



Old Western Culture

*A Christian Approach to the Great Books*

Year 3: Christendom

Unit 1

# Early Medievals

*The Growth of European Christianity*



A ROMAN ROADS MEDIA *Video Course*

*Exam Answer Key*

**Please Note:** *This exam may be periodically updated, expanded, or revised.*

*Download the latest revision at [www.RomanRoadsMedia.com/materials](http://www.RomanRoadsMedia.com/materials)*

*Version 1.0.0.*

## NOTES FOR PARENT OR TEACHER

### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- Have the student answer all questions in full sentences.
- Exam should take 45 to 90 minutes. Do not allow more than 2 hours.
- Feel free to allow the student more paper, or to type the answers on a computer.
- This is a closed-book exam. If typing the answers, no Internet access allowed.

### POINT SYSTEM

This exam consists of ten questions, valued at 8–12 points each, for a total of 100 points.

Two extra credit questions are worth 5 points each. If a student answers correctly to all questions, as well as the bonus questions then he or she will have scored 110%. Partial credit (e.g., 5/10 points) may be given if the student correctly answers part of the question, but misses some important elements. Points lost on the main exam can be recouped by answering the bonus questions correctly.

### HOW TO GRADE

Because the exam consists of essay questions, it will be both harder to answer and harder to grade compared to multiple choice exams. However, it allows the student to think through what he has learned in a deeper and more meaningful way and aids in long-term retention and more useful application. For example, you will find that a student who is required to answer essay questions will more easily integrate what he has learned into his general knowledge and able to use it in informal conversation.

Since these are not multiple choice, *answers will vary*. This answer key provides sample correct responses for each question, but it is very possible that a varying answer may still be correct. If you have followed along with the video and interacted with your student throughout the term, you should be able to determine if a certain variation on the answer is a correct one. If you are truly not sure, sit down with your student and figure out the correct answer together. You can also submit questions by sending an email to [info@romanroadsmedia.com](mailto:info@romanroadsmedia.com).

Also, we purposefully created short and concise answers in this answer key. We expect most student answers to be longer, though this is not a requirement. Many of these questions could be an entire paper topic, and we would encourage students display as much of their knowledge as they can on the paper. This is also why we encourage the parents or teacher to allow the student to type out the answers.



## HOW TO STUDY FOR THE TEST

Have your student read through his or her notes from throughout the term as general preparation, as well as study the answers from the workbook questions. These questions will be familiar to the student who has worked through all questions in their workbook.

## THE A AND B EXAMS

This course includes two exams, designated A and B. Although there is some overlap, many of the questions will be different, but equivalent. These tests may be used in a couple of ways. One way is to use exam A as a practice exam, open or closed book, and exam B as the graded, closed-book exam. Exam B could also be used as a “second chance” exam if exam A didn’t go as well as the student had hoped.

There is flexibility here, and the parent or teacher is free to choose if and how to use the extra exam.

## “MY STUDENT IS HAVING TROUBLE GETTING 100%!”

This can prove a frustration with essay exams. One thing to watch out for is that there *is* variation in correct answers. Read the “How to Grade” note in the previous page for more information on this.

Another issue is that we have culturally grown accustomed to 100% being the norm for a “good student” and believe that less than 100% indicates a crucial deficiency. But 100% in the classical Latin system is “SCL” (*Summa Cum Laude*), which means “with highest praise.” In the Latin system of grading, SCL is reserved for the student who goes beyond the call of duty, and often even teaches the teacher something. In a system where “good” is 100%, going beyond the call of duty is not incentivized, and good students do not progress. So do not worry if your student gets an 85% —in the Latin system that’s a CH, or *Cum Honore*, with honor —and should be received as such.

## QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, feel free to email us at [info@romanroadsmedia.com](mailto:info@romanroadsmedia.com). We love to hear from our parents and teachers, and look forward to serving you in any way possible!



# Early Medievals

## Exam A Answer Key

### ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. What were two of the major factors that motivated the Crusaders? Who stopped the Islamic advance in the early 700s? (10 pts)

The Crusades were motivated first by a desire to rescue the Holy Land from Islamic rulers, especially since those rulers were oppressing both the native Christians and the Christian pilgrims. Second, the Crusaders wanted to defend Europe from any further Islamic army inroads by taking offensive action, rather than simply defensive action. Charles Martel, Charlemagne's grandfather, stopped the Islamic advances in the early 700s.

2. What was the goal of Scholasticism? (10 pts)

Scholasticism aimed to develop a comprehensive system of thought, using the power of logic and reason, to organize all knowledge into one cohesive whole, while reasoning under the authority of Scripture. Scholastics saw organizing knowledge as a means of intellectually fulfilling the dominion mandate given in Genesis.

3. How did monasteries benefit the communities around them as they spread? (10 pts)

Monasteries brought books and learning with them. Thus they provided education, and advanced agricultural knowledge and tools. They also brought better nutrition, and cared for the sick, the poor, and the abandoned of a community.

4. Why is Gregory the Great known as the apostle of English Christianity? (10 pts)

Gregory the Great was generally very interested in missions, and particularly endeavored to help revive English Christianity after the pagan Anglo-Saxons cause it to severely decline. So he sent Augustine of Canterbury, a monk, to preach the Gospel in England.

5. What were the Irish saints responsible for? (10 pts)

They were responsible for the preservation of learning, of the knowledge of Latin, Greek, the classics, and knowledge of the early church fathers in Western Europe. They were responsible for in many cases, the re-evangelization of England and of North-Western Europe. The Irish missionaries were among the most important for restoring Christianity and the knowledge of the Gospel and the church to an England that had become overrun by Anglo-Saxon pagans.

