

SECTION A

Richard II 1377–1399

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 the greatest challenge for the government in the period from 1377 to 1380 was the threat of France. [30]

Source A: A monk of St Alban's Abbey writes about the reaction of the Duke of Lancaster to the accession.

The Duke of Lancaster saw that now his father was dead, and the new king installed, that everything in the kingdom would be different. In future his standing would be totally diminished by the new men. He was afraid that, if anything unfortunate happened to the King or kingdom, it would be blamed on him and that he would receive no or few thanks for his good services. He received the King's permission to depart to his castle of Kenilworth.

Thomas of Walsingham, Chronicle, written before 1422

Source B: A monk at Evesham Abbey gives an account of foreign relations in 1377.

There was a complete collapse of peace negotiations with the French. They refused to keep the peace unless an agreement highly favourable to themselves could be reached. Such an agreement would have been to the serious prejudice of the English kingdom. During the same period, the Scots burnt the town of Roxburgh at the instigation of the Earl of Dunbar. As a result, Henry Percy, the new Earl of Northumberland, entered the Earl of Dunbar's land with ten thousand soldiers. He burnt the towns subject to Dunbar and plundered the whole area for three days.

History of the Life and Reign of Richard II, written in the early fifteenth century

Source C: A chronicler, writing in French, outlines the situation in 1377.

© Extract from Chronicle, Contemporary Chronicles of the Hundred Years War, pages 174-175, edited Peter Thompson, 1966. <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Contemporary-Chronicles-Hundred-Years-War/dp/B0000CN49H>. Item removed due to third party copyright restrictions.

Jean Froissart, Chronicles of England, France, Spain and the Adjoining Countries, written before 1400

Source D: Parliament makes provision for the government during the minority.

The commons request that the king's council be enlarged by eight suitable persons of differing ranks and status, to be in continual attendance. They shall deal with the business of the realm while our lord is of such tender years. No major or costly business shall be done or discussed without the assent and advice of them all. All other lesser business shall be done by the assent of four of them as the case requires.

Parliamentary Rolls for 1377

SECTION B

England 1399–1455

Answer **ONE** question.

- 2* How successfully did Henry IV overcome the problems which he faced? [20]
- 3* 'The main reason for discontent in 1450 was the behaviour and actions of the Duke of Suffolk.'
How far do you agree? [20]

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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