

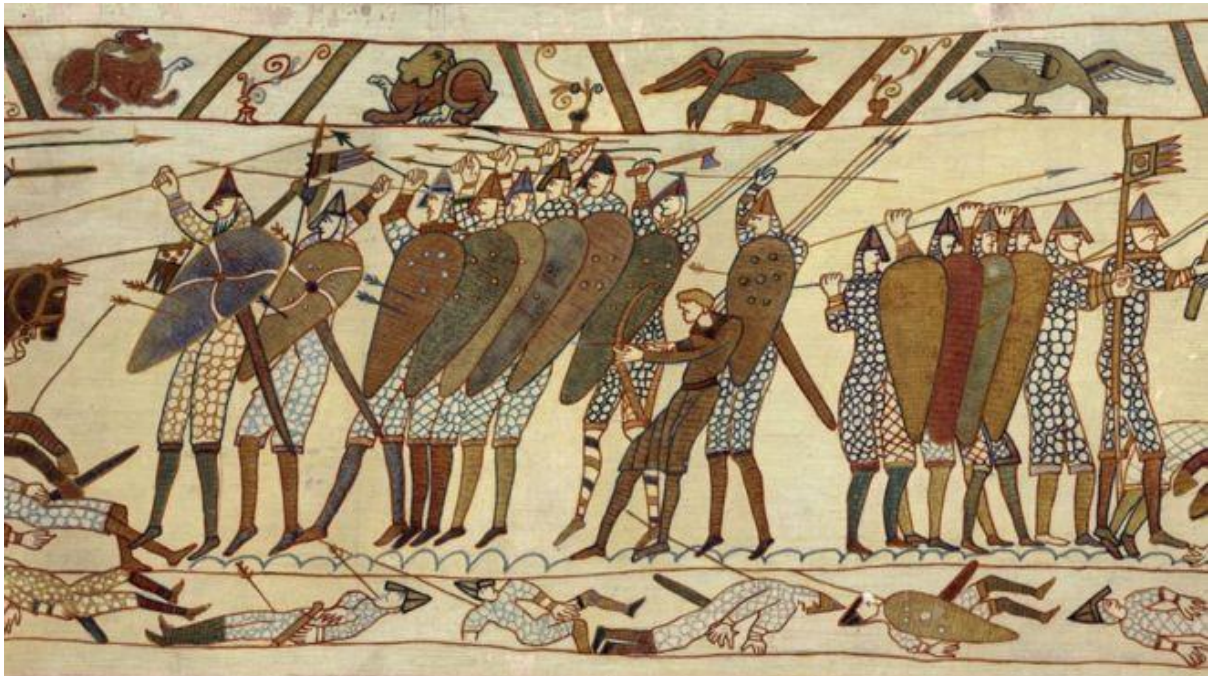
Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060-88

20% of your overall mark

Paper 2

50 mins approx. (1 Hour 45 Min Exam)

You will only be tested on knowledge and understanding



Name:

Teacher:

What does the specification require me to know?

Key Topic 1: Anglo-Saxon England and the Norman Conquest, c.1060-66

Key topic 1: Anglo-Saxon England and the Norman Conquest, 1060–66	
1 Anglo-Saxon society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monarchy and government. The power of the English monarchy. Earldoms, local government and the legal system. The economy and social system. Towns and villages. The influence of the Church.
2 The last years of Edward the Confessor and the succession crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The house of Godwin. Harold Godwinson's succession as Earl of Wessex. The power of the Godwins. Harold Godwinson's embassy to Normandy. The rising against Tostig and his exile. The death of Edward the Confessor.
3 The rival claimants for the throne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The motives and claims of William of Normandy, Harald Hardrada and Edgar. The Witan and the coronation and reign of Harold Godwinson. Reasons for, and significance of, the outcome of the battles of Gate Fulford and Stamford Bridge.
4 The Norman invasion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Battle of Hastings. Reasons for William's victory, including the leadership skills of Harold and William, Norman and English troops and tactics.

