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MAGNA CARTA:  
CORNERSTONE OF BRITISH LIBERTIES

Учебное пособие  
для студентов высших учебных заведений

На английском языке

Челябинск  
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В учебном пособии дается характеристика ключевых идей уникального письменного памятника эпохи Средневековья – Великой хартии вольностей 1215 г. с систематизированными тренировочными упражнениями разной степени сложности. Оно адресовано студентам-бакалаврам, обучающимся по направлениям «Педагогическое образование (с двумя профилями подготовки)» и «Лингвистика», и нацелено на расширение знаний по истории и культуре страны изучаемого языка, пополнение словарного запаса специальной лексикой, а также развитие навыков дискуссии и аргументации. Материалы учебного пособия могут быть использованы для аудиторной и автономной работы обучающихся по дисциплинам «Практика устной и письменной речи», «Практикум по культуре речевого общения», «Общественно-политический дискурс», «Страноведение», а также при подготовке к олимпиадам и международным экзаменам по английскому языку.

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## Пояснительная записка

Выработанные в ходе развития человеческой мысли идеалы свободы и равенства постепенно находили свое воплощение в великих исторических документах. Одним из таких уникальных письменных памятников явилась Великая хартия вольностей 1215 года, положившая начало нормативному закреплению естественных и неотъемлемых прав человека, создавшая почву для правомерной борьбы и легшая в основу гражданского общества.

В учебном пособии дается изложение содержания и характеристика ключевых идей этого политико-правового источника эпохи Средневековья. Отражена в исторической перспективе прогрессивная роль Великой хартии вольностей в сфере политической идеологии в качестве политического манифеста.

Предлагаемое учебное пособие включает четыре раздела, содержательным центром которых являются аутентичные тексты, посвященные различным аспектам формирования политико-правовой культуры британского общества от прошлого к настоящему. Дидактический аппарат представлен рецептивными (восприятие учебного материала), репродуктивными (воспроизведение воспринятого) и продуктивными (творческое применение усвоенного) учебными заданиями.

Приложение дает возможность ознакомиться с полным текстом Великой хартии вольностей 1215 года в переводе на английский язык. Глоссарий содержит краткие

определения отдельных средневековых терминов, встречающихся в ее главах.

Учебное пособие адресовано студентам-бакалаврам, обучающимся по направлениям «Педагогическое образование (с двумя профилями подготовки). Направленность (профили): Английский язык. Иностранный язык» и «Лингвистика. Направленность (профиль): Перевод и переводоведение». Оно поможет студентам языковых специальностей существенно расширить свои знания по истории и культуре страны изучаемого языка, генезисе ее государственно-правой системы, пополнить словарный запас специальной лексикой, а также развить навыки дискуссии и аргументации.

Материалы учебного пособия могут быть эффективно использованы как при проведении аудиторных занятий, так и для организации самостоятельной работы обучающихся по дисциплинам «Практика устной и письменной речи (английский язык)», «Практикум по культуре речевого общения первого иностранного языка», «Общественно-политический дискурс», «Страноведение», а также при подготовке к олимпиадам и международным экзаменам по английскому языку.

## 1 The Birth of the Magna Carta



Figure 1 — King John of England, byname John Lackland (1166–1216)

Monarchs of England had agreed to safeguard certain rights and liberties of their people long before the Magna Carta. Its written precursor, King Henry I's Coronation Charter of 1100, relating to the privileges of clergy and nobles, was designed to make up for abuses of royal power by King

Henry's predecessor, King William II. Subsequent rulers, however, conveniently forgot that charter (URL: [britain-magazine.telegraph.co.uk](http://britain-magazine.telegraph.co.uk)).

King John came to the throne in April 1199 on the death of his brother, Richard I, and earned himself the reputation of the villainous monarch outmanoeuvred by rebellious barons into agreeing to the Magna Carta at Runnymede in 1215. Ever since, John has come to be seen as an archetypal tyrant.

As king, he was reputedly cruel, greedy and treacherous, pursuing his own interests at the expense of his country, waging a disastrous war in France, and finally losing the continental empire bequeathed to him by his father Henry and his brother Richard.

John's relationship with Rome had fallen to pieces when the Pope (Pope Innocent III, one of the strongest leaders to ever wear the Papal garb) named Stephen Langton as Archbishop of Canterbury against John's chosen appointment. In the heat of the conflict, John confiscated the Church's land, and he was promptly excommunicated by the Pope. John later reconciled with the Church in 1213, accepting its sovereignty over England by committing an annual tribute (URL: [greatbooksguy.com](http://greatbooksguy.com)).

His dastardly deeds, too numerous to count, included imprisoning his wife, starving opponents to death, and allegedly murdering his nephew. King John of England abused the feudal system, seizing land, levying severe taxes to boost his income, taking hostages, extorting money from his subjects, and imprisoning anyone who stood in his way.

This alienated the barons who then rebelled against the King and tried to assassinate him in 1212. This unsuccessful attempt angered John, who seized land belonging to the rebels, provoking civil war (URL: [chertseymuseum.org](http://chertseymuseum.org)).

King John hired mercenaries in an attempt to weaken the forces of rebellious barons. But with no major standing army of his own, he was compelled to open into negotiations. The barons, under the head of the Archbishop of Canterbury Stephen Langton, drew up a list of demands known as the Articles of the Barons, the basis for the Magna Carta.

King John requested to take their grievances directly to the Pope and to be bound by his judgments. But the barons did not compromise. With the support of the French heir apparent, Prince Louis and also of King Alexander II of Scotland, they entered London by force on June 10, 1215. Londoners showed their support for the rebels by opening the city gates. Under the threat of the immediate end of his rule and after much pleading from his more moderate advisers, King John agreed to put his royal seal on the agreement (URL: [stephenliddell.co.uk](http://stephenliddell.co.uk)).

When the Daily Telegraph reporter asked the British scholar Nicholas Vincent, if King John was deserving of the name “Bad”, he said, “No. He was much worse than that.”

No other British king since has been named John (URL: [nationalgeographic.com](http://nationalgeographic.com)).



Figure 2 — The Seal of King John to the Magna Carta

**Task 1.1 — Do the matching.**

- A. To bequeath
- B. To compel
- C. To extort
- D. To levy
- E. To plead

1. To force or drive, especially to a course of action.
2. To impose (a tax).

3. To use arguments or persuasions, as with a person, for or against something.

4. To wrest or wring (money, information, etc.) from a person by violence, intimidation, or abuse of authority; obtain by force, torture, threat, or the like.

5. To dispose of (personal property, especially money) by last will; to hand down; pass on.

**Task 1.2 — Consult the dictionary. Give the definitions of the following words.**

1. Abuse
2. Grievance
3. Hostage
4. Mercenary
5. Precursor

**Task 1.3 — Fill in the gaps with the listed adjectives.**

- A. Red-faced
- B. Legitimate
- C. Troubled
- D. Petulant
- E. Significant

King John was the fourth and youngest 1)\_\_\_\_\_ son of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine. He was born on Christmas Eve 1166 at Beaumont Palace in Oxford, and was soon moved to the Abbey of Fontevrault in Anjou, to lead a life in the church. Even at this young age, John was 2)\_\_\_\_\_, unstable, spoilt and cruel. His red hair matched

his 3)\_\_\_\_\_ fury, when he flew into a classic Plantagenet rage.

King John was given the nickname “Lackland” because he was not expected to inherit 4)\_\_\_\_\_ territories. However, he did receive the title Lord of Ireland, in 1177. The epithet “Lackland” would later be reinforced during his 5)\_\_\_\_\_ reign, as King John would lose all his father’s lands in France (URL: [discovermiddleages.co.uk](http://discovermiddleages.co.uk)).

**Task 1.4 — Study the full text of the Magna Carta, presented in Appendix 1. What evidence is there in the Magna Carta that the barons were unhappy with the way the law operated under King John?**

**Task 1.5 — Complete the quiz about common problems in the 1200s and answer the questions that follow.**

1. When a woman’s husband died, she had to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. buy permission from the king to remarry.
- B. wear black clothes for one year.
- C. marry an unmarried relative of her husband’s.

2. In order to inherit their dead father’s land, his children had to \_\_\_\_\_.

A. sing “God Save the King” in English, Latin and French.

- B. pay the king a huge sum of money.
- C. give the king two swans as a present.

3. If a knight did not want to fight for the king, he had to \_\_\_\_\_.

**A.** find a replacement to fight instead.

**B.** pay the king a big fine.

**C.** leave the country.

4. The king made sure that his barons stayed loyal by \_\_\_\_\_.

**A.** taking their sons and nephews as hostages.

**B.** offering them gold and land.

**C.** inviting them to dine with him every Christmas.

5. Monks were forced to \_\_\_\_\_.

**A.** pray for the king all day long.

**B.** become vegetarian.

**C.** agree to give the king as much treasure as he wanted.

6. If a man was accused of a crime, he would \_\_\_\_\_.

**A.** be given a fair trial and sent to prison if found guilty.

**B.** lose all his possessions and wait in prison for a long time before his trial.

**C.** be made to join the king's army.

7. If a peasant killed a deer in the king's forest, which punishment might he receive?

**A.** Both hands cut off or blinded in both eyes.

**B.** Five years in prison.

**C.** A heavy fine.

8. The primary purpose of the Magna Carta was to \_\_\_\_\_.

**A.** limit the power of the monarch.

**B.** establish a democratic government.

**C.** grant land rights to the nobles.

**D.** codify English common law.

9. Which group of people pressured King John to agree to the Magna Carta?

- A. Barons.
- B. Merchants.
- C. Peasants.
- D. The clergy.

