greatest turning point in the history of our nation and it is impossible to exaggerate its importance. There was widespread foreign influence on our blood, our language, our laws, our arts. Our Church lost its independence and came under the control of Rome. The leading men and families of England lost their lands and were thrust down into a secondary position under foreign intruders. For a while it appeared that the Anglo-Saxons existed only as the slaves of foreign rulers.

**Interpretation C**

**An extract from an article written in 2016 and published by English Heritage on their website. English Heritage is an organisation which protects historic sites across the country.**

Today we mark the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings – perhaps the most important date in English history. The Norman Conquest brought about some of the most radical changes ever seen in English society, land ownership and culture. But arguably, the Conquest's greatest legacy is what we can still see and touch today – Norman architecture. The Normans thought big and built big, and this website will tell you where you can see some of the spectacular castles and great abbeys the Normans built across the land.

**Architecture** means the design of buildings.

Answer Question 8 or Question 9.

- 8\* In his 2012 article 'The dark side of the Anglo-Saxons', historian Ryan Lavelle argues that late Anglo-Saxon society was 'certainly not free, equal or democratic'.

How far do you agree with this view?

[20]

- 9\* The history website BBC Bitesize argues that 'William's victory at Hastings in 1066 owed much to his planning and experience'.

How far do you agree with this view?

[20]

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**





---

**OCR**  
Oxford Cambridge and RSA

**Copyright Information**

OCR is committed to seeking permission to reproduce all third-party content that it uses in its assessment materials. OCR has attempted to identify and contact all copyright holders whose work is used in this paper. To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced in the OCR Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download from our public website ([www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)) after the live examination series. If OCR has unwittingly failed to correctly acknowledge or clear any third-party content in this assessment material, OCR will be happy to correct its mistake at the earliest possible opportunity.

For queries or further information please contact The OCR Copyright Team, The Triangle Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA.

OCR is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, which is itself a department of the University of Cambridge.