Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced

Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations

Option 1A: The crusades, c1095–1204

Wednesday 6 June 2018 – Afternoon

Extracts Booklet

Paper Reference

9HI0/1A

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From Michael Angold, *The Fourth Crusade*, published 2003.

The leaders of the Fourth Crusade were unfit to face the difficulties and hard decisions that awaited them. Their knowledge of Byzantium was limited. The crusaders were inclined to be contemptuous of the Byzantines' fighting skills, and they thought Byzantium was weak. The crusaders understood that they had a duty to respond to calls for aid from fellow Christians, making them vulnerable to manipulation. They had put themselves in a relationship with Venice that handed Doge Dandolo the power to influence the events that followed. Venice saw the Crusade as an opportunity to reverse its relationship with Byzantium, from being a client state to becoming the dominant power.

Byzantium itself was in a vulnerable position. The central government had lost effective control of many of its provinces. It was a time of weakness for both the imperial government and the Eastern Church. This weakness was noticed by the crusaders, and it became part of their calculations, as Byzantium was now considered more of a hindrance than a help in the fight against the Muslims. The crusaders also knew that Constantinople contained fabulous wealth.

Extract 2: From W B Bartlett, *An Ungodly War*, published 2000.

The Venetians accepted that they were obliged to transport the crusaders to the Muslim East, but Egypt was not their preferred choice. Relations between Egypt and Venice were good. The Venetians had significant trading interests in the country which would be seriously jeopardised if they transported the crusaders there. The Venetians had a history of playing both sides in the crusades. They had often helped the Christian cause while at the same time providing materials for armaments to the Muslims. The Venetians would probably have gone along with the deal to ship the crusaders to Egypt, albeit unenthusiastically, but they did not need to do so. When the young Prince Alexius asked the Crusade to divert to Constantinople and install him as emperor, a solution was found. Boniface of Montferrat* particularly championed the Prince's cause. The Venetians were very happy to fall in with the scheme. The Venetians' willingness to divert the Crusade to Constantinople was made all too easy by the terms of the Treaty of Venice that had left the crusaders in debt.

*Boniface of Montferrat – a prominent crusader leader

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