10. Which city did the rebels capture that made John agree to their terms at Runnymede?

- A. Bristol.
- B. Chester.
- C. London.
- D. York.

**Feedback.** Are you surprised or shocked about any of the answers? What do you consider the most unfair?

**Task 1.6 — Imagine that the year is 1215. You live in England and all face a lot of different problems. Role-play your discussing a petition to King John. However, the petition may consist of only four complaints. As a group, you are to agree upon the four most urgent issues. Mind that some grievances might seem similar.**

**Abbot.** You are responsible for the running of an Abbey and its material well-being as well as the spiritual health of the monks. Your monastery is very old and full of precious pictures, books and gold. This means you can live comfortably and help the poor nearby. Now the king is trying to get his hands on your monastery's wealth. He has asked you to hand over a blank document with the seal of your monastery on it.

You are reluctant to do this as you cannot control what he will write on the document. You are afraid he will use it to take all your treasure. This would mean you have no money left to look after the other monks or the poor (URL: [teachingenglish.org.uk](http://teachingenglish.org.uk)).



Figure 3 — A Medieval Abbot

**Baron.** You are a feudal vassal holding your lands under a direct grant from the king. Being rich and powerful, you used to be very close to the king. Recently, for no reason, he has accused you of not being his friend anymore. He has taken your son as a hostage to make sure that you do not try and plot against him. You are very worried about your son because you have heard that the king's hostages are usually treated badly. Sometimes they even starve to death. You want to petition the king to release your son and all the other hostages.



Figure 4 — An English Baron

**Knight.** You are a man of noble birth who, after an apprenticeship as a page and squire, was raised to honorable military rank and bound to chivalrous conduct. As a knight, you should fight for the king whenever he asks you. You have already battled for him twice in France. You were injured and lost two fingers. Now you have received a letter asking you to fight again. But you cannot hold a sword. The problem is that knights who refuse to fight usually have to pay big fines. This means selling your land and castle. You do not think it is fair.



Figure 5 — A Knight in Thirteenth-Century England

**Peasant.** Last year one of your neighbour's cows went missing. Your neighbour thought you had stolen it. Even though there is no evidence that you stole the cow, you have been incarcerated. You have been in prison for nine months now and there is still no date for a trial. In any case, you have no money to pay for a lawyer. You want to petition the king to complain.



Figure 6 — A Peasant in Medieval Times

**Widow.** You are a woman who has lost her spouse by death. Now you have fallen in love with a young but poor farmer, who lives nearby. However, the rules state that, as a widow, you have to pay the king, in order to marry who you want. The payment is going to take a lot of the money that your wealthy husband has left you.



Figure 7 — A Widow in Medieval England

**Feedback.** What medieval character do you sympathise with? If you had to time-travel back to 1200, what character would you choose to be? Why?

**Task 1.7 — Draw your own timeline of the events that led to the Magna Carta.**

**Task 1.8 — Place King John in a royal family tree.**

**Task 1.9 — Draw a short biographical sketch about King John, focusing on his Ascension to the throne and abuse of power.**

## 2 The Legacy of the Magna Carta



Figure 8 — Themis, Greek Goddess of Law and Justice, Personification of Wisdom and Good Counsel

Why is the Magna Carta revered across the world as the foundation of democracy? The clauses, written on a small piece of parchment in Medieval Latin, were in force for only nine weeks. But their legacy has lasted centuries and has spread across the globe.

In fact, most of the charter's 63 clauses focused on the nitty-gritty of day-to-day issues of feudal governance: regulating scutage, dealing with fines, managing land and royal forests, restricting the levying of taxes without common consent, ruling river navigation, supervising the behaviour of royal officials, and standardising wine, ale and corn measures.

The barons, in forcing John's hand into agreeing to their demands, were not thinking of the peasantry who made up 80% of the population at the time, as they were not free men and therefore it did not apply to them.

But, halfway through, we find clauses 39 and 40:

“No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any other way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land.”

“To no one will we sell, to no one will we refuse or delay, right or justice.”

The eloquence of these sentences, the nobility and idealism they express, has elevated this piece of legislation to eternal iconic status. In 1215 the Magna Carta had a profound effect on the judiciary of the country, establishing the guarantees of justice and freedom from unwarranted imprisonment. The charter had also established that the law was a power in its own right – and significantly that the sovereign was not above the law.

These principles were not in fact new to the Magna Carta, as they had previously been attempted almost half a century before Runnymede, but it was with the original 1215 document

and subsequent reissues that this ancient prerogative began to take hold in common law. The Habeas Corpus Act 1679 established that the authority of the monarch was not in itself justification for imprisonment.

Even before the parchment was dry, King John ignored his promises. Pope Innocent III also declared the charter null and void because it had been obtained under duress. Thus began the first of the Barons' Wars (1215–1217), which, although John died in 1216, ended in royalist victory. The Charter of Liberties was revised and reissued in 1216, 1217 and 1225 in attempts to stabilise King Henry III's reign (URL: [britain-magazine.telegraph.co.uk](http://britain-magazine.telegraph.co.uk)).

Due to the centuries of lawmaking since, the majority of the Magna Carta, though not revoked, has been superseded by more recent legislation.

In the years after the Glorious Revolution which saw James II overthrown for William and Mary, the Magna Carta came to embody the core principles of the contract between government and the people. The Bill of Rights, which was passed in December 1689, curbed the abuse of prerogative power and established the principles of free elections and freedom of speech within Parliament. In short, it enshrined in statute what many considered the ancient rights and liberties of the Magna Carta.

The 4 clauses of the Magna Carta still in force are as follows:

1. Clause 1: The liberties of the English Church.
2. Clause 13: The privileges of the City of London.
3. Clauses 39 & 40: The right to trial by jury.

The Magna Carta's essential principles are fundamental to other historical documents. Thomas Jefferson incorporated its concepts in the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. Mahatma Gandhi cited it in a farewell letter published when he left South Africa in 1914, noting that it confirms "there should be no legal racial inequality between different subjects of the crown."

Echoes of the Magna Carta are contained in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights. Nelson Mandela cited the Magna Carta in a famous speech in 1964 while on trial for sabotage – a capital offense in South Africa (URL: [nationalgeographic.com](http://nationalgeographic.com)).

What started out as a document of specific complaints from a group of barons has turned into an international symbol of liberty, without which we might not have the rights we value so much today.

**Task 2.1 — Match the following verbs with their definitions. Then use them to complete the sentences.**

- A. curb(ed)
- B. enshrine(d)
- C. revere(d)
- D. revoke(d)
- E. supersede(d)

1. To enclose in or to cherish as sacred.
2. To take back or withdraw; annul, cancel, or reverse; rescind or repeal.

3. To replace something, especially something older or more old-fashioned.

4. To control or limit something that is not wanted.

5. To very much respect and admire someone or something.

\* \* \*

6. Nelson Mandela is \_\_\_\_\_ for his brave fight against apartheid.

7. The authorities have \_\_\_\_\_ their original decision to allow development of this rural area.

8. His love for her is \_\_\_\_\_ forever in his poetry.

9. Most of the old road has been \_\_\_\_\_ by the great interstate highways.

10. The government should act to \_\_\_\_\_ tax evasion.

**Task 2.2 — Choose the correct word to suit the gap best.**

- A. consent
- B. duress
- C. eloquence
- D. nitty-gritty
- E. parchment
- F. statute

1. A Christmas bonus is not covered by \_\_\_\_\_ as your wages and your holidays are.

2. I found a scrap of \_\_\_\_\_ dating from the 17th century.

3. Clarke's defence involved claims of \_\_\_\_\_ and allegations he had been framed by the police.

4. Patients must be informed of the risks of the surgery and give their informed \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Let's get down to the \_\_\_\_\_ – how much will it cost?

6. He is a man of charm, intelligence, and rare \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Task 2.3 — Test yourselves.**

1. The Magna Carta was \_\_\_\_\_.

A. a binding human rights agreement drafted by the United Nations.

B. a peace treaty between the King of England and the barons.

C. a legal document used to convince the King that human rights were important.

D. the unwritten Constitution of the United Kingdom..

2. When was the Magna Carta agreed?

A. May 10, 1214.

B. June 15, 1215.

D. June 20, 1216.

E. June 25, 1217.

3. How many barons were on a council to ensure King John followed the clauses in the Magna Carta?

A. Fifteen.

B. Twenty-five.

C. Forty.

D. Sixty-three.

4. The Magna Carta was written on \_\_\_\_\_ using quill pens.

- A. paper.
- B. parchment.
- C. papyrus.

5. The scribes who produced the Magna Carta wrote in \_\_\_\_\_ using the typical handwriting found in English documents in the early 13th century.

- A. medieval Latin.
- B. Middle English.
- C. Parisian French.

6. How many clauses were there in the Magna Carta?

- A. Thirteen.
- B. Twenty-five.
- C. Forty-nine.
- D. Sixty-three.

7. The three ideas which come from the Magna Carta are \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. rule of law, no limits on power and anarchy.
- B. tyranny, fairness and democracy.
- C. punishment fits the crime, limits on power and rule of law.
- D. independent judiciary, fairness and monarchy.

