

Markscheme

November 2016

History route 1

Higher and standard level

Paper 1

7 pages

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The kingdom of Sicily 1130–1302

1. (a) What, according to Source D, were William I's achievements? **[3]**

- He gained recognition from the papacy in 1156 and, therefore, western Christendom.
- He proved the kingdom could survive after his father's death.
- He was successful in war against the Greeks and the pope and/or he defeated the rebels in his own kingdom.
- The new kingdom was now strong enough to influence the rest of southern Italy.
- He made Sicily independent of outside influences: the papacy, Greeks, Muslims and the German emperor.

Award [1] for each relevant point up to a maximum of [3].

(b) What is the message conveyed by Source E? **[2]**

- William I proclaimed his kingship and/or authority by minting coins from early in his reign.
- William I claimed that he was commanded by God.
- William accepted and recognized the importance of the Muslim element of Sicily's identity.

Award [1] for each relevant point up to a maximum of [2].

2. Compare and contrast the views expressed in Sources C and D about William I's reign as king of Sicily. [6]

For “compare”

- Both sources refer to William's strong military acumen.
- Both sources indicate that William was able to defeat external enemies.
- Both sources indicate that the Kingdom of Sicily was saved due to William's actions.

For “contrast”

- Source C refers to William as having been a bad king whereas Source D provides a more positive view of William and his achievements.
- Source C mentions that he was a more able commander than his father Roger II, whereas Source D also mentions Roger II, but only as the founder of the kingdom.
- Source C shows positive and negative aspects of his character whereas Source D shows only his positive qualities.

Do not demand all of the above. If only one source is discussed award a maximum of [2]. If the two sources are discussed separately award [3] or with excellent linkage [4–5]. For maximum [6] expect a detailed running comparison/contrast.

3. With reference to their origins and purpose, assess the value and limitations of Source A and Source B for historians studying the reign of William I of Sicily. [6]

Source A

- Origins: An academic study of how Sicily was governed published in 1993. It is by a professor of history who has used official records.
- Purpose: To examine, reach conclusions and evaluate how the kingdom was ruled for an academic and informed audience.
- Value: It is a detailed academic study partly based on official crown records from the period of William I.
- Limitations: The approach is limited to one main category of sources, official records, and therefore may not be able to give a full picture of the reign. Also, the reader is reliant on the historian's selection and interpretation of the sources.

Source B

- Origins: An academic study of chroniclers in medieval Italy and Sicily published in 2007. It is by a professor of medieval history.
- Purpose: To examine and understand and explain to an audience how chroniclers wrote history.
- Value: It is an analysis of original texts written by chroniclers undertaken by a specialist of the period.
- Limitations: The approach is limited to one main category of evidence, chronicles, and therefore may be a relatively narrow field of research. Also, the reader is reliant on the historian's selection and interpretation of the sources.

Do not expect all of the above. Ideally there will be a balance between the two sources, and each one can be marked out of [3], but allow a [4/2] split. If only one source is assessed, mark out of [4]. For a maximum of [6] candidates must refer to both origin and purpose, and value and limitations.

4. Using the sources and your own knowledge, evaluate the statement in Source C that William I “had not been a good king”. [8]

Source material

- Source A Shows how William I was able to delegate the defence and rule of his kingdom to appointed deputies. It also shows how these offices became permanent and therefore, perhaps, that they were successful. It also shows the importance of Maio of Bari in the royal administration.
- Source B Focuses on explaining how Maio, the chief minister until his murder in 1160, was portrayed very negatively by the chronicler *Falcandus*. However, it suggests that Maio was, in fact, not a monster but a man of faith, therefore suggesting that William I’s judgment was not so poor in relying on him.
- Source C Notes that William relied excessively on others to rule for him. Concludes that William I was a bad king, but that this was partly because he had not expected to succeed his father Roger II, and so had not been trained for the role. This source is also critical of the King’s personality—vengeful, cruel, unpredictable, uncertain and inconsistent. However, it also comments on some of his strengths, such as determination and personal courage.
- Source D Emphasizes William I’s successes in war and diplomacy, and sets his reign in the broader context of the security of the kingdom through victories over the Greeks and Muslims. This source highlights the significance of the Treaty of Benevento of 1156. It also comments on the institutional development of the kingdom, and the pacification of internal enemies.
- Source E Shows that William I was confident in projecting himself as ruler, claiming divine guidance. The Arabic inscription on the coin suggests that William acknowledged and accepted the Muslim element in Sicily’s identity.

Own knowledge

William I was the fourth son of Roger II, and his succession to the throne in 1154 had not been planned. During the early years of his reign William appears to have entrusted much of his power to Maio of Bari and his relatives, leading to strong criticism of both men in the writings of Falcandus.

The early revolts against William I between 1155 and 1156 may have been partly caused by discontent among the barons against Maio, but could also be the result of their longer-term resentment against the power of the crown since the days of Roger II. William certainly did appoint royal servants connected to Maio to key positions, he also entrusted members of the nobility with the office of Justiciar, which was essential for security and defence.

External factors, including the arrival in Italy of Emperor Frederick Barbarossa and the Byzantine invasion of Apulia in 1155, threatened his rule and inspired revolt among his enemies. William I’s defeat of the Byzantines, and later of his own rebel barons, showed that he was a commander of courage and skill.

William’s continuing reliance on Maio led to a further revolt in 1160 that included the latter’s overthrow and murder. Some of William’s subjects exploited this chaos to massacre the Muslims of Palermo. Around this time, Sicily also lost its African colonies of Tripoli (1158) and Mahdia (1160) to the Almohads.

From 1161, William’s kingdom was generally stable. In the later years his leading ministers were officials such as Matthew of Salerno, Richard Palmer and Caid Peter, although leading barons continued to envy their power.

At the time of William I's death in 1166, Sicily's enemies were still plotting invasions, but William had defeated or contained all internal and external threats and his son succeeded him as William II.

Do not expect all the above and accept other relevant material. If only source material or own knowledge is used the maximum mark that can be obtained is [5]. For maximum [8] expect argument, synthesis of source material and own knowledge, as well as references to the sources used.
