**Resource 4.1 Interpretations of King John**

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| 1. The king of France conquered most of John’s lands in Normandy and France. |
| 1. During his reign John upset many of his barons by breaking his promises and ignoring their advice. |
| 1. John raised taxes on his people again and again. He raised taxes on inherited land by ten times. |
| 1. John brought in foreign advisers and soldiers to help him keep control. He gave them castles and land to keep them loyal. |
| 1. John’s brother King Richard was famous for being a brave and successful soldier. John was not a good soldier. |
| 1. John ordered his barons to send their sons to him as hostages. If the barons disobeyed him he threatened to kill their sons. |

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| **Resource 4.2** | | |
| Event | Chances of the charter surviving | Explanation *(is it to do with the physical survival of the document or the survival of the ideas in the charter).* |
| After it was sealed at Runnymeade, thirteen or more copies of Magna Carta were made. Clerics from the church had to write out each copy by hand! Usually the king’s sheriffs would keep important documents. But the church kept many copies of Magna Carta for safe-keeping. They were stored in cathedrals around the kingdom. |  |  |
| Autumn 1215: Just six months after agreeing to Magna Carta John persuaded the Pope to cancel it. He tried to force the rebel barons to forswear charter. The furious barons rebelled against John and invited the prince of France to be their new king. A civil war began. |  |  |
| May 1216: The French prince Louis arrived in England. He issued a manifesto (a set of promises) but did not mention Magna Carta. |  |  |
| October 1216: John was already sick when he took a short cut and his baggage train got stuck in a high tide. He lost all of his treasure. John was carried to a castle in Newark, where he died. John’s nine-year-old son, Henry became King. |  |  |
| 1217: A group of loyal barons ruled for Henry III while he was a child. But Prince Louis of France now controlled half of England. To win support for Henry III and end the civil war, the government re-granted Magna Carta. It asked the church to send the copies it had kept around the kingdom. It was read out in every town and village in the country. The new Magna Carta won over most of the rebel barons. An agreement was signed ending the civil war. |  |  |
| Over time, Henry III proved to be a weak and useless king. He ignored the promises made in Magna Carta. His advisers said he didn’t have to keep them because he had been forced to sign the charter. So in 1225 the barons made him re-grant Magna Carta once again and promise to rule by its terms. This time Henry III said he was agreeing to it of his ‘free will.’ |  |  |

**Resource 4.3: Causation scale: why did Magna Carta survive?**

**Task**

Plot each of the big reasons below on to the scale to show how important you think it was in the charter’s survival.

1. Actions of the king
2. Actions of the barons
3. Actions of the church
4. Luck

I think the most important reason the charter survived was…

This is because…

This is supported by the fact that…