8. What concept in English history was the Magna Carta first to establish?

- A. Divine right of kings.
- B. Parliamentary sovereignty.
- C. Rule of law.
- D. Separation of powers.

9. The Magna Carta provided for a(an) \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. all-powerful monarchy.
  - B. civil war.
  - C. limited government.
  - D. unjust punishment.
10. Which clause in the Magna Carta established the principle of habeas corpus?
- A. Clause 1.
  - B. Clause 20.
  - C. Clause 39.
  - D. Clause 61.
11. Which article of the Magna Carta relates to the idea of “no taxation without representation”?
- A. Clause 10.
  - B. Clause 12.
  - C. Clause 22.
  - D. Clause 100.
12. What was the purpose of the clauses in the Magna Carta relating to women?
- A. To provide equality between men and women.
  - B. To give women the right to vote.
  - C. To allow the King to make money from widows if they remarried.
  - D. To protect women from being exploited by the King.
13. A legally recognized subject of a state is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. charter.
  - B. citizen.
  - C. right.

**D.** trial.

**14.** How many copies of the original Magna Carta are still in existence?

**A.** Four.

**B.** Five.

**C.** Six.

**D.** Seven.

**Task 2.4 — Brainstorm your answers to the questions below.**

**1.** What political situation necessitated the granting of the Magna Carta?

**2.** What provisions did the Magna Carta contain?

**3.** Who enjoyed the rights granted by the Magna Carta?

**4.** What clauses of the Magna Carta are in effect today?

**5.** What historical documents were the provisions of the Magna Carta echoed in?

**6.** How is the Magna Carta reflected in the lives and work of such famous individuals as Nelson Mandela, Thomas Jefferson and Mahatma Gandhi?

**Task 2.5 — Create a Magna Carta of your own.**

### 3 Places to Discover the Magna Carta

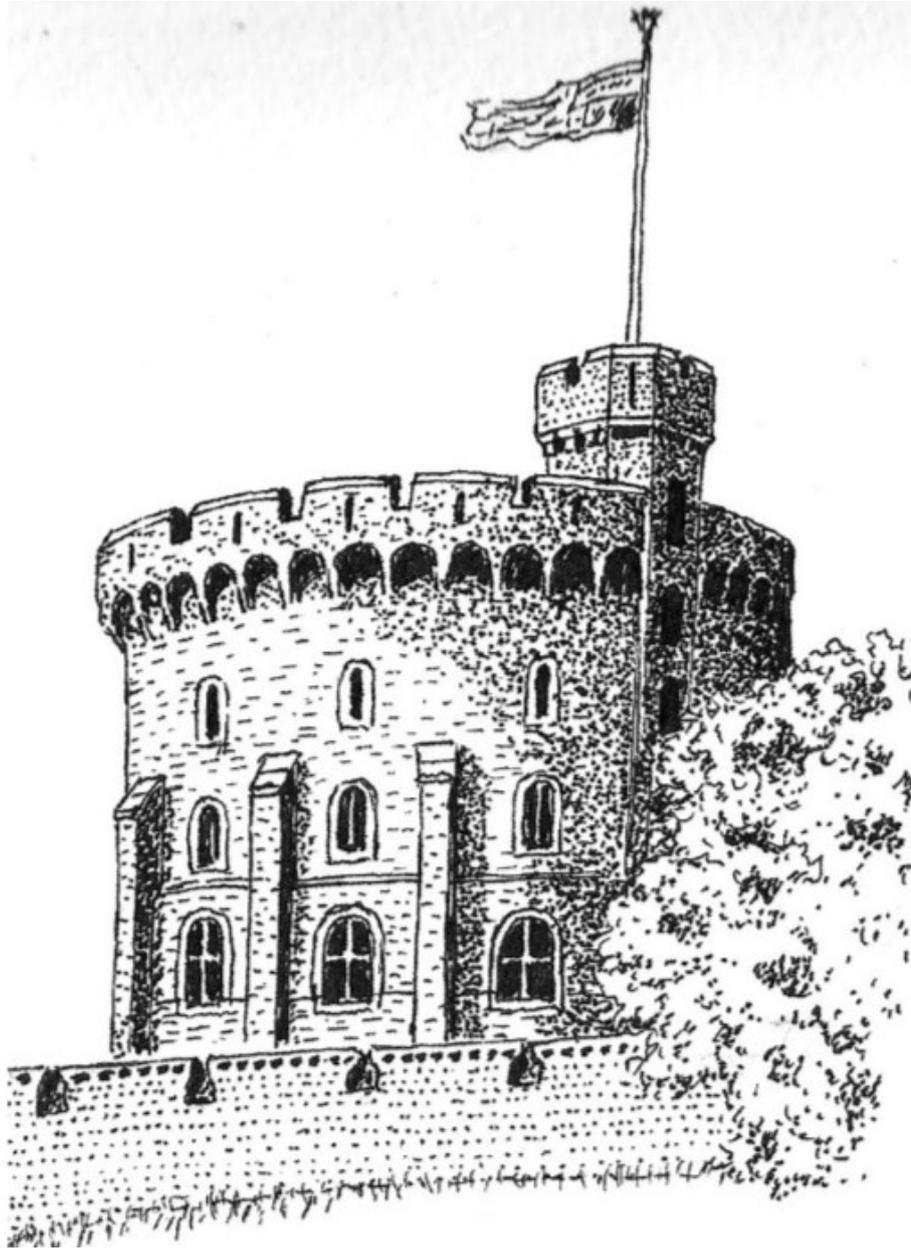


Figure 9 — Windsor Castle

To celebrate the legacy of the Magna Carta and soak up the foundations of democracy, let us visit several places brimming with history.

**St Albans** bore witness to the very start of the Magna Carta. Churchmen and barons, led by Stephen Langton the Archbishop of Canterbury, held their first meeting in St Albans in 1213 to discuss their grievances against King John (URL: [heritagecalling.com](http://heritagecalling.com)).

**Windsor Castle** is notable for its association with the sealing of Magna Carta because King John had used Windsor Castle as a base for negotiations. Additionally, the Castle played a substantial role in the two sieges that preceded and followed the signing of the Magna Carta (URL: [stanfordmagnacarta.wordpress.com](http://stanfordmagnacarta.wordpress.com)).

Not far from it is **Runnymede**, a water-meadow along the River Thames in the English county of Surrey.

This is the most likely place at which, in 1215, King John sealed the Magna Carta. The charter itself references Runnymede by name as “Ronimed. inter Windlesoram et Stanes” (between Windsor and Staines). The word “Runnymede” derived from Old English “runieg” (регулярные собрания) and “mede” (луг), describing an area in the meadows used to hold regular meetings.

This site is now owned by the National Trust. It is still exploited as a location for significant commemoration – along with the Magna Carta monument, it has several memorials dedicated to the ongoing struggle for liberty, including the Fairhaven Memorial Lodges (1931), the Commonwealth Air Forces memorial (1953), and the John F. Kennedy memorial (1965) (URL: [historyhit.com](http://historyhit.com)).

