



ST. NICHOLAS COLLEGE  
 RABAT MIDDLE SCHOOL  
 HALF YEARLY EXAMINATIONS  
 SCHOLASTIC YEAR 2015 – 2016

Marks
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Year 8 History General Duration: 1½ hours

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Register No.: \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Read the following text about the Vikings. Fill in the blanks with the words below:** (Each word may be used only once) **(1 X 10 = 10 marks)**

forests	warriors	Canada	Longship	sailors
Knarr	France	rivers	mountains	Norway

The Vikings had a large population living in the Scandinavian lands including Denmark, Sweden and \_\_\_\_\_. They lived in a cold, harsh. Their environment contained several \_\_\_\_\_ and forests but the fertile arable land did not produce enough crops. Hence, they sought to get their needs from other lands.

The Vikings used the limited resources they had, from the \_\_\_\_\_ they got enough trees and wood to build ships. They built two types of ships, the \_\_\_\_\_, rather narrow, long, light and fast to be used during fighting and the \_\_\_\_\_, wide and big enough to be used for the transport of cargo. The ships had a flat bottom so they could be used to sail along \_\_\_\_\_.

The Vikings used these ships to raid the coasts of foreign lands including Scotland, England, Spain and \_\_\_\_\_. Vikings became known as fierce \_\_\_\_\_ capable of raiding, killing and ravaging and stealing. They were also very skilful \_\_\_\_\_, in fact they successfully reached the coast of today's \_\_\_\_\_.

**B. Observe the sources about the Normans, than answer the questions below accordingly:** (total 12 marks)



1. From the sources name and write:

(1 X 4 = 4 marks)

two weapons used to attack the enemy soldiers

two objects used to defend / protect the soldier from any harm

2. Where did the Normans settle in France?

\_\_\_\_\_.(1)

3. Name two ways how the Normans changed once they settled among the local population of France?

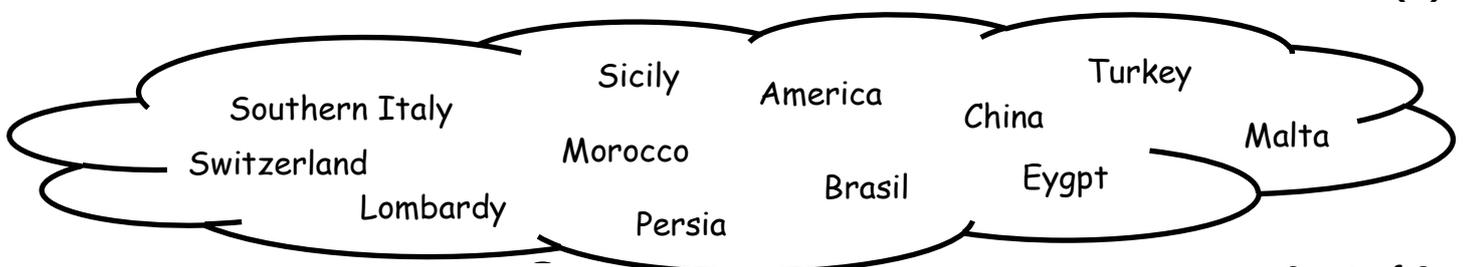
\_\_\_\_\_.(2)

4. How did the Normans improve their fighting skills as they lived together with the local population?

\_\_\_\_\_.(2)

5. Underline three lands which were won over by the Normans:

(3)



C. From the sources and from what you know about the subject, work out the tasks below: (total 10 marks)



Source C



Source D



Source E



Source F

1. Against which army are the Norman soldiers fighting in the sources above?

The Norman soldiers are fighting against the \_\_\_\_\_ army at the battle of Hastings. (2)

2. How did the Norman army prepare before leaving their land to reach Hastings? (Source C and Source D may help)

\_\_\_\_\_. (2)