6. Why should Beowulf be read aloud? (10 pts)

Beowulf, like the Iliad, was passed along orally by poets and bards, so that it was originally encountered by audiences aurally. So to fully experience the epic, one must feel and hear the rhythms, not just encounter the words visually on a page.

7. In the late 400s, what effect did the barbarian attack on the Romans have on England? (10 pts)

England suffered greatly from the withdrawal of the Roman legions. Rome pulled her legions from the far-flung borders, including England, to protect the heart of the empire closer to home. This left the field open for the pagan Anglo-Saxons from Northern Europe to subdue England and bring the people back to paganism.



8. Why did Bede want the English and Irish churches to celebrate Easter on the same day? (10 pts)

*Bede was not seeking for the churches of the different nations to be identical, but rather to be in unity so that fellowship among Christian brethren could increase and prosper.*

9. What promise did Alfred make to God? (10 pts)

*Alfred reflected that he could make gifts to God of the service of his body and mind, so he proposed to offer to God no less of his personal time and energy than he had done of external riches. He promised to give to God half of his services, bodily and mental, by night and by day, voluntarily and with all of his mind.*

10. What are some of the things we can learn from studying the men, ideas, and events of the Middle Ages?

Answer in a half page. (10 pts)

*Answers will vary.*

## EXTRA CREDIT

11. What are the four kinds of monks? What characterizes them, according to Benedict? (BONUS FOR EXTRA CREDIT. 5 Pts.)

First, there are the Cenobites: those who live in monasteries and serve under a rule and an Abbot. Second, there are the Anchorites or Hermits: those who have lived in communities and are spiritually strong, and who go out to live solitary lives in the desert. Next are the Sarabaites, whose primary purpose is self-gratification. They live without authority, in twos or threes or even alone, rather than in larger monastic communities. Last are the Gyrovagues: they spend their whole lives tramping from province to province, always on the move, indulging their own wills and succumbing to the allurements of gluttony.



# Early Medievals

## Exam B Answer Key

### ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. According to the author's studied this term, what six things should a ruler be?(10 pts)

A ruler should be pure in thought and action, full of discretion, of profitable speech, sympathetic to all, excelling in contemplation, friend to the upright through his humility, and unbending against the vices of evil doers.

2. What was significant about Bede's new dating system, versus the traditional Roman system? (10 pts)

The traditional Roman system was based on the years of the reigning authority—e.g. in the 30th year of Constantine's reign. Bede's new system started saying, "Anno Domini," the year of our Lord, meaning Christ. And ever since then, we have used this dating system, abbreviated "A.D."

3. Why was the climactic turning point of Bede's entire history the Synod of Whitby?(10 pts)

The Synod of Whitby was the turning point of the book because it was the council that met in Whitby to settle the question of when Easter should be celebrated. The debate over the date of Easter was a big deal for the Medieval church because the Irish church celebrated Easter at a different time than the English church, and the church leaders greatly desired unity in the celebration of Easter—the biggest Christian celebration of the year.



4. What was the heretic Marcion's belief about the New Testament and God?(10 pts)

Marcion believed that the New Testament and the good God thereof was different from the Old Testament and the cruel God over it.

5. Who said that there is danger to sheep when shepherds foul the water with their feet, and what danger is he speaking of? (10 pts)

Gregory the Great said that when the church leaders or shepherds corrupt the study of holy meditation by evil living, the sheep then drink that fouled water and imitate the bad examples they have been taught.

6. Which king did Paulinus preach to, and what did Paulinus do after the king was killed?(10 pts)

Paulinus preached to King Edwin and helped him convert, but when Edwin was killed in the battle at Heathfield, Paulinus fled with Queen Ethelberga to Kent by sea. Archbishop Honorius and King Eadbald honourably received them.

7. How and where does Beowulf slay Grendel's mother?(10 pts)

Beowulf alone plunged into the lake in the dismal wood after Grendel's mother, and though his sword failed to harm her, he saw a sword from the day of the giants in her armory and kills her with it.



8. What verdict about the British do both Bede and Patrick agree on? (10 pts)

Bede first discusses that the coming of the Anglo-Saxon Germanic invaders of the continent into England was part of God's judgment on the unfaithful British. In the Confession, Patrick further testified concerning this unfaithfulness, and he states that he was part of it--his punishment was to be captured by the Irish slavers and taken to Ireland.

9. How did Benedict first become an Abbot? (10 pts)

An Abbot from a nearby monastery died, and the monks from that monastery asked Benedict to come be their Abbot.

10. What is one difference between *The Song of Roland* and the historical incident of the Battle of Roncevaux? (10 pts)

The Muslims did not attack the rearguard of Charlemagne's army--it was the Basques who attacked.

## EXTRA CREDIT

11. Why did Latin become the common language of the island of Britain, even when there were five other nations? (BONUS FOR EXTRA CREDIT. 5 Pts.)

Latin became the common language because the Scriptures were written in Latin, so to be able to read Scripture and communicate with each other the different nations spoke in Latin.

12. What was the Crusades' intention, and who spearheaded their success in the early 700s?  
(BONUS FOR EXTRA CREDIT. 5 Pts.)

The Crusaders were intended to stop the spread of Islam throughout Europe; Charles Martel, the grandfather of Charlemagne, succeeded and stopped the Islamic advances in the early 700s.

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