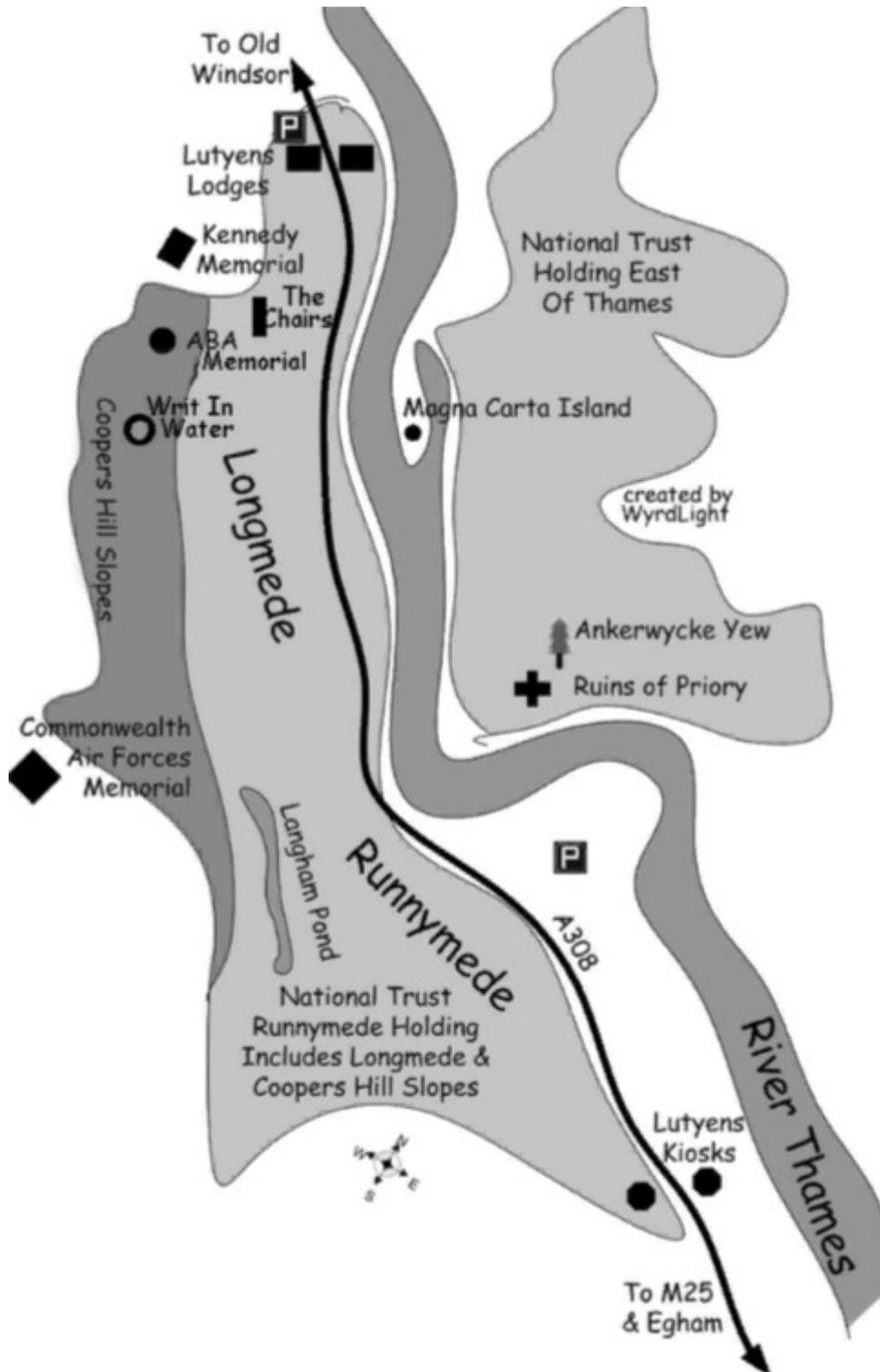


Figure 10 — Map of Runnymede Area

**The Magna Carta memorial** at Runnymede was erected by the American Bar Association (ABA). It was paid for by

voluntary contributions of some 9000 American lawyers. The memorial was designed by Sir Edward Maufe and unveiled on July, 18 1957 at a ceremony attended by American and English lawyers. It's a rotunda in neo-classical style, which is impressively flood-lit at night. The pillar of English granite has an inscription "To commemorate Magna Carta, symbol of Freedom Under Law".

In a stone's throw is "**The Jurors**" by Hew Locke, installed at the historic site of Runnymede in 2015 to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta.

Commissioned in 2014 by Surrey County Council and the National Trust, it comprises twelve high-backed bronze chairs placed on a grassy meadow, arranged in a rectangular formation to face inwards as if around a table, with one chair at each end and five along each side.

The decorations cast into the chairs include garlands of flowers, as a reference to the Victorian language of flowers; images of ermine as a reference to the traditional robes of English judges; and keys to prison cells. Twenty-four unique images symbolise the ongoing struggle for freedom, rule of law and equal rights. Moreover, the artist coloured and polished some areas, as well as added slashes and gouges to the surfaces.

"The Jurors" is not a memorial, but rather an artwork which requires people to complete it. The chairs are an open invitation for the audience to sit down on them, to reflect and discuss together the implications of the histories and issues depicted, and to debate the meaning of justice ([URL: exploringsurreypast.org.uk](http://exploringsurreypast.org.uk)).



Figure 11 — The Unveiling Ceremony, July 29, 1957



Figure 12 — The Jurors Artwork

**Lincoln** was an important town in 1215. It had grown rich from the wool trade and was also a centre for learning and religious study. The Bishop of Lincoln was one of the 25 barons who attended the Magna Carta meeting at Runnymede. However, after the Magna Carta was agreed, peace did not last long and a civil war began. After fighting up and down the country, King John died in October 18/19, 1216 at **Newark Castle**, Nottinghamshire, the home of the Bishop of Lincoln.

Lincoln is the only place in the world where you can find an original copy of the Magna Carta together with the Charter of the Forest, issued in 1217 to amplify the Magna Carta and is one of only two surviving copies. Whilst the Magna Carta was mainly about issues affecting the nobles, the Charter of the Forest was more helpful to the common man – especially if you lived in or near a Royal Forest. Royal Forests were special hunting grounds with their own laws, and varied from heaths to grasslands, wetlands, and indeed woods of trees. William the Conqueror had introduced Forest Law to England and people resented the cruel punishments forest courts gave out to those who broke the rules. The documents belong to Lincoln Cathedral and are housed in Lincoln Castle, a seat for justice from its beginnings (URL: [thelincolnite.co.uk](http://thelincolnite.co.uk)).



Figure 13 — Newark Castle, Nottinghamshire

**Worcester Cathedral** is best known as the final resting place of the Magna Carta signatory King John. King John seems to have been fond of Worcester and spent Christmas there in 1214. He stipulated in his will that he wanted to be buried in Worcester Cathedral, between the shrines of St Wulfstan and St Oswald. The original will (the oldest remaining royal will in England) is still kept in the Cathedral.

King John is buried in a place of honour in front of the High Altar. His tomb features the Plantaganet badge of three lions (or strictly leopards!), and has the oldest royal effigy in England. John's son, Henry III visited his father's tomb and became an important benefactor of the Cathedral ([URL: worcestercathedral.org.uk](http://worcestercathedral.org.uk)).

The tomb has been opened several times shedding light upon a legend concerning the King's final days. It is said that John, realising that the chances of him attaining heaven were limited, gave orders that his corpse was to be dressed in the garb of a monk. Thus attired, he hoped to hoodwink his way to paradise. When the tomb was opened in 1797, the remnants of an ancient cowl were supposedly found wrapped around his skull.

**The British Library** has a permanent Magna Carta room in its Treasures Gallery, which houses stunning manuscripts, paintings, statues and royal relics, as well as the key original documents which tell the Magna Carta story in 1215, including:

— two of the four original surviving 1215 Magna Carta exemplars;

— the Articles of the Barons, the unique copy of the list of the barons' demands;

— the papal document which declared the Great Charter null and void in August 1215;

— a sealed copy of Henry III's 1225 Magna Carta.

It is open to visitors for free all year round (URL: [magnacarta800th.com](http://magnacarta800th.com)).



Figure 14 — Tomb Effigy, Worcester Cathedral



Figure 15 — The British Library

**Task 3.1 — Transcribe the following words and reproduce the sentences from the text with them.**

- A. altar [    ]
- B. ermine [    ]
- D. gouge [    ]
- C. meadow [    ]
- E. tomb [    ]

**Task 3.2 — Complete the sentences with the appropriate verbs.**

- A. erect(ed)
- B. grant(ed)
- D. hoodwink(ed)
- C. sign(ed)
- E. stipulate(d)

1. He \_\_\_\_\_ certain conditions before their marriage.

2. The court ruled that international law does not \_\_\_\_\_ the right of individuals to seek war damages from a state.

3. The workgroup is to prepare this regulation, which is to be approved and \_\_\_\_\_ by the minister of justice.

4. They \_\_\_\_\_ a marquee to accommodate 500 wedding guests.

5. We were \_\_\_\_\_ into believing that we had won a lot of money.

### **Task 3.3 — Match the words with their definitions.**

- A. bar
- B. effigy
- C. pillar
- D. seige
- E. will

1. A representation or image, especially sculptured, as on a monument.

2. An official statement of what a person has decided should be done with their money and property after their death.

3. An upright shaft or structure, of stone, brick, or other material, relatively slender in proportion to its height, and of any shape in section, used as a building support, or standing alone, as for a monument.

4. (UK) lawyers who are allowed to argue a case in a higher court; (US) all lawyers thought of as a group.

5. The surrounding of a place by an armed force in order to defeat those defending it.

### **Task 3.4 — Translate the abstract into English.**

Известный своей архитектурой, Виндзорский замок является королевской резиденцией в английском графстве Беркшир. Здесь находится самый большой и детальный кукольный дом в мире. В построенном для королевы Марии в 1920-х годах миниатюрном доме есть водопровод, позволяющий принимать ванну, электричество, туалеты со смывом, лифты, полностью укомплектованный винный погреб на 1200 предметов с настоящим вином и пивом, а также крошечная библиотека, наполненная оригинальными

историями, которые были написаны от руки такими прославленными авторами, как Редьярд Киплинг и сэр Артур Конан Дойл. Над реализацией грандиозного проекта трудились более 1500 художников и мастеров. Дом является единственным в своем роде произведением искусства (URL: [topvoyager.com](http://topvoyager.com)).

**Task 3.5 — Read the text and make up five questions about it.**

Nestled in the Chapter House of the stunning Salisbury Cathedral is one of the four remaining copies of the 1215 Magna Carta.

Elias Dereham, who was present when King John sealed the Magna Carta, delivered the document to the Salisbury Cathedral at Old Sarum in 1215. Elias later became a priest at Salisbury Cathedral and oversaw the building of the current Cathedral from 1220 onwards.

Another Salisbury connection with the Magna Carta is William Longespée, 3rd earl of Salisbury. The text of the Magna Carta immortalized his name. William and his wife Ela laid two of the Cathedral's foundation stones in 1220 (URL: [salisburycathedral.org.uk](http://salisburycathedral.org.uk)).



Figure 16 — Salisbury Cathedral

1. A Yes/No Question
2. A Wh-Question
3. A Tag Question
4. A Question to the Subject
5. A Choice Question

**Task 3.6 — Discuss the following questions.**

1. How is Runnymede historically associated with King John?
2. What connects an American president to an English town in relation to the Magna Carta?

