

SECTION A

Alfred the Great

Study the four sources and then answer Question 1.

- 1 Using these four sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the view that King Alfred's reforms in religion and learning depended on help from continental Europe. [30]

Source A: The archbishop of Reims writes to Alfred in response to a request for assistance in the king's reforms in England.

You seek from us, in particular, one named Grimbaud, a priest and monk, to be appointed as a bishop and to superintend the administration of pastoral care. He is most worthy to be a bishop and suitable as well, in that he can instruct others. I had hoped he would achieve that distinction in our kingdom and that I could continue to have him as a companion in my administration and as a most reliable assistant in every church concern. But I have most willingly agreed to the request made by you, to whom I can deny nothing. It is my duty to yield him to you and yours to receive him honourably.

Fulco, Letter, c.886

Source B: Alfred introduces his translation of Pope Gregory's *Pastoral Care*.

When I remembered how the knowledge of Latin had formerly decayed throughout England, yet many could still read English writing, I began, among other various and manifold troubles of this kingdom to translate into English the book which in Latin is called *Pastoralis*, and in English *Shepherd's Book*, sometimes word by word and sometimes according to the sense, as I had learned it from Plegmund my archbishop and Asser my bishop, and Grimbaud my mass-priest and John my mass-priest. And when I had learned it as I could best understand it, and as I could most clearly interpret it, I translated it into English; and I will send a copy to every bishopric in the kingdom.

Alfred, Preface to Gregory's Pastoral Care, c. 890

Source C: Asser, a monk, writes about how Alfred established a monastery at Athelney.

In the first place the king appointed John, a priest and monk of Old Saxon origin, as abbot of Athelney; and thereafter certain priests and deacons from across the sea arrived. Among these (since Alfred had not yet achieved the number he desired), were a number of people of Gallic origin. He ordered that certain of their children be educated in the monastery and at a later time be raised to the monastic order. In the monastery too I saw someone of Viking parentage who had been brought up there.

Asser, Life of King Alfred, 893

Source D: Florence of Worcester, a monk and historian, describes the appointments made in the Church by Alfred.

In 872 Werfrith, a man learned in the Scriptures, who had been brought up in the holy church of Worcester, was ordained bishop. At King Alfred's command he made the first translation of the Dialogues of pope Gregory from the Latin into the Saxon tongue, a work which he executed with great accuracy and elegance. The king induced him and also Plegmund, a learned and venerable man and a native of Mercia, together with Aethelstan and Werwulf, two well educated Mercian priests, to leave that province and come to him, and he advanced them to high honours and station, that they might assist him in his great object, the acquisition of learning.

Florence of Worcester, Chronicle, written before 1118

SECTION B

The Making of England 899–1016

Answer **ONE** question.

2* How effectively did Athelstan deal with challenges to his rule? [20]

3* 'Eadred's main achievement was to force the submission of the Danes.' Assess this view. [20]

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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