3. Which one of the sources above is a **Secondary Source** of information? Why?

Source  because \_\_\_\_\_ (2)

4. Source C, Source D and Source E form part of which Norman remain?

\_\_\_\_\_. (2)

5. Why is this remain / evidence so important in the study of Norman history?

\_\_\_\_\_. (2)

D. Read the source and then answer the questions

(total 10 marks)

'The Count shed tears when he saw the Christian slaves coming out from the town welcoming him happily with palms in their hands and, shouting *Kyrie Eleyson*, they threw themselves on the ground in front of him. On taking possession of the town, the Count led the slaves to his ships. His ship became so heavy that he thought that it would sink, but God was with them, and the vessel was lifted above the waves. On his way back, the Count noticed the island of Gozo. He ordered a raid on that island as well. The Normans landed and looted that island. Before returning to Sicily the Count took possession of the island of Gozo and added it to his lands.'

Goffredu Malaterra, Secretary of the Count

Source G

1. Who is the Count mentioned in Source G?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

2. According to the source, which Maltese town did the Count take in possession?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

3. Which was the most popular religion worshipped on the Maltese islands when the Count reached our land? Underline the correct answer (1)

Pagan

Christian

Muslim

Buddist

Judaism

Hindu

4. Why did the Count ask the local people to free all the Christian slaves and prisoners in town?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2)

5. Copy the phrase in the source which shows that Goffredo Malaterra exaggerated in some parts of his account of events

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2)

6. Why did the Norman Count need to win such small islands as Malta and Gozo?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (3)

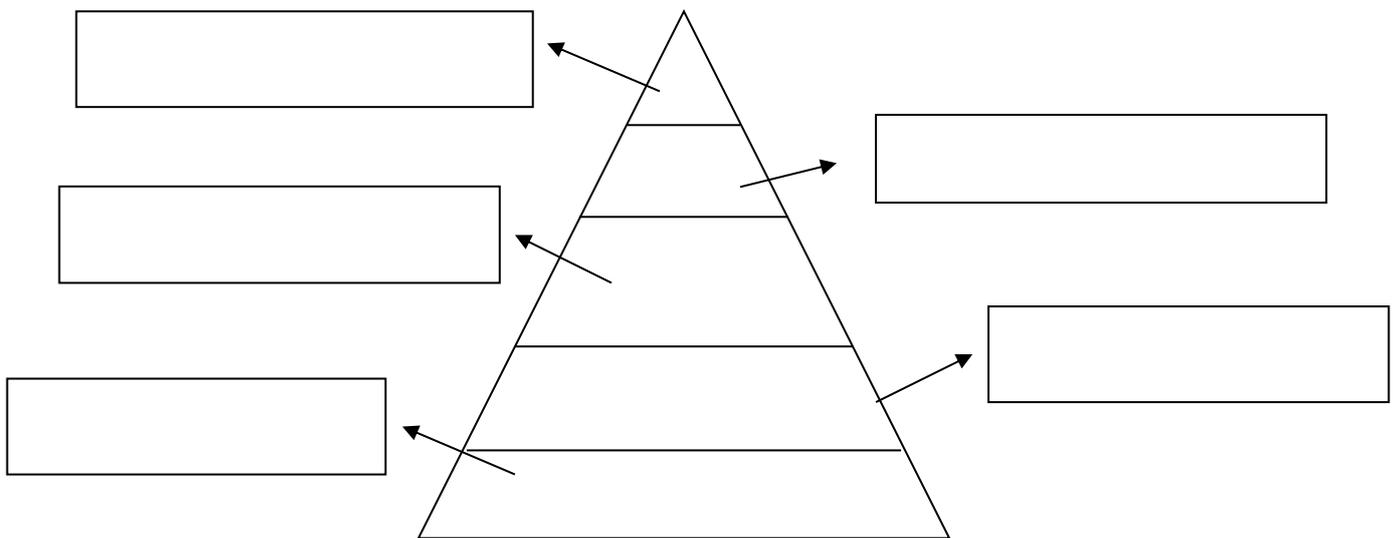
**E. What are the following remains called? Choose only three of the phrases below and write them under the correct remain (2 X 3 = 6 marks)**

Siculo-Norman building at Imdina	Arabic inscriptions found at I-Isla	Muslim tombstones found at Rabat
Roman tombstone found at Valletta	Majmuna Stone found in Gozo	Neo-Classic building at Birgu

		
1.	2.	3.

