

**HISTORICAL TRIPOS - PART I**

**PAPER 7**

**BRITISH SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC  
HISTORY, 380-1100**



**COURSE GUIDE**

**2018 – 2019**

Paper 7 concentrates upon developments in the British Isles between 380 and 1100 in the economic, social, religious and cultural spheres, a period unprecedented for the degree to which the peoples of these islands interacted with, assimilated or resisted groups of warriors, settlers, traders and churchmen from across the seas. As with Paper 2, a disproportionate emphasis is placed upon developments in England, but the central themes - social organization and social relations; the organization and practice of the religious life; the social and economic impact of Vikings and Normans; urban development; literacy and the use of the written word - are examined in relation to the shared or contrasting experiences of the peoples of Celtic-speaking Britain and Ireland. The early part of the paper explores the extent of survival of the economy and culture of Roman Britain; the patterns and impact of Anglo-Saxon settlement; the organization of early medieval society in Britain; the consequences for lay society of the conversion of the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity, and the respective contributions by Continental and Irish missionaries to religious life and culture. The paper then considers the longer-term impact of the conversion, developments in ecclesiastical organization, the interactions between religious and lay society, and calls for religious reform in the eighth and ninth centuries; the artistic and intellectual achievements of the 'age of Bede', and the social, cultural and economic impact of Viking invasion and settlement throughout the British Isles during the ninth and tenth centuries. The later part of the paper draws upon a richer survival of written evidence to examine developments in late Anglo-Saxon society, such as relations between lords and peasants; the status and role of women; land-holding and law. It also assesses developments in agriculture, estate-management, trade and towns; the religious and intellectual achievements of the tenth-century monastic reform; clerical and lay literacy and the use of the written word, and finally, Domesday Book and the impact of the Norman Conquest upon the peoples, churches, economies and cultures of Britain. The paper offers the opportunity to look closely (sometimes at first hand) at written sources (documentary and literary) and material evidence (e.g. metal work, coinage, pottery, manuscripts), by exploiting the exceptionally rich resources of the museums and libraries of Cambridge.

#### Bibliography

For the period before c.1066, see the Anglo-Saxon England bibliography compiled by Professor S.D. Keynes. For the history of Celtic-speaking Britain and Ireland to c.1100, see the Supplementary booklist for Paper 7. For the period from 1050, see also the booklist for Paper 8. These are available on the History Faculty website <https://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/hist-tripos/part-i/part-i-papers-current>

#### Lectures

The lectures for the paper comprise a course of eight core lectures and more detailed courses including two (on Anglo-Saxon history, and on the North Sea in the Early Middle Ages, given by Dr Jarrett and others) borrowed from the lectures courses of the Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic and the Department of Archaeology (archaeological evidence is particularly important for Paper 7). Lectures given by the Department of ASNC follow a 2-year cycle; lectures on the period of Anglo-Saxon history not covered this will be given in 2019-20. Note that the lectures listed below include a few courses whose primary coverage concerns Paper 2, but may be useful for students taking Paper 7 both for their inclusion of socio-economic or ecclesiastical themes, and for a general overview of the period (particularly useful for students not studying Papers 2 and 7 in combination): **these lectures are marked with an asterisk.**

## **Michaelmas Term**

DR D.R. PRATT, PROF. M.T.J. WEBBER, DR C. GOODSON, and DR S. HAKENBECK

Core lectures: British economic and social history 380-1100 (Eight lectures)

Thursdays 9 a.m. [starting Thursday 4 October 2018]

### 1. Historiography

Dr D. Pratt

Basic changes in the perception of the early medieval period: religion, law and constitutional matters from the 17th to the 19th centuries. Origins and usefulness of the distinction between 'political and constitutional' history, on the one hand, and 'social and economic' history, on the other, with reference to the early period. Some common features of modern social and economic historiography of the period. Benefits of comparison between Anglo-Saxon England and other regions of the British Isles. A summary of key historiography and debates on this paper.

### 2. Archaeological sources

Dr S. Hakenbeck

Material culture; differences between archaeological and literary evidence; dating; site interpretation; settlements; artefact studies; grave goods; style; ethnicity; quantification; introduction to periods of material evidence in England.

### 3. Written sources

Prof. T. Webber

Literacy and the use of the written word in Anglo-Saxon and early Anglo-Norman society. Varieties of written source (including specimens of originals), the function(s) of each and the extent of their use.

### 4. Law and the structure of early medieval societies in Britain and Ireland

Dr D. Pratt

Anglo-Saxon oral and written law; Irish vernacular legal tracts; wergild and status; crime and dispute settlement; kinship and lordship.

### 5. Those who fight

Dr D. Pratt

The three orders; debate over military obligations; origins and terminology of aristocracy; forces for social change in Anglo-Saxon England; questions of social mobility.

### 6. Those who work

Dr C. Goodson

The lower orders of society. Personal status and conditions of tenure. Slavery and dependence. Regional and chronological variations. The "origins of the manorial system". The nature of peasant society and economy.

### 7. Those who pray

Prof. T. Webber

The forms and structures of religious life and ecclesiastical organisation in Anglo-Saxon England. The practice of the religious life--active and contemplative. The laity and the holy (patronage; the cult of saints; pilgrimage).

### 8. Domesday Book

Dr D. Pratt

Domesday Book: how was it made and for what purposes? Recent reassessments. Its uses and abuses for economic and social history.

PROF. S. D. KEYNES

\*Anglo-Saxon history. (Eight lectures) W. 10

## **Lent Term**

DR C. GOODSON AND DR D. PRATT

Society and economy in the early medieval British isles, 380-1100. (Eight lectures) Th. 9

(1) The migration period (2) The age of emporia (3) Transformation of the rural economy (4) Scandinavian settlement (5) Coinage as evidence for the economic historian (6) Economy of late Anglo-Saxon England (7) Trade and exchange in Celtic Britain and Ireland (8) Domesday Book and beyond: landlords, estate management and social order

DR D. WOODMAN AND DR C. GOODSON

Politics and economy in early medieval Britain. (Eight lectures) Tu. 9

(1) Politics and economics in early medieval Britain (2) Anglo-Saxon charters: the nature of the evidence (3) Anglo-Saxon charters: trade, power and rhetoric (4) Early medieval government (5) The end of Roman Britain (6) Beyond the fringe: the Roman frontier and Late Antiquity in the British Isles, 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> centuries (7) The age of isolation? Celtic Britain and Ireland 600-800 (8) Vikings in the British Isles

DR D. WOODMAN

\*Anglo-Saxon Northumbria, c. 650-1100. (Four lectures, weeks 5-8) M.11

(1) Northumbria's golden age (2) The arrival of vikings (3) The birth of England and Northumbria's place in the new society (4) The arrival of Normans

PROF. S. D. KEYNES

\*Anglo-Saxon history. (Eight lectures) W. 10

**Easter Term**

DR T. LAMBERT

Law, kingship and society in Anglo-Saxon England (Four lectures, weeks 1-4) Tu. 9

PROF S. D. KEYNES

\*Themes and problems in Anglo-Saxon history. (Four classes, weeks 1-4) W. 10

[NB. These classes are designed primarily as revision sessions for students in ASNC, but history students keen to gain a knowledge of the primary source material at a more detailed level have also found them very useful.]

DR M. ALLEN

Money in Medieval England and sources for monetary history. (One class) Th. 2 May, 2 *Fitzwilliam Museum*