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| <i>School</i> | <i>Candidate's Name (PLEASE PRINT)</i> |
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WINCHESTER  
COLLEGE

## Entrance Examination

### History

2021

Total time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

- You may have 15 minutes to study the source documents before the examination starts.
- Answer ALL questions in Section A and ONE question from Section B.
- You are advised to spend about 40 minutes on Section A and 35 minutes on Section B.
- Please start Section B on a fresh sheet of paper.
- Total marks for Section A: **20**. Total marks for Section B: **20**.

## Section A: Viking women

The Vikings were a seafaring people from southern Scandinavia who, over the course of the 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> centuries, invaded, traded with, and settled across large parts of Europe and as far as Iceland, Russia, Constantinople, the Middle East and North America. The sources below explore the role and status of women in Viking society.

You are not expected to know anything about the material, but will be given marks on the strength of your analysis of the sources. The questions follow: please answer all of them.

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**Source A:** An inscription on tombstone in Sweden.



The inscription reads:

‘The good farmer Holmgaut had this raised in memory of his wife Odendisa. A better housewife will never come to Hassmyra to run this farm. She was a good sister to Sigismund. Red-Balli the Master Runemaker carved these runes.’

*From an eleventh century runestone near a farm at Hassmyra in Sweden.*

**Source B:** A Viking poem.

Then the mother took  
The embroidered cloth  
Of linen, white,  
Then she set down  
Thin loaves of bread  
Wheaten white,  
Upon the cloth.

Next she brought forth  
Dishes brimful,  
Highly-flavoured ham  
And roasted fowl.  
There was wine in beauteous cups.  
The men drank and talked  
Until break of day.

The housewife looked at her sleeves.  
She smoothed the linen.  
She put on her head-dress.  
A brooch was on her breast.

*From an Icelandic poem, written down in the twelfth century.*

**Source C:** An account of some events in the 960s.

Harald Greycloak was King of Norway. His mother was Gunnhild, the widow of Erik Bloodaxe. They had their residence at King's Rock in the east of the country. Word spread that a ship from the west had arrived. As soon as Gunnhild heard about this, she asked what Icelanders were aboard and learned that among them was her father Ozur and Hrut, another member of her family. She sent her servant to meet the ship and said, 'Tell them that I'm inviting them to spend the winter with me and that I wish to be their friend. If they follow my advice, I will take care of their financial business and shall also bring them to the attention of the King.' Afterwards, Ozur and Hrut discussed their options in private. Ozur remarked to Hrut, 'I think, kinsman, that our minds have been made up for us because I know what Gunnhild is like. If we don't go to her, she will quickly drive us out of the country and seize all our property, but if we do go to her, she will treat us honourably as she promised.'

*From Njal's Saga which tells the story of a family between 860 and 1020.*

**Source D:** An account of events in England in 1015.

In the summer or autumn, when King Knut took his troops across to England, King Aethelred of England died in his bed after having reigned for thirty-eight years. Immediately after his death his widow, Queen Emma, prepared for a journey overseas. She meant to sail west to France and visit her brothers William and Robert, who were earls there. Their father was Richard, Earl of Rouen, son of Richard, son of William Longspear, who was the son of Rollo, conqueror of Normandy. However, King Knut's men learned about Queen Emma's proposed travels and just as her retinue was about to set sail, King Knut's men arrived and seized the ship and everything aboard. They brought Queen Emma to King Knut and it was agreed by the King and his chieftains that he should take her as his wife: so that was done.

*From 'The Ancient History of the Norwegian Kings' written by Theodoricus Monarchus between 1177 and 1188.*

**Source E:** A Muslim traveller describes the wives of Viking merchants.

Each woman wears on either breast a box of iron, copper, silver or gold. The value of the box indicates the wealth of the husband. Each box has a ring from which hangs a knife. The women wear neck rings of gold and silver, one for each 100,000 dirhams (Islamic silver coins) which her husband is worth. They trade these beads among themselves and pay a dirham for a bead. They string them together as necklaces for their women.

*From Ibn Fadlan's Travels, written in the tenth century.*

**Source F:** An inscription from an 11<sup>th</sup> century tombstone.

Read this and take note! Geirmund married Geirlaug when she was a girl. They had a son but then Geirmund drowned and the son died. Geirlaug then married Gudrik and they had children but only one survived. She was called Inga. Inga married Ragnafast, who owned his own farm. They had a son, but Ragnast and the son died so Igna inherited everything from her husband and her father when he died. When Igna died, her mother Geirlaug inherited everything from her daughter.

*Near Hillersjo in Sweden.*

### Questions

Read Sources A and B.

1. What do these sources suggest about the role and status of Viking housewives?

[4]

Read Sources C and D. Each source tells the story of a Viking woman of high status and wealth.

2. In what ways do the lives of these women appear similar, and in what ways do they appear different?

[6]

Read sources E and F, **and then consider all the sources.**

3. 'Women were less important than men in Viking Society.'

How far do the sources support this view?

[10]

**Total for Section A: 20 marks**

**Section B: Essays**

Answer one question. Use examples from your own knowledge to support your answer. Wherever possible, anchor your arguments in your knowledge of the past. All questions are worth 20 marks.

1. You are designing a new history syllabus for your school. What will you include and why?
2. Is good generalship the most important factor in determining the outcome of battles?
3. Assess the causes of any revolution, revolt, or rebellion which you have studied.
4. How useful is music as a source for historical research?
5. Explore the consequences of any technological innovation you have studied.
6. If you could travel through time to any historical event, what would it be and why?

[20]

**Total for Section B: 20 marks**

**Total for paper: 40 marks**

**END OF PAPER**