



WESTMINSTER SCHOOL
THE CHALLENGE 2019

HISTORY

Tuesday 30 April 2019

You have ONE HOUR for this paper. Answer ALL the questions in Section A and ONE essay from Section B.

You should spend 30 minutes on Section A and 30 minutes on Section B.

Please write in black or blue ink.

Section A: Roger II, King of Sicily

Historical Background

Roger II (lived 1095-1154) became Count of Sicily at the age of 10 in 1105. In 1127 he added Apulia and Calabria (most of southern Italy) to his lands, and in 1130 he became King of Sicily. The new kingdom comprised the island of Sicily itself along with Apulia and Calabria (all the green areas on the map). Roger was a controversial figure in his own time. Contemporaries respected his character and abilities but were more critical of his harsh methods. Many modern historians see Roger II as one of the most successful rulers of the Middle Ages.



Do not worry at all if you have never studied Roger II or any history from this period. No 'own knowledge' is expected or required. All the information you need is to be found in the paper.

Read ALL the Sources, and then answer ALL the questions that follow.

Source A

Adapted from Graham Loud's book *Roger II and the Creation of the Kingdom of Sicily* (2012)

That his [Roger's] rule was often harsh was a product of the circumstances in which the kingdom of Sicily was created, and the long struggle that King Roger waged against those who opposed him. For, though crowned in 1130, he was only securely in control of his kingdom from 1139 onwards ... It was not in fact until some way into the reign of William II [Roger's grandson, d.1189], that the kingdom of Sicily was secure against its external enemies ... Harsh measures, however regrettable, therefore became necessary if the new kingdom created in 1130 was to survive.

Source B

Orderic Vitalis, a monk writing in northern France in the 1140s, took one view of Roger's attitude to opposition

He [Roger] took possession of the duchy of Apulia against the wishes of the inhabitants. Later he fought against all who attempted to resist him and cruelly suppressed them with great force; he spared no man, but struck down relatives and strangers alike and, stripping them of their wealth, crushed and humbled them ... So with passionate violence he destroyed men near and far and, by cruelly causing much bloodshed and mourning grew to greatness.

Source C

Otto of Freising (d.1158), a German bishop, took a different view of Roger's actions

There are, however, those who say that he [Roger] acts out of a concern for justice rather than from tyranny, for they say that he loves peace more than all other princes, and it is for the preservation of this that they wish him to repress rebels with such severity. Still others say that he is moved by love of money, in which indeed he exceeds all other western kings, rather than peace and justice.

Source D

In this twelfth-century mosaic from Palermo (the largest city on Sicily), Roger is shown being crowned king by Jesus. The inscription above Roger's head (in Greek) translates as 'Roger the King'.



Answer ALL of the following questions:

Read Source B

1. Why do you think this writer was so critical of Roger's methods?
[5 marks]

Read Source C

2. Can we rely on what this author tells us about Roger?
[5 marks]

Look at Source D

3. What are we meant to make of this image of Roger?
[5 marks]

Examine ALL the Sources

4. What do these Sources tell you about Roger's way of ruling?
[10 marks]

Total for Section A: 25 marks

Section B: Essay

Answer ONE of the following questions.

In answering your chosen question, you should **try to use examples and comparisons from your study of History, together with your wider knowledge and reading**, and you must write in good English. Remember to explain your answer fully. Each question is worth **25 marks**.

1. The Roman Empire collapsed and the British Empire came to an end. Why do empires never last? You may discuss any historical period(s) and example(s) with which you are familiar.
2. Why is it important to preserve and protect historical sites? Discuss this question with reference to some places you have studied and/or visited.
3. In the recent film *Mary Queen of Scots*, one scene depicted a meeting between Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth I. In reality, of course, the two queens never actually met each other. So how reasonable is it for film directors to alter the historical record like this? You may discuss any historical period(s) and film(s) with which you are familiar.
4. Choose any historical event that you have studied. Explain how it might have worked out differently, and what effect a different outcome might have had on subsequent events.
5. Choose a 'great' individual in history you have studied. How could you argue that their achievements have been overrated?

END OF PAPER