

Extract A

One factor in the Franks' favour, and a theme that would run through most of the first fifty years of settlement, was the disunity of the Muslim world; each of the major powers of the region had other priorities and demands upon their attention. They had failed to recognise the First Crusade as a campaign of religious conquest. It seems also that the fusion of interests between the religious and secular leadership that so characterised the attraction and the energy of the crusade in western Europe was not present in the Muslim Near East at that time; a crucial difference. Ongoing conflict amongst the northern Syrian Muslims was of particular advantage to the Christian settlers. This is not to say that such groups, as well as the Fatimids of Egypt did not pose a significant threat to the Franks but the fragmented nature of this danger did much to dilute its menace.

Adapted from J. Phillips, *The Crusades, 1095-1204*, 2014

Extract B

Baldwin I and his rival Tancred steered the Latin East through a period of extreme fragility, during which the myth of Frankish invincibility in battle cracked and the first intermittent signs of a Muslim counter-offensive surfaced. Between 1100 and 1118 the real significance of Islamic disunity became clear, for in these years of foundation western European settlement of Syria and Palestine quite probably could have been halted by committed and concerted Muslim attack. Baldwin and Tancred's successes were built upon a flexibility of approach that mixed ruthlessness with pragmatism. Thus the work of consolidation and subjugation was carried out not simply through direct military conquest, but also via diplomacy, financial exploitation and the incorporation of the indigenous non-Latin population within the fabric of the Frankish states.

Adapted from T. Asbridge, *The Crusades*, 2012

Extract C

The emergence of two religious orders combining the ideals of knighthood and monasticism played a vital role in buttressing the Frankish Levant. Like monks, they made vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, but, rather than dedicate themselves to lives of sheltered devotion in isolated communities, they took up sword, shield and armour to fight for Christendom and the defence of the Holy Land. Together, the Templars and Hospitallers brought a desperately needed influx of manpower and martial expertise to crusader states starved of military resources. Crucially, they also possessed the wealth to maintain, and in time extend, Outremer's network of forts and castles.

Adapted from T. Asbridge, *The Crusades*, 2012

Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the reasons why the crusader states survived between 1099 and 1143. **[30 marks]**