

## COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

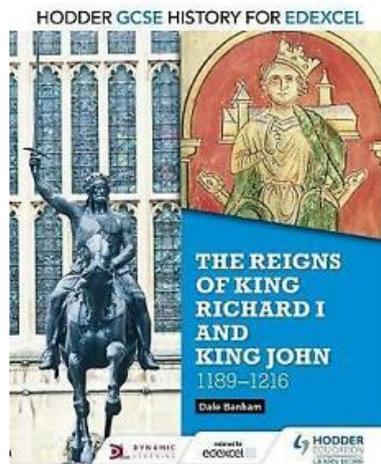
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Banham, D. (2016). *The reigns of King Richard I and King John, 1189-1216*. London: Hodder Education.

## Magna Carta: The main provisions

Magna Carta had 63 provisions, covering a wide range of issues. The most important are summarised below.

**Provision 1** The English Church shall be free. The king must not interfere with the Church.

**Provision 2** When a baron inherits land he should not have to pay more than £100 to the king.

**Provision 8** No widow shall be forced to marry as long as she wishes to live without a husband.

**Provision 9** Neither the king nor his officials will seize any land in payment of a debt, so long as the debtor has moveable goods sufficient to pay the debt.

**Provision 12** No scutage or aid (tax) may be raised within the kingdom without its general consent. Taxes from the city of London are to be treated the same.

**Provision 20** A freeman shall only be fined in proportion to the seriousness of his offence. The fine should not be so heavy as to deprive him of his livelihood.

**Provision 21** Barons should only be fined after a proper trial. The fine should match the crime.

**Provisions 28 and 30** No sheriff, constable or other royal official shall take horses, carts, corn or other moveable goods from any man without immediate payment.

**Provision 39** No freeman should be arrested, imprisoned and stripped of his possessions without a fair trial.

**Provision 40** To no one will the king sell, delay or deny the right to justice.

**Provision 45** The king will appoint as constables and sheriffs only men that know the law and are minded to keep it well.

**Provision 49** The king will return all hostages given to him by the barons.

**Provision 50** The king will remove from their offices certain royal favourites (these are named specifically in the charter).

**Provision 51** As soon as peace is restored all foreign mercenaries should leave the country.

**Provision 52** Any man who has been deprived or dispossessed of his lands, castles or rights, without the lawful judgment of their peers, will have them returned.

**Provision 61** The barons shall choose 25 barons to make certain that the king keeps to this charter. If the king or any of his servants breaks the charter, the 25 barons can take action to make him keep to the charter. This includes seizing the king's castles and lands, but they cannot attack the king himself, his queen or his children.