

Assessment

HPMS7006 is a 30-credit module, and the assessment consists of a portfolio of written work amounting to 7500 words.

It comprises:

- 1 a commentary on a visual image (1500 words). This is worth 20% of the final module mark. Please submit this under the 'Visual Image' submission link on Moodle.
- 2 an analysis of one of the authors of the 'Lives' of Thomas (1500 words). This is worth 20% of the final module mark. Please submit this under the 'Lives of Thomas' submission link on Moodle.
- 3 one essay of 4500 words. This is worth 60% of the final module mark. Please submit this under the 'Essay' submission link on Moodle.

Commentary on a visual image

Write ONE commentary of 1500 words on a visual source. You may select your own image on which to comment but you should ensure that you do not repeat material you may use in your essay. You may wish to choose a manuscript depiction (such as one of the images of the martyrdom, or an image from the Becket Leaves), or one of the Becket windows from Canterbury Cathedral, or an artefact such as a pilgrim badge or a reliquary. Please ask if you need guidance.

Analysis of one of the authors of the 'Lives of Becket'

A good starting point is John Guy, *Thomas Becket: Warrior, Priest, Rebel, Victim: A 900-Year-Old Story Retold* (London: Viking, 2012), pp. xiii–xix; see also Frank Barlow, *Thomas Becket* (London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1986, repr. Phoenix Press, 2000), pp. 1–9, and *The Lives of Thomas Becket*, selected sources translated and annotated by Michael Staunton (Manchester Medieval Sources: Manchester University Press, 2001), pp. 4–11. The aim here is to analyse the value and limitations of this author as a historical source. You need to think about who the author was; what (if any) was his relationship to Thomas Becket and / or Henry II; when was he writing? what was his purpose in writing? These questions, WHO, WHEN, WHY?, will help you to assess the value and limitations of the source.

Essay: you should choose one of the following essay titles.

- 1 How important for understanding the conflict between Henry II and Thomas is the political context of the legacy of the reign of King Stephen?
- 2 How far, and in what ways, were the rights of the cathedral church of Canterbury factors in the quarrel between Henry II and Archbishop Thomas?
- 3 How important were the constitutions of Clarendon in the breakdown of the relationship between Henry II and Thomas?
- 4 What made ‘criminous clerks’ such a divisive issue between Henry and Thomas?
- 5 Why throughout Thomas’s exile did Thomas and Henry fail to reconcile their differences? Why did they do so at Frétéval?
- 6 ‘Thomas had triumphed in death, but had his cause?’ (Staunton, *The Lives of Thomas Becket*, p. 33). How would you answer Staunton’s question?

Submission dates

There are three submission dates, as follows:

Commentary on a visual image: **Friday 17 March 2023, 23.59**

Commentary on one of the ‘Lives’: **Friday 7 April 2023, 23.59**

Essay: **Sunday 7 May 2023, 23.59**

These staggered deadlines will enable me to give you feedback as we move through the module.