3. Why is King John's will or testament considered a unique artefact? Where is it preserved?

4. Where are the four original surviving 1215 Magna Carta exemplifications kept?

5. What is the Charter of the Forest?

6. What does the hollow boab tree which embellishes one of the Juror's chairs at Runnymede stand for?

**Task 3.7 — Congratulations! You have won a week's holiday for two. Go online and research your trip.**

— **How will you travel?**

— **Where will you stay?**

— **What will you do?**

**Now role-play the situation.**

**Day 1:** Explore the dynamic capital with its historic delights. Walk along the wide and stretching Mall, the ceremonial route that leads to Buckingham Palace from Trafalgar Square through Admiralty Arch. Snap pictures of the grand building. Try and time your visit for the Changing of the Guard ceremony (held each Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday) and witness a fine British tradition as the soldiers switch places. Gaze up at the mighty cross-topped dome and admire the stunning St. Paul's Cathedral from the outside, taking time to admire the Roman-like decorative features, grand columns, clock, towers, and overall splendour. A sweeping nave leads to an ornate altar, the walls and ceiling embellished with splendid mosaics and carved wood panelling. Do not miss the mighty statue of the Duke of Wellington sitting on the back of his trusty steed, Copenhagen. Descend

into the crypt and you can pay your respects at the tombs and memorials.

**Day 2:** Visit Runnymede, the beautiful riverside location where King John met the barons. Spend the afternoon at Windsor Castle, where you are never far away from the past. Then examine the Magna Carta at the British Library.

**Day 3:** Discover Worcester with its glorious cathedral, spires of medieval churches, green parks and old streets.

**Day 4:** Climb over 300 steps to reach the top of the Central Tower of Lincoln Cathedral and take in the fantastic 360 degree views of the city, county and beyond. Learn more about the hidden meanings and symbols of the stone carvings and stained glass, both inside and outside the Cathedral.

**Days 5–7:** Develop your own itinerary.

**Task 3.8 — Design your own Magna Carta tour.**

## 4 The Magna Carta Inspired Art

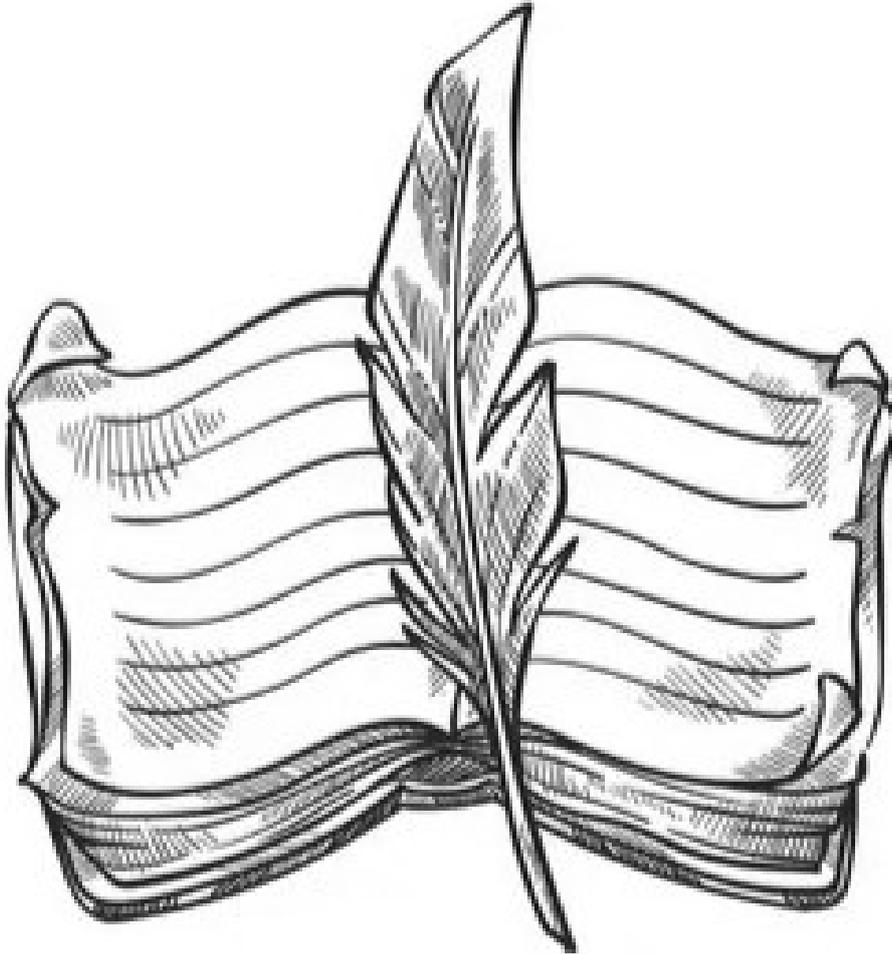


Figure 17 — Quill, the Principal Writing Instrument from the 6th Century until the mid-19th Century

Generations of jurists and politicians have revered the Magna Carta as an ancient guarantor of freedom and justice. This enduringly popular document still packs a mighty emotional punch. You can find various artistic portrayals of the Great Charter on coins, tapestries, murals, antiquarian engravings, woodcuts, portraits, busts, historical paintings,

satirical cartoons, and monumental sculptures (URL: [theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com)). According to popular mythology, King John has forever been cast as a feckless and self-serving tyrant. This image is borne out in the legends of Robin Hood and the plays of William Shakespeare, as well as in the writings of contemporaneous historians like Matthew Paris and Roger of Wendover.

The historical event of signing the Magna Carta is brought alive through the thoughts and feelings of famous and unknown poets in the selection presented below.

### **The Genius of the Thames**

**(an extract)**

by Thomas Love Peacock (1785–1866)

And sweetly, on the mead below,  
The fragrant gales of summer blow,  
While flowers shall spring, while Thames shall flow,  
That mead shall live in the memory.

Where valour, on the tented field,  
Triumphant raised his patriot shield,  
The voice of truth to kings revealed,  
And broke the chains of tyranny.

\* \* \*

## **The Reeds of Runnymede**

by Rudyard Kipling (1865–1936)

At Runnymede, at Runnymede  
What say the reeds at Runnymede?  
The lissom reeds that give and take,  
That bend so far, but never break,  
They keep the sleepy Thames awake  
With tales of John at Runnymede.

At Runnymede, at Runnymede,  
Oh, hear the reeds at Runnymede:  
“You mustn’t sell, delay, deny,  
A freeman’s right or liberty.  
It wakes the stubborn Englishry,  
We saw ’em roused at Runnymede!”

“When through our ranks the Barons came,  
With little thought of praise or blame,  
But resolute to play the game,  
They lumbered up to Runnymede;  
And there they launched in solid time  
The first attack on Right Divine  
The curt, uncompromising “Sign!”  
That settled John at Runnymede.

“At Runnymede, at Runnymede,  
Your rights were won at Runnymede!  
No freeman shall be fined or bound,

Or dispossessed of freehold ground,  
Except by lawful judgment found  
And passed upon him by his peers.  
Forget not, after all these years,  
The Charter signed at Runnymede.”

And still when Mob or Monarch lays  
Too rude a hand on English ways,  
The whisper wakes, the shudder plays,  
Across the reeds at Runnymede.  
And Thames, that knows the moods of kings,  
And crowds and priests and suchlike things,  
Rolls deep and dreadful as he brings  
Their warning down from Runnymede!

\* \* \*

### **King John**

by Hugh Chesterman (1884–1941)

John was a tyrant, John was a tartar.  
John put his name to the great big charter.  
Every baron from Thames to Tweed,  
Followed that road to Runnymede.  
Every baron had something to say  
To poor confused King John that day.  
“Please sign your name, said Guy De Gaunt,  
It’s easily done and it’s all we want,  
A “J” and an “O” and an “H” and an “N”,”  
Said Hugo, Baron of Harpenden.

Quietly spoke the Lord of St Peter,  
“Your name, my king, to be writ just here.”  
And with so many hurrying him on  
You can’t help feeling sorry for John.

**Task 4.1 — Peruse the poems and select the words to match the following definitions.**

**A.** A large, angry crowd, especially one that could easily become violent.

**B.** A person who is the same age or has the same social position or the same abilities as other people in a group.

**C.** A ruler who has unlimited power over other people, and uses it unfairly and cruelly.

**D.** An official legal decision.

**E.** Great courage.

ruolav .E ;tnemgduj .D ;tnaryt .C ;reep .B ;bom .A :syek

**Task 4.2 — Make sure you know the meaning of the following adjectives; then fill in the blanks with them.**

**A.** fragrant

**B.** freehold

**C.** lissom

**D.** resolute

**E.** triumphant

1. Adele made a \_\_\_\_\_ return to the stage after several years of working in television.

2. Helena won first prize for a most \_\_\_\_\_ coffee.

3. Their \_\_\_\_\_ opposition to new working methods was difficult to overcome.

4. Most houses have balconies overlooking the marina and all are \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Side by side they strolled away across the sunlit lawn, he so strong, virile, erect, she so \_\_\_\_\_ and graceful.

