

List of instructions

- 1 Read all the evidence in this envelope.
- 2 Organise the evidence into 'REPORTED' and 'ORIGINAL' documents.
- 3 Read the questions you have to answer on Case Report Sheet #1215.

REPORTED: John (b.1166–d.1216), the younger brother of Richard the Lionheart, was crowned King of England in 1199. He inherited a vast empire which included England, Wales, Scotland, parts of Ireland, and a large portion of France. The French king, Philip Augustus, fought wars with John for possession of his French lands, and won. John fought many wars with France, trying to win them back.

REPORTED: The Great Charter (Magna Carta in Latin) of English rights and liberties is an ancient document signed and sealed, under threat of civil war from his barons, by King John of England on 15 June 1215 at Runnymede (a meadow situated halfway between the king's castle at Windsor and the barons' camp at Staines near London). The barons aimed to control the powers of the king. John was unable to form armies and was therefore forced to abide by certain laws and to guarantee certain rights to his subjects; but not all subjects were protected.

REPORTED: To raise money to pay for his very expensive wars against France, King John taxed his barons heavily. To make the barons pay huge fines, which he often imposed unfairly, John sometimes held members of their families as hostages. The barons rebelled and threatened the king.

REPORTED: The rules set down in Magna Carta mostly benefited the richest sections of the community – the barons and the Church. But it also took account of non-noble classes. Some of the rights of freemen were also protected. The clause that did this is:
'No free man shall be taken, imprisoned, outlawed, banished, or in any way destroyed, nor will We proceed against or prosecute him, except by the lawful judgement of his equals and by the law of the land.'
Not all persons living in England at this time, however, were 'free' or 'men'.
Note: Several versions of Magna Carta still exist. One version is kept at Parliament House in Canberra.