

History route 1
Higher level and standard level
Paper 1

Tuesday 8 November 2016 (afternoon)

1 hour

Instructions to candidates

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer all the questions.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[25 marks]**.

The kingdom of Sicily 1130–1302

Read all the sources carefully and answer all the questions that follow.

Sources in this paper have been edited: word additions or explanations are shown in square brackets []; substantive deletions of text are indicated by ellipses ... ; minor changes are not indicated.

These sources and questions relate to the rule of William I of Sicily (1154–1166).

Source A Hiroshi Takayama, a professor of history, writing in an academic history book that utilizes the royal charters and official records produced by the king, his ministers, and by the churches and abbeys of the kingdom, *The Administration of the Norman Kingdom of Sicily* (1993).

Simon the seneschal [royal representative] was entrusted [by William I] with the government of the principalities of Apulia and Capua. It should be noted that he was the first person whose title was defined by a regional name. This suggests that the office of master captain [military commander] responsible for the principalities of Apulia and Capua was institutionally established. In a document of January of 1158 he appeared [with this title] ... He held the office until the assassination of Maio in November 1160.

During this period Simon the seneschal had a colleague, Admiral Stephen, brother of Maio ... who was in command of the army in Apulia in those days and remained in office until the assassination of Maio ... Thus a new system of two master captains was established under the headship of Maio. It is clear that during the crisis of the kingdom at the beginning of his reign the king needed a representative who could act quickly.

Source B Graham Loud, a professor of medieval history, writing in the article “History Writing in the Twelfth-Century Kingdom of Sicily” in the collection of academic essays *Chronicling History: Chroniclers and Historians in Medieval and Renaissance Italy* (2007).

The supreme villain in the History of the Tyrants of Sicily is Maio of Bari ... whom [the chronicler] Hugo Falcandus loathed: “a beast more repellent could not be found, none more effective in achieving the destruction and overthrow of the realm”. Maio, we are told, was intelligent but utterly unscrupulous, able to “pretend and dissemble [conceal] whatever he pleased ... yet he managed to hide the tempest [storm] within his seething mind behind a calm appearance”. All this, repeated and elaborated at length, is a damning indictment [severe criticism]. Yet what other evidence we have suggests that Maio was neither quite the upstart [one who rises to power quickly] portrayed by Hugo, nor the villain; indeed he appears to have been a man of some piety.

Source C John Julius Norwich, an author of popular history books, writing in a general introduction to Sicilian history, *Sicily: A Short History from the Ancient Greeks to Cosa Nostra* (2015).

On 7 May 1166, William died at the age of forty-six. He had not been a good king. To be sure, Roger II was a hard act to follow, and it is perhaps hardly surprising that William should have tried to conceal his natural insecurity behind that fearsome exterior, and to pass off his shortcomings as an administrator with elaborate demonstrations of indifference. In one respect, however, he excelled; he was a far better soldier than his father had ever been and he knew it. When he was besieged in his own palace, bereft of friends or counsellors, he revealed himself as what he so often was – a hesitant, frightened man; but once he was in the field, his army behind him, he was transformed. And when the crisis came, it was his courage and military skill that saved his kingdom.

This very contrast, however, is typical of him. Throughout his life he remained unsteady and mercurial – perhaps, indeed, what we might nowadays describe as bipolar. Long periods of the profoundest lethargy would be interrupted by bursts of frantic almost hysterical activity. He could at one moment be cruel to the point of savagery, almost unbelievably merciful the next.

Source D Donald Matthew, a professor of history, writing in an academic history book, *The Norman Kingdom of Sicily* (1992).

With the treaty agreed at Benevento in 1156, the kingdom devised by [Pope] Anacletus II in 1130 had finally won recognition from the papacy and, thereby, recognition in the eyes of western Christendom ... William's victory was therefore more than a personal demonstration of his ability to defend his father's creation: it proved that the kingdom itself was more than one man's adventure. The kingdom turned out to make better sense than anyone outside it had been prepared to imagine.

William's striking military successes, in Sicily, against the Greeks and against the pope, almost immediately restored tranquillity to most of the kingdom. As the finality of the new settlement gradually sank in, the rebels gave up their resistance, one by one ...

The kingdom [of Sicily] offered southern Italy a formal framework for its development, the lack of which in an earlier period had done the region much harm ... Recognised by the Papacy but not much beholden [controlled] by it, freed from fear of German emperors, and released from Greek and Muslim shackles, the kingdom was at last given the chance to make its own destiny.

Source E

Silver penny of William I, minted at Messina in Sicily in 1155. The inscription on the coin, which is written in Arabic, is: King William, guided [al-hâdi] by the command of God [Allah].



[Source: Silver penny of King William I, c. 1066. Musée des Antiquités de Rouen]

1. (a) What, according to Source D, were William I's achievements? [3]
(b) What is the message conveyed by Source E? [2]
2. Compare and contrast the views expressed in Sources C and D about William I's reign as king of Sicily. [6]
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]
4. Using the sources and your own knowledge, evaluate the statement in Source C that William I "had not been a good king". [8]