

Choose an argument between a king and the Church

Who do you think benefited most? / What were the consequences? (10 marks)

SYK paragraph

In 1213, John's timely letter of concession to Pope Innocent brought their eight year dispute to a satisfactory conclusion. Both men breathed a sigh of relief and could now concentrate on more pressing matters.

SWYG paragraph

Who benefited most depends which point of view you look from. Both men would argue that they benefited most. Pride was important then as it is today.

Paragraph 1

John believed that he gained most. By standing up to the Pope he had shown his strength of feeling for the English king's right to choose their Archbishop of Canterbury. John would argue that he also needed to defend his position so as not to appear weak to the barons and damage the authority of the king. John believed that the interdict weakened the Church in England and most people backed their king and felt angry that the Pope was involving them in a personal argument. In the end John gained a very good Archbishop in Stephen Langton. During the dispute John had pocketed much of the Church's money. He only had to pay back a fraction. As part of the final deal, John gained the protection of the Pope which would be vital in his conflict with both the English barons and Philip II of France.

Paragraph 2

Pope Innocent believed he gained the most. He got his way with his choice asserting his authority over John. He gained England as a fiefdom which allowed him to interfere more in England. Catholic Church maintained its position in England until Henry VIII's break with Rome in 1530's. The pope was granted an annual sum of money.

Conclusion /summary

As in most rows, between the Monarch and Church the Church won and John didn't learn from Henry II's lesson. In the end both men benefited. No long term damage was done and England was spared damaging arguments between King and Church for many years to come.