**F. From what you know about the Feudal System, fill in the blanks to label the triangle below. On top of the triangle put the most powerful persons and at the bottom the people who almost had no rights in Medieval society: (5 x 1 = 5 marks)**

### The Feudal System



Nobbles	Free Farmers	King	Knights	Slaves
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**G. Look at the source below. From what you are observing and from what you know about the Feudal System in the Middle Ages, answer the following questions. Give examples to support your work. (total 17 marks)**

Source H

Castle

**1. Fill in the blank boxes with what you can observe in Source H: The first one has been done as an example. (4 x 1 = 4 marks)**

**2. Underline the best answer: (5 x 1 = 5 marks)**

- i. A vast stretch of land including the buildings and the people living in it. (an acre of land / a fief of land / rented land / agricultural area).
- ii. The lifestyle in the Feudal System depended heavily on (tourism / agriculture / mechanical industry / the search for fossil fuel oils).

- iii. When the king granted land to a Feudal lord, the lord had to (work in the fields / sell the crops / take an oath of loyalty in favour of the king / get rid of the slaves on his land).
- iv. The Knights in the Feudal System had to maintain order on the lands of the Feudal lord but he also had to (fight in favour of the king during wars / work in factories / rear and take care of their horses / build siege weapons).
- v. In the Feudal System serfs were bound to (his feudal lord / the castle where he lived / the land and the fields they worked upon / the ships on which they sailed upon).

**3. Answer the following questions giving examples when necessary:**

- i. Early fortifications in the Middle Ages were built out of wood (unlike the one in source H). Name the disadvantages of this material when the castle was under siege (attack):

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..... (1)

- ii. Several Medieval castles were built close to rivers or streams. Name the advantages of this position:

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..... (2)

- iii. Why were Medieval castles built on a high position?

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..... (2)

- iv. Imagine you are taking part in a siege. Describe how you would go about attacking the castle keeping in mind the weapons available at the time:

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..... (3)

**H. Match the following columns by writing the correct number in the space provided. (5 X 2 = 10 marks)**

1	Kaptan tal-Port		The man who managed the lands and the fields by leasing them to the local farmers
2	Kastellan		The tax collector, asking money from the local population to pay the taxes set by the Normans
3	Duwan		The person in charge of the local justice trying to maintain order in the Maltese islands
4	Bajulaċċju		The person managing the ships entering and going out of the local ports
5	Kaptan tal-Ħaqq		The man in charge of the small castle in Birgu 1242 A.D.

**I. Choose only one title and write about 100 words about it. Give clear examples to strengthen your answers (20 marka)**

1. Compare how the people lived during the Middle Ages to how we live today. Write about the differences as regards technology, buildings, jobs and lifestyles. You can also comment about the advantages and disadvantages of the two different ages.
2. *The Crusades brought about the death of thousands of soldiers and civilians for almost two hundred years. These wars were fought because of different religious beliefs and due to the struggle for power.*  
Comment and write all you know about the Crusades. The following words may help you: Holy Land, Christian and Muslim forces, Knights and pilgrims.
3. Write all you know about the Black Death, its causes and consequences (effects) while describing how the infected populations tried to get rid of such contagious pestilence.

**Note:** It is important you write down the title which you have chosen on the foolscap provided together with your name, surname and class number. When you are ready from the exam put the foolscap in the middle of your exam paper (after page 4) so that it does not get lost while they are being collected.