**Task 4.3 — Which of the three poems helps to imagine Runnymede best? Why? How do you know this poem is about the Magna Carta when the name is not mentioned? Imagine you are sitting in the meadow Runnymede. It is a warm, sunny day and there is a gentle wind. Describe what you see, hear, smell, and feel. Do you think the place has changed in more than the past 800 years?**



Figure 18 — Cottage of Magna Carta Island, woodcut, 1859, Mr & Mrs Hall

**Task 4.4 — Which of the poems will children enjoy most? Which is a sample of political poetry? Which verse do you have a special liking for? Why?**

**Task 4.5 —** Haiku is a style of Japanese lyric poetry that usually features intense emotion or a vivid image of nature. This type of verse is considered a fixed poetic form, with three lines in the pattern of five, seven, and five syllables, respectively. Haiku poems give a “snapshot” picture, rather like a photograph. **Look at this example of a haiku poem. Can you imagine the scene?**

A peaceful meadow  
Disturbed by men on horses  
Making history

**Use these six lines to make a haiku about the Magna Carta:**

1. Children race to the water
2. King John’s power was challenged
3. In June twelve fifteen
4. And people gained rights
5. Summer by the Thames
6. White swans glide smoothly

**Now write your own haiku about this event in history.**

#### **Task 4.6 — Render the excerpt in English.**

13-метровая вышивка, созданная в 2015 году под руководством английской художницы Корнелии Паркер (Cornelia Parker), представляет из себя точную копию увеличенного изображения статьи «Великая хартия вольностей» в английской Википедии, по состоянию на 2015 год.

Проект художницы Корнелии Паркер, решившей создать «портрет нашего времени», был выполнен по заказу Школы искусств Раскина (The Ruskin School of Art) Оксфордского университета в сотрудничестве с Британской библиотекой и приурочен к 800-летию хартии вольностей. Работа была заказана в феврале 2014 года, будучи выбранной из шорт-листа художественных проектов. Её выполнение спонсировалось Английским художественным советом (Arts Council England) и Фондом Джона Фелла (John Fell OUP Research Fund) благодаря средствам, собранным через Британскую национальную лотерею.

Распечатанное изображение Интернет-страницы было разделено на части и отдано для вышивания разным людям. Всего в работе участвовало 200 человек, включая членов британской Гильдии вышивальщиков (the Embroiderers' Guild) и учеников Королевской школы рукоделия (the Royal School of Needlework). Часть работы выполнили 40 заключённых, занимающихся художественной вышивкой. Специально для нескольких известных борцов за гражданские права в работе были оставлены небольшие лакуны: так, основатель Википедии

Джимми Уэйлс (Jimmy Wales) вышил фразу “user’s manual”, Эдвард Сноуден (Edward Snowden) – слово “liberty”, а Джулиан Ассанж (Julian Assange) – “freedom”. Также иглу в руки взял музыкант Джарвис Кокер (Jarvis Cocker). Он вышил словосочетание “common people”.

В мае и июле 2015 года вышивка была выставлена в Лондоне, в вестибюле Британской библиотеки (URL: [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org)).

**Task 4.7 — Surf the Internet to select material for the project “The Magna Carta in Art”.**

## Appendix I

Loreñ ipsum dol  
ut enim ad minima  
Quis autem iure dol  
The standard Loreñ  
Section 1.10.32 of  
Sed ut perspiciatis unde omni  
Nemo enim ipsam voluptatem quae  
Neque porro quisquam est, qui doloreñ  
ut enim ad minima veniam, quis nostrum exerc  
Quis autem vel eum iure reprehenderit qui in ea voluptate

Figure 19 — Cursive Script of the Four Surviving Magna Cartas. It differs from formal chancery handwriting. The advantage of such a flowing style is the fluency of writing. Yet the Magna Cartas would still have taken about eight hours to write out.

## **Full Text of the Magna Carta (1215)**

### **Preamble:**

John, by the grace of God, king of England, lord of Ireland, duke of Normandy and Aquitaine, and count of Anjou, to the archbishop, bishops, abbots, earls, barons, justiciaries, foresters, sheriffs, stewards, servants, and to all his bailiffs and liege subjects, greetings. Know that, having regard to God and for the salvation of our soul, and those of all our ancestors and heirs, and unto the honor of God and the advancement of his holy Church and for the rectifying of our realm, we have granted as underwritten by advice of our venerable fathers, Stephen, archbishop of Canterbury, primate of all England and cardinal of the holy Roman Church, Henry, archbishop of Dublin, William of London, Peter of Winchester, Jocelyn of Bath and Glastonbury, Hugh of Lincoln, Walter of Worcester, William of Coventry, Benedict of Rochester, bishops; of Master Pandulf, subdeacon and member of the household of our lord the Pope, of brother Aymeric (master of the Knights of the Temple in England), and of the illustrious men William Marshal, earl of Pembroke, William, earl of Salisbury, William, earl of Warenne, William, earl of Arundel, Alan of Galloway (constable of Scotland), Waren Fitz Gerold, Peter Fitz Herbert, Hubert De Burgh (seneschal of Poitou), Hugh de Neville, Matthew Fitz Herbert, Thomas Basset, Alan Basset, Philip d'Aubigny, Robert of Roppesley, John Marshal, John Fitz Hugh, and others, our liegemen.

1. In the first place we have granted to God, and by this our present charter confirmed for us and our heirs forever that the English Church shall be free, and shall have her rights

entire, and her liberties inviolate; and we will that it be thus observed; which is apparent from this that the freedom of elections, which is reckoned most important and very essential to the English Church, we, of our pure and unconstrained will, did grant, and did by our charter confirm and did obtain the ratification of the same from our lord, Pope Innocent III, before the quarrel arose between us and our barons: and this we will observe, and our will is that it be observed in good faith by our heirs forever. We have also granted to all freemen of our kingdom, for us and our heirs forever, all the underwritten liberties, to be had and held by them and their heirs, of us and our heirs forever.

2. If any of our earls or barons, or others holding of us in chief by military service shall have died, and at the time of his death his heir shall be full of age and owe “relief”, he shall have his inheritance by the old relief, to wit, the heir or heirs of an earl, for the whole barony of an earl by L100; the heir or heirs of a baron, L100 for a whole barony; the heir or heirs of a knight, 100s, at most, and whoever owes less let him give less, according to the ancient custom of fees.

3. If, however, the heir of any one of the aforesaid has been under age and in wardship, let him have his inheritance without relief and without fine when he comes of age.

4. The guardian of the land of an heir who is thus under age, shall take from the land of the heir nothing but reasonable produce, reasonable customs, and reasonable services, and that without destruction or waste of men or goods; and if we have committed the wardship of the lands of any such minor to the sheriff\*, or to any other who is responsible to us for its issues,

and he has made destruction or waster of what he holds in wardship, we will take of him amends, and the land shall be committed to two lawful and discreet men of that fee, who shall be responsible for the issues to us or to him to whom we shall assign them; and if we have given or sold the wardship of any such land to anyone and he has therein made destruction or waste, he shall lose that wardship, and it shall be transferred to two lawful and discreet men of that fief, who shall be responsible to us in like manner as aforesaid.

5. The guardian, moreover, so long as he has the wardship of the land, shall keep up the houses, parks, fishponds, stanks, mills, and other things pertaining to the land, out of the issues of the same land; and he shall restore to the heir, when he has come to full age, all his land, stocked with ploughs and wainage, according as the season of husbandry shall require, and the issues of the land can reasonable bear.

6. Heirs shall be married without disparagement\*, yet so that before the marriage takes place the nearest in blood to that heir shall have notice.

7. A widow, after the death of her husband, shall forthwith and without difficulty have her marriage portion and inheritance; nor shall she give anything for her dower\*, or for her marriage portion, or for the inheritance which her husband and she held on the day of the death of that husband; and she may remain in the house of her husband for forty days after his death, within which time her dower shall be assigned to her.

8. No widow shall be compelled to marry, so long as she prefers to live without a husband; provided always that she

gives security not to marry without our consent, if she holds of us, or without the consent of the lord of whom she holds, if she holds of another.

**9.** Neither we nor our bailiffs will seize any land or rent for any debt, as long as the chattels\* of the debtor are sufficient to repay the debt; nor shall the sureties of the debtor be distrained\* so long as the principal debtor is able to satisfy the debt; and if the principal debtor shall fail to pay the debt, having nothing wherewith to pay it, then the sureties shall answer for the debt; and let them have the lands and rents of the debtor, if they desire them, until they are indemnified for the debt which they have paid for him, unless the principal debtor can show proof that he is discharged thereof as against the said sureties.

**10.** If one who has borrowed from the Jews any sum, great or small, die before that loan be repaid, the debt shall not bear interest while the heir is under age, of whomsoever he may hold; and if the debt fall into our hands, we will not take anything except the principal sum contained in the bond.

**11.** And if anyone die indebted to the Jews, his wife shall have her dower and pay nothing of that debt; and if any children of the deceased are left under age, necessaries shall be provided for them in keeping with the holding of the deceased; and out of the residue the debt shall be paid, reserving, however, service due to feudal lords; in like manner let it be done touching debts due to others than Jews.

**12.** No scutage\* not aid shall be imposed on our kingdom, unless by common counsel of our kingdom, except for ransoming our person, for making our eldest son a knight,

and for once marrying our eldest daughter; and for these there shall not be levied more than a reasonable aid. In like manner it shall be done concerning aids from the city of London.

**13.** And the city of London shall have all its ancient liberties and free customs, as well by land as by water; furthermore, we decree and grant that all other cities, boroughs, towns, and ports shall have all their liberties and free customs.

