

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE
EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF B.A.

November 1997

9343/1763 Early Mediaeval West

Time: two hours.

In addition, candidates are allowed ten minutes, before the examination begins, to read the paper.)

Answer THREE questions.

1. Compare and contrast the fate of Britain and Gaul in *either* a) the period ca A.D. 300 - 500 *or* b) the period ca A.D. 500 - 850.

2. Discuss cultural identity in the Early Middle Ages in continental Europe, particularly its significance to the individual and family in legal, economic and social terms.

Either

3a) "...between the end of Charlemagne's monumental reign in 814 and the rise of King Alfred late in the 870s, ...western Europe seems to have set a course out of the Dark Ages and in the direction of the 'medieval world'." (R. Hodges). To what extent, if any, is this true?

or

3b) Was the period ca 475 - 875 characterised more by survivals of Roman institutions and customs or by their disappearance? Give examples to support your argument.

4. What were the strengths and weaknesses of the Merovingian dynasty, and was it inevitable that it should disappear when it did?

5. Discuss the characteristics of Anglo-Saxon peoples on the basis of both archaeological and literary evidence.

6. Compare Charles the Great's achievements with that of Theoderic the Great.

7. What were the contributions of Scandinavian peoples to the history of early Mediaeval Europe?

What were the main changes to the Western Church between ca 475 and 875?