

**Choose an argument between a king and the Church  
Who do you think was to blame? (Who was right or wrong?) (10 marks)**

**SYK paragraph**

There was a long term history of dispute of the “Investiture Contest” . William II, Henry I, Henry II and Stephen had all fallen out with the Church. Innocent had disputes with a number of European monarchs. Some disputes worse than that with John.

**SWYG paragraph**

Ultimately both men were defending what they saw as their right. It was not a personal argument. Both men were stubborn and not willing to back down. Both men made mistakes.

**Paragraph 1**

John believed he was right. Kings of England had always chosen Archbishops of Canterbury. After all they were major landowners in England; provided soldiers for John’s army and he often sought their advice on various matters. He needed to rely on their trust and loyalty. John had the right to refuse Stephen Langton as he was a friend of the Pope and King of France.

**Paragraph 2**

Pope Innocent believed he was right. Change was needed. Innocent felt that it was his duty to uphold the Church’s rights and that the choice of archbishops and bishop was a Church matter. Bishops were churchmen, who owed loyalty firstly to Pope and then their king. Pope Innocent was following Pope Gregory VII’s teachings. Pope was God’s representative on Earth. Therefore Church matters were the concern of the popes not Kings. Kings should obey the Pope in all matters

**Conclusion/summary**

The question as to who was right ultimately depends on one’s viewpoint in other words looking at what was good for England or Church v. King. From England’s viewpoint Innocent was wrong to challenge John’s authority as king. However the Church saw it differently. Innocent was right because the Church was an international, independent organisation out of the jurisdiction of a monarch and it was Innocent’s duty to protect the power of the Church.