**14.** And for obtaining the common counsel of the kingdom anent the assessing of an aid (except in the three cases aforesaid) or of a scutage, we will cause to be summoned the archbishops, bishops, abbots, earls, and greater barons, severally by our letters; and we will moreover cause to be summoned generally, through our sheriffs and bailiffs, and others who hold of us in chief, for a fixed date, namely, after the expiry of at least forty days, and at a fixed place; and in all letters of such summons we will specify the reason of the summons. And when the summons has thus been made, the business shall proceed on the day appointed, according to the counsel of such as are present, although not all who were summoned have come.

**15.** We will not for the future grant to anyone license to take an aid from his own free tenants, except to ransom his person, to make his eldest son a knight, and once to marry his eldest daughter; and on each of these occasions there shall be levied only a reasonable aid.

**16.** No one shall be distrained for performance of greater service for a knight's fee, or for any other free tenement, than is due therefrom.

**17.** Common pleas shall not follow our court, but shall be held in some fixed place.

**18.** Inquests of novel disseisin\*, of mort d'ancestor\*, and of darrein presentment\* shall not be held elsewhere than in their own county courts, and that in manner following; We, or, if we should be out of the realm, our chief justiciar, will send two justiciaries through every county four times a year, who shall alone with four knights of the county chosen by the county, hold the said assizes\* in the county court, on the day and in the place of meeting of that court.

**19.** And if any of the said assizes cannot be taken on the day of the county court, let there remain of the knights and freeholders, who were present at the county court on that day, as many as may be required for the efficient making of judgments, according as the business be more or less.

**20.** A freeman shall not be amerced\* for a slight offense, except in accordance with the degree of the offense; and for a grave offense he shall be amerced in accordance with the gravity of the offense, yet saving always his "contentment"; and a merchant in the same way, saving his "merchandise"; and a villein\* shall be amerced in the same way, saving his "wainage" if they have fallen into our mercy: and none of the aforesaid ameracements shall be imposed except by the oath of honest men of the neighborhood.

**21.** Earls and barons shall not be amerced except through their peers, and only in accordance with the degree of the offense.

**22.** A clerk shall not be amerced in respect of his lay holding except after the manner of the others aforesaid;

further, he shall not be amerced in accordance with the extent of his ecclesiastical benefice.

**23.** No village or individual shall be compelled to make bridges at river banks, except those who from of old were legally bound to do so.

**24.** No sheriff, constable, coroners, or others of our bailiffs, shall hold pleas of our Crown.

**25.** All counties, hundred, wapentakes, and trithings (except our demesne manors) shall remain at the old rents, and without any additional payment.

**26.** If anyone holding of us a lay fief shall die, and our sheriff or bailiff shall exhibit our letters patent of summons for a debt which the deceased owed us, it shall be lawful for our sheriff or bailiff to attach and enroll the chattels of the deceased, found upon the lay fief, to the value of that debt, at the sight of law worthy men, provided always that nothing whatever be thence removed until the debt which is evident shall be fully paid to us; and the residue shall be left to the executors to fulfill the will of the deceased; and if there be nothing due from him to us, all the chattels shall go to the deceased, saving to his wife and children their reasonable shares.

**27.** If any freeman shall die intestate\*, his chattels shall be distributed by the hands of his nearest kinsfolk and friends, under supervision of the Church, saving to every one the debts which the deceased owed to him.

**28.** No constable or other bailiff of ours shall take corn or other provisions from anyone without immediately tendering

money therefor, unless he can have postponement thereof by permission of the seller.

**29.** No constable shall compel any knight to give money in lieu of castle-guard, when he is willing to perform it in his own person, or (if he himself cannot do it from any reasonable cause) then by another responsible man. Further, if we have led or sent him upon military service, he shall be relieved from guard in proportion to the time during which he has been on service because of us.

**30.** No sheriff or bailiff of ours, or other person, shall take the horses or carts of any freeman for transport duty, against the will of the said freeman.

**31.** Neither we nor our bailiffs shall take, for our castles or for any other work of ours, wood which is not ours, against the will of the owner of that wood.

**32.** We will not retain beyond one year and one day, the lands those who have been convicted of felony, and the lands shall thereafter be handed over to the lords of the fiefs.

**33.** All kydells for the future shall be removed altogether from Thames and Medway, and throughout all England, except upon the seashore.

**34.** The writ which is called praecipe\* shall not for the future be issued to anyone, regarding any tenement whereby a freeman may lose his court.

**35.** Let there be one measure of wine throughout our whole realm; and one measure of ale; and one measure of corn, to wit, “the London quarter”; and one width of cloth (whether dyed, or russet, or “halberget”), to wit, two ells within the selvedges; of weights also let it be as of measures.

**36.** Nothing in future shall be given or taken for awrit of inquisition of life or limbs, but freely it shall be granted, and never denied.

**37.** If anyone holds of us by fee-farm, either by socage\* or by burgage\*, or of any other land by knight's service, we will not (by reason of that fee-farm, socage, or burgage), have the wardship of the heir, or of such land of his as if of the fief of that other; nor shall we have wardship of that fee-farm, socage, or burgage, unless such fee-farm owes knight's service. We will not by reason of any small serjeanty\* which anyone may hold of us by the service of rendering to us knives, arrows, or the like, have wardship of his heir or of the land which he holds of another lord by knight's service.

**38.** No bailiff for the future shall, upon his own unsupported complaint, put anyone to his "law", without credible witnesses brought for this purposes.

**39.** No freemen shall be taken or imprisoned or disseised\* or exiled or in any way destroyed, nor will we go upon him nor send upon him, except by the lawful judgment of his peers or by the law of the land.

**40.** To no one will we sell, to no one will we refuse or delay, right or justice.

**41.** All merchants shall have safe and secure exit from England, and entry to England, with the right to tarry there and to move about as well by land as by water, for buying and selling by the ancient and right customs, quit from all evil tolls, except (in time of war) such merchants as are of the land at war with us. And if such are found in our land at the beginning of the war, they shall be detained, without injury to

their bodies or goods, until information be received by us, or by our chief justiciar, how the merchants of our land found in the land at war with us are treated; and if our men are safe there, the others shall be safe in our land.

**42.** It shall be lawful in future for anyone (excepting always those imprisoned or outlawed in accordance with the law of the kingdom, and natives of any country at war with us, and merchants, who shall be treated as if above provided) to leave our kingdom and to return, safe and secure by land and water, except for a short period in time of war, on grounds of public policy- reserving always the allegiance due to us.

**43.** If anyone holding of some escheat\* (such as the honor of Wallingford, Nottingham, Boulogne, Lancaster, or of other escheats which are in our hands and are baronies) shall die, his heir shall give no other relief, and perform no other service to us than he would have done to the baron if that barony had been in the baron's hand; and we shall hold it in the same manner in which the baron held it.

**44.** Men who dwell without the forest need not henceforth come before our justiciaries of the forest upon a general summons, unless they are in plea, or sureties of one or more, who are attached for the forest.

**45.** We will appoint as justices, constables, sheriffs, or bailiffs only such as know the law of the realm and mean to observe it well.

**46.** All barons who have founded abbeys, concerning which they hold charters from the kings of England, or of which they have long continued possession, shall have the wardship of them, when vacant, as they ought to have.

**47.** All forests that have been made such in our time shall forthwith be disafforsted; and a similar course shall be followed with regard to river banks that have been placed “in defense” by us in our time.

**48.** All evil customs connected with forests and warrens, foresters and warreners, sheriffs and their officers, river banks and their wardens, shall immediately be inquired into in each county by twelve sworn knights of the same county chosen by the honest men of the same county, and shall, within forty days of the said inquest, be utterly abolished, so as never to be restored, provided always that we previously have intimation thereof, or our justiciar, if we should not be in England.

**49.** We will immediately restore all hostages and charters delivered to us by Englishmen, as sureties of the peace of faithful service.

**50.** We will entirely remove from their bailiwicks, the relations of Gerard of Athee (so that in future they shall have no bailiwick in England); namely, Engelard of Cigogne, Peter, Guy, and Andrew of Chanceaux, Guy of Cigogne, Geoffrey of Martigny with his brothers, Philip Mark with his brothers and his nephew Geoffrey, and the whole brood of the same.

**51.** As soon as peace is restored, we will banish from the kingdom all foreign born knights, crossbowmen, serjeants, and mercenary soldiers who have come with horses and arms to the kingdom’s hurt.

**52.** If anyone has been dispossessed or removed by us, without the legal judgment of his peers, from his lands, castles, franchises, or from his right, we will immediately restore them to him; and if a dispute arise over this, then let it be decided

by the five and twenty barons of whom mention is made below in the clause for securing the peace. Moreover, for all those possessions, from which anyone has, without the lawful judgment of his peers, been disseised or removed, by our father, King Henry, or by our brother, King Richard, and which we retain in our hand (or which as possessed by others, to whom we are bound to warrant them) we shall have respite until the usual term of crusaders; excepting those things about which a plea has been raised, or an inquest made by our order, before our taking of the cross; but as soon as we return from the expedition, we will immediately grant full justice therein.

**53.** We shall have, moreover, the same respite and in the same manner in rendering justice concerning the disafforestation or retention of those forests which Henry our father and Richard our brother afforested, and concerning the wardship of lands which are of the fief of another (namely, such wardships as we have hitherto had by reason of a fief which anyone held of us by knight's service), and concerning abbeys founded on other fiefs than our own, in which the lord of the fee claims to have right; and when we have returned, or if we desist from our expedition, we will immediately grant full justice to all who complain of such things.

