



The Battle of Crécy, 1346.
Jean Froissart. *Chroniques*, 15th century.
BnF MS Arsenal 5187, f.135v.

Assessment: four document commentaries.

Jean Froissart (c. 1337–c. 1405) was the author of a fourteenth-century chronicle. He was particularly interested in chivalry and warfare, writing extensively about what subsequently became known as the Hundred Years War. Recognized by contemporaries on all sides of the conflict as a man who recorded the events and experiences of the aristocratic elite, modern historians are as much interested in what he reveals about contemporary mentalities. This module seeks to investigate how and why Froissart wrote his chronicle, addressing topics such as oral history and plagiarism in the process. It will also explore Froissart's concerns with chivalry, warfare and popular revolt —and his comments on women and the lower social orders — in an attempt to assess how accurate or idealised Froissart's portrayal of fourteenth-century society was. Discussion will focus on the Penguin Classics edition of Froissart's *Chroniques*.