

**Choose an argument between king and Church
Explain why the argument took place**

(10 marks)

Syk paragraph

In July 1205, Hubert Walter, the Archbishop of Canterbury died. John believed that it was his right to choose his own Archbishop as previous kings had done. (William I – Lanfranc, William II – Anselm, Henry II – Becket). This was one of the main points agreed by Henry I and Archbishop Anselm in 1106. John wanted continuity. Archbishops of Canterbury were powerful men who the kings relied on for military support and advice. Kings needed archbishops whom they could trust to be loyal to the King first and to the Pope second! In 1205 John was in need of a loyal friend after a disastrous 1204.

Paragraph 1

Traditionally Archbishops were elected from among the monks at Canterbury Cathedral. However, John wanted to choose his friend John Gray, Bishop of Norwich. The monks soon realised what John was planning to do and decided to elect their own archbishop Reginald. Reginald was sent to Rome to be invested by Pope Innocent III. News reached John and he sent John Gray to Rome.

Paragraph 2

Pope Innocent wanted change. He reopened the ‘Investiture Contest’. He believed that the appointment of archbishops and bishops was a Church matter and nothing to do with kings! The Pope sent both men back to England saying that he would think the matter over. By December 1206 the Pope rejected both Reginald and John Gray, and decided to elect a third man called Stephen Langton.

Paragraph 3

John was not happy with this for a number of reasons. Firstly, John was King of England and he stated that he would choose his own Archbishop and not the Pope. By giving in to the Pope he would weaken his position. He was not prepared to give up this right. The barons might also see it as a further sign of weakness. Secondly, Stephen Langton was a personal friend of Philip II of France. Thirdly, Stephen Langton, being a Cardinal was the Pope’s man and this might again threaten John’s authority

Conclusion/summary

John refused to let Stephen Langton into the country. The relationship between John and Pope innocent deteriorated. An interdict was placed on England, followed by John’s excommunication. The dispute only came to an end in 1213 when John submitted to the Pope under threat of an invasion by Philip II of France.