

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 the Domesday Book.

Adapted from an article by David Roffe in 'History Today', in 2007.

The Domesday Book was put together from a survey which William ordered in 1085. The reasons for such a huge survey have always been debated. It has been seen as a list of taxes paid, taxes owed, a reassessment of taxes, a record of land ownership, a plan of a new feudal society for Norman England, confirmation of Norman rule and more. It is clear that the survey had more than one purpose. William demanded that information about land ownership and local government be supplied but his most urgent need in 1085 must have been for cash.

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END OF INTERPRETATIONS

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