INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Please read these instructions carefully, but do not open the question paper until you are told that you may do so. This paper is Section 2 of 2.

There are two questions in this paper, of which you should answer one.

You should write your answer in the space provided in this question paper. Please complete this section in black pen.

You can use the blank inside front and back covers for rough working or notes, but no extra paper is allowed. Only answers in the space indicated in the paper will be marked.

Dictionaries may NOT be used.

Please wait to be told you may begin before turning this page.

This question paper consists of 12 printed pages and 4 blank pages.
The text below has been translated from Latin. It comes from *Vita Griffini filii Conani*, a medieval Latin life of a king of North Wales called Gruffudd ap Cynan, who ruled from approximately 1099 to 1137. He was the founding ancestor of the kings of Gwynedd (North Wales), who ruled until it was conquered by the Normans in 1282. The passage sets out Gruffudd’s origins on the maternal side of his family; on the paternal side, his grandfather Iago had been king of Gwynedd but his father Cynan had not.

There is no expectation that you will have seen the text before, or that you will know about its context.

Read the passage and write an essay in the space provided in response to one of the following:

1. **How might a historian make use of this account as a source for the history of medieval Britain and Ireland?**

2. **Discuss the literary techniques used by the author of this passage.**

Your answer will be assessed taking into account your ability to construct a reasoned argument, using relevant evidence as appropriate from the text, footnotes and introductory information.

Candidates attempting **Question 1** might include, among other things, consideration of the author’s perspective, and how that may have affected his presentation of events. Candidates attempting **Question 2** might include, among other things, discussion of the structure of the text, its themes, and the persuasiveness of its language.

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*Vita Griffini filii Conani*, chs. 4-5

The noble status of Gruffudd is derived from his mother’s line as follows: king Gruffudd, son of Ragnell, daughter of Olaf, king of Dublin and of a fifth part of Ireland, of the Isle of Man, who derived his ancestry from Scotland. He was also considered to be the king of several other islands in as much as he was regarded as king of Denmark,¹ of Galloway,² of Arran,³ of Anglesey and of Gwynedd, where he built his castle (called the castle of Olaf) which is as strong as possible with its ditch and rampart, parts of which are still visible, and it used to be called Castle of Olaf, though in Welsh it is called Bon y Dom. That Olaf was the son of king Sutric, son of Olaf Cirian, son of Sutric, son of king Olaf, son of king Haarfagr (‘Fairhair’) who had been the son of the king of Denmark.⁴

It is worth noting that Harald Haarfagr and his two brothers were sons of the king of Denmark, whose brother, king Alan,⁵ outstanding in the sanctity of his devotion and in the fame of his courage and of his appearance, was killed in battle by a prince, Twr. But while Twr was removing spoils from him, and in particular was twisting off a golden torc of great weight (a type of ornament used by kings and nobles at that time), the torc stuck to his hands and his knees were locked and joined to his stomach. And this was the first miracle by which God had marked him out; subsequently the Danes numbered him among their gods and bestowed great honours on him to the extent that they raised temples to the glory of his name and throughout Denmark they established a cult to him; and in particular they used to call upon him as a sailor, offering him sacrifices and other gifts, whenever they

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¹ Note that in this text ‘Denmark’ and ‘Danes’ are used to refer generally to Scandinavia and Scandinavians.
² An area of south-west Scotland.
³ An island in the Firth of Clyde.
⁴ Harald Fairhair was king of Norway, ca 870-945.
⁵ Alan is the name given here to the person otherwise known as St Olaf.
fell into danger while sailing. However, the prince who killed him was called after this deed Thurkiawl, because he had killed a king of such great innocence.

And this should not be overlooked: that those three brothers travelled far and wide over the sea with their fleet, fitted out very well in the royal manner, and in the end came to Ireland. Not long before Harald Haarfagr at the head of a large army had entered it, and had crossed the whole of Ireland slaughtering and routing the inhabitants with the greatest cruelty, and in this way had subjugated a very large part of it for himself. He indeed began to build the city of Dublin and other cities, and castles and forts where now he had settled confirmed in the possession of this kingdom, and he established one brother in one of the cities which he had founded as governor of the town which in the common speech of those people is called Porthlarg, and his descendants hold the city under their control to this day. But Harald himself used to rule over the whole of Ireland and all the islands of Denmark, which lie off that side of Ireland, just as island of the Cyclades lies between the Tyrrhenian Sea and Denmark. The third brother, namely Rodulphus, directed his ships to Gaul, where he conducted himself bravely, and overcame the Gauls in various battles, and subdued a large part of Gaul, which today we call Normandy because the men of Norway had established their abode there, since they derived their ancestry from Denmark. They divided this region into twelve parts, according to the number of ‘barons’, or like the leaders who had formerly arrived in another part of Gaul, namely Brittany, or in Welsh Llydaw. Here they founded many cities such as Rouen in the everlasting memory of Rodulfs, their first king, just as Rome had taken its name from Romulus and Rheims from Remus; furthermore he established many other towns, castles and places strengthened by strongholds. From this Rodulphus the kings of Normandy, who acquired for themselves the kingdom of England, derived their origin, namely William and his two sons who succeeded him in the kingship. And that William, or Rufus, and Henry, and his nephew Stephen, who fought over the kingship of England after 1135 with Matilda, daughter of Henry I.

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6 Now called Waterford in English.
7 An area of northern France.
8 A city in north-east France.
9 William the Conqueror.
12 Who fought over the kingship of England after 1135 with Matilda, daughter of Henry I.
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