**54.** No one shall be arrested or imprisoned upon the appeal of a woman, for the death of any other than her husband.

**55.** All fines made with us unjustly and against the law of the land, and all amercements, imposed unjustly and against the law of the land, shall be entirely remitted, or else it shall be done concerning them according to the decision of the five

and twenty barons whom mention is made below in the clause for securing the pease, or according to the judgment of the majority of the same, along with the aforesaid Stephen, archbishop of Canterbury, if he can be present, and such others as he may wish to bring with him for this purpose, and if he cannot be present the business shall nevertheless proceed without him, provided always that if any one or more of the aforesaid five and twenty barons are in a similar suit, they shall be removed as far as concerns this particular judgment, others being substituted in their places after having been selected by the rest of the same five and twenty for this purpose only, and after having been sworn.

**56.** If we have disseised or removed Welshmen from lands or liberties, or other things, without the legal judgment of their peers in England or in Wales, they shall be immediately restored to them; and if a dispute arise over this, then let it be decided in the marches by the judgment of their peers; for the tenements in England according to the law of England, for tenements in Wales according to the law of Wales, and for tenements in the marches according to the law of the marches. Welshmen shall do the same to us and ours.

**57.** Further, for all those possessions from which any Welshman has, without the lawful judgment of his peers, been disseised or removed by King Henry our father, or King Richard our brother, and which we retain in our hand (or which are possessed by others, and which we ought to warrant), we will have respite until the usual term of crusaders; excepting those things about which a plea has been raised or an inquest made by our order before we took the

cross; but as soon as we return (or if perchance we desist from our expedition), we will immediately grant full justice in accordance with the laws of the Welsh and in relation to the foresaid regions.

**58.** We will immediately give up the son of Llywelyn and all the hostages of Wales, and the charters delivered to us as security for the peace.

**59.** We will do towards Alexander, king of Scots, concerning the return of his sisters and his hostages, and concerning his franchises, and his right, in the same manner as we shall do towards our owher barons of England, unless it ought to be otherwise according to the charters which we hold from William his father, formerly king of Scots; and this shall be according to the judgment of his peers in our court.

**60.** Moreover, all these aforesaid customs and liberties, the observances of which we have granted in our kingdom as far as pertains to us towards our men, shall be observed by all of our kingdom, as well clergy as laymen, as far as pertains to them towards their men.

**61.** Since, moreover, for God and the amendment of our kingdom and for the better allaying of the quarrel that has arisen between us and our barons, we have granted all these concessions, desirous that they should enjoy them in complete and firm endurance forever, we give and grant to them the underwritten security, namely, that the barons choose five and twenty barons of the kingdom, whomsoever they will, who shall be bound with all their might, to observe and hold, and cause to be observed, the peace and liberties we have granted and confirmed to them by this our present Charter, so that if

we, or our justiciar, or our bailiffs or any one of our officers, shall in anything be at fault towards anyone, or shall have broken any one of the articles of this peace or of this security, and the offense be notified to four barons of the foresaid five and twenty, the said four barons shall repair to us (or our justiciar, if we are out of the realm) and, laying the transgression before us, petition to have that transgression redressed without delay. And if we shall not have corrected the transgression (or, in the event of our being out of the realm, if our justiciar shall not have corrected it) within forty days, reckoning from the time it has been intimated to us (or to our justiciar, if we should be out of the realm), the four barons aforesaid shall refer that matter to the rest of the five and twenty barons, and those five and twenty barons shall, together with the community of the whole realm, distrain and distress us in all possible ways, namely, by seizing our castles, lands, possessions, and in any other way they can, until redress has been obtained as they deem fit, saving harmless our own person, and the persons of our queen and children; and when redress has been obtained, they shall resume their old relations towards us. And let whoever in the country desires it, swear to obey the orders of the said five and twenty barons for the execution of all the aforesaid matters, and along with them, to molest us to the utmost of his power; and we publicly and freely grant leave to everyone who wishes to swear, and we shall never forbid anyone to swear. All those, moreover, in the land who of themselves and of their own accord are unwilling to swear to the twenty five to help them in constraining and molesting us, we shall by our command compel the same to

swear to the effect foresaid. And if any one of the five and twenty barons shall have died or departed from the land, or be incapacitated in any other manner which would prevent the foresaid provisions being carried out, those of the said twenty five barons who are left shall choose another in his place according to their own judgment, and he shall be sworn in the same way as the others. Further, in all matters, the execution of which is entrusted, to these twenty five barons, if perchance these twenty five are present and disagree about anything, or if some of them, after being summoned, are unwilling or unable to be present, that which the majority of those present ordain or command shall be held as fixed and established, exactly as if the whole twenty five had concurred in this; and the said twenty five shall swear that they will faithfully observe all that is aforesaid, and cause it to be observed with all their might. And we shall procure nothing from anyone, directly or indirectly, whereby any part of these concessions and liberties might be revoked or diminished; and if any such things has been procured, let it be void and null, and we shall never use it personally or by another.

**62.** And all the will, hatreds, and bitterness that have arisen between us and our men, clergy and lay, from the date of the quarrel, we have completely remitted and pardoned to everyone. Moreover, all trespasses occasioned by the said quarrel, from Easter in the sixteenth year of our reign till the restoration of peace, we have fully remitted to all, both clergy and laymen, and completely forgiven, as far as pertains to us. And on this head, we have caused to be made for them letters testimonial patent of the lord Stephen, archbishop of

Canterbury, of the lord Henry, archbishop of Dublin, of the bishops aforesaid, and of Master Pandulf as touching this security and the concessions aforesaid.

**63.** Wherefore we will and firmly order that the English Church be free, and that the men in our kingdom have and hold all the aforesaid liberties, rights, and concessions, well and peaceably, freely and quietly, fully and wholly, for themselves and their heirs, of us and our heirs, in all respects and in all places forever, as is aforesaid. An oath, moreover, has been taken, as well on our part as on the part of the barons, that all these conditions aforesaid shall be kept in good faith and without evil intent. Given under our hand – the above named and many others being witnesses – in the meadow which is called Runnymede, between Windsor and Staines, on the fifteenth day of June, in the seventeenth year of our reign (URL: [avalon.law.yale.edu](http://avalon.law.yale.edu)).

## Appendix II



Figure 20 — “Words play an enormous part in our lives and are therefore deserving of the closest study” (Aldous Huxley)

## Glossary of Terms

**Amerce** — To impose a fine. Also to publish by fine or penalty.

**Assize** — A court, usually but not always, consisting of twelve men, summoned together to try a disputed case. They performed the functions of jury, except the verdict was rendered from their own investigation and knowledge and not from upon evidence adduced.

**Burgage** — One of the three species of free socage holdings; a tenure whereby houses and lands which were formerly the site of houses, in an ancient borough, are held of some lord by a certain rent.

**Chattel** — Personal property as opposed to real property. A personal object which can be transported.

**Darrein Presentment** — A type of court proceeding in which a jury is summoned to determine the rightful ownership of property. It is also known as an assize of darrein presentment. It was intended to resolve those cases in which the presentation to a church was in dispute. Darrein presentment did not investigate questions of ultimate right but rather the simple factual issue of who last presented to that church.

**Disparagement** — The offence given when an individual was married to someone of lower social status.

**Disseise** — To dispossess or to deprive.

**Distrain** — The act of taking as a pledge another person's property to be used as an assurance of performance of

an obligation. Also a remedy to ensure a court appearance or payment of fees, etc.

**Dower** — The portion of her husband's lands that a widow is entitled to after his death. On the widow's death the dower reverts to her husband's heir.

**Escheat** — Right of the lord of a fee to re-enter upon the same when it became vacant by the extinction of the blood of the tenant.

**Intestate** — To die without a will.

**Mort d'Ancestor** — Real action to recover a person's lands of which he had been deprived on the death of his ancestor by the abatement of intrusion of a stranger.

**Novel Disseisin** — One of the possessory assizes introduced by Henry II in 1166. Novel disseisin was an action to recover lands of which the plaintiff claimed to have been dispossessed (disseised). Unlike litigation by writ of right, novel disseisin procedure was designed to be swift. The assize simply asked whether the defendants had disseised the plaintiff without a court judgement and avoided the whole issue of how had the greater right to the property.

**Peer** — One who is a member of the peerage, i.e. the nobility. A jury of your peers is a jury of your nobility.

**Praecipe** — An original writ drawn up in the alternative commanding the defendant to do the thing required.

**Scutage** — Tax or contribution raised by someone holding lands by knight's service used to furnish the King's army.

**Serjeanty** — A form of tenure in return for performing duties to the king (such as providing a serjeant for his army) or

giving him objects. The objects, in the example of a “small serjeanty” given in chapter 37 of the Magna Carta, are knives and arrows.

**Sheriff** — The king’s chief local government agent; in charge of a county; appointed and dismissed by the king.

**Socage** — A species of Tenure where the tenant held lands in consideration of certain inferior services of husbandry by him to the lord of the fee.

**Villein** — A peasant who was legally unfree. Land held in villeinage was land for which customs and services characteristic of unfree tenure were owed ([URL: erenow.org](http://erenow.org)).

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