



GCSE HISTORY

Paper 2 Section B/A: Norman England, c1066–c1100

Interpretations Booklet

Interpretation A for use in answering Question 01

Interpretation A An interpretation of William and the Battle of Hastings.

Adapted from 'The Norman Conquest' by Hugh Thomas, 2008.

William has to be seen as the better commander because he won. He showed extraordinary persistence and bravely risked both himself and his army to win his gamble at Hastings. However, in any battle the effect of luck cannot be ignored. Had William died early in the fighting, as was rumoured, then his army would probably have broken up. He might then have been known as 'William the Reckless', and instead historians would have praised Harold as a daring and brilliant general.

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END OF INTERPRETATIONS

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