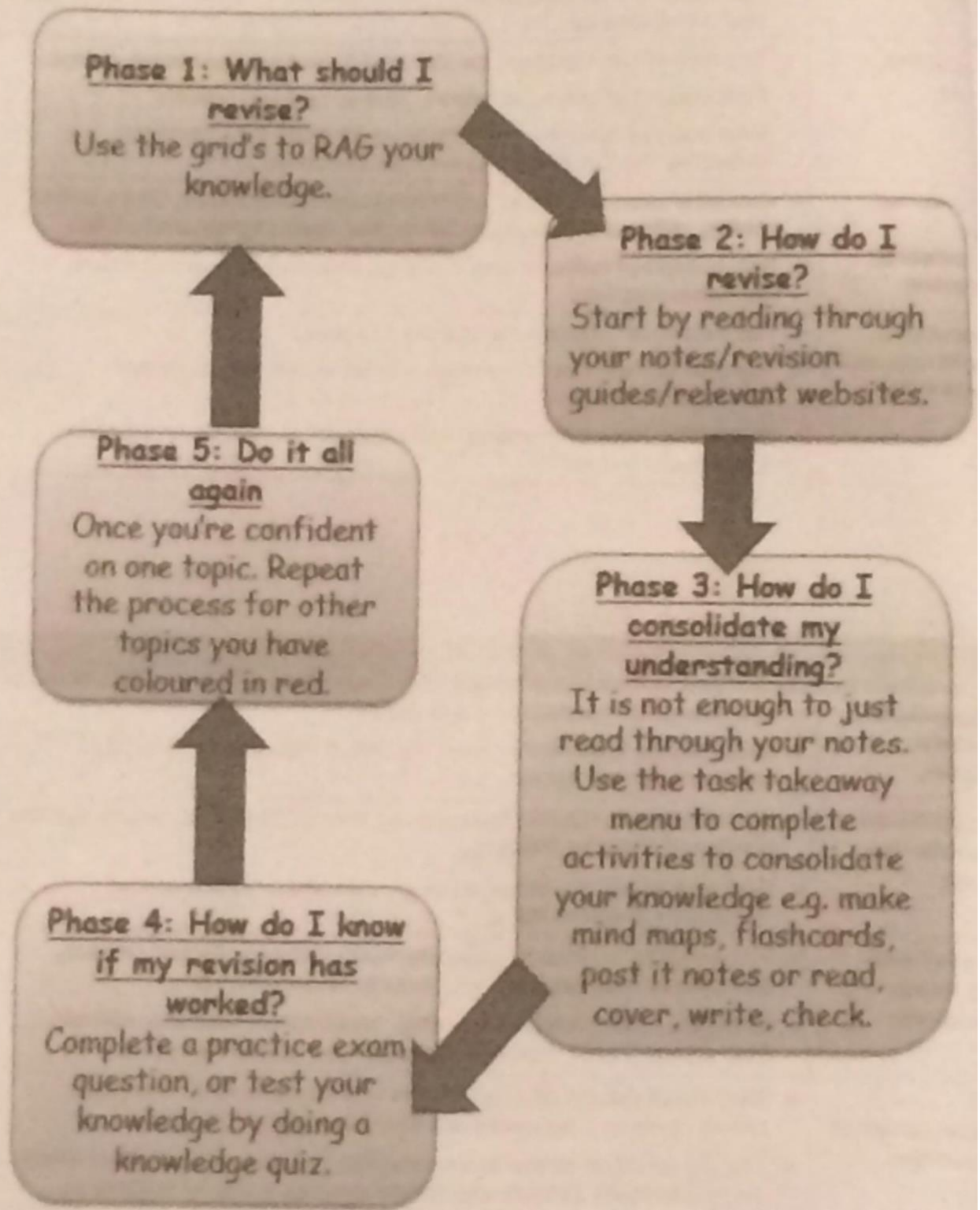
Key Topic 2: William I in power: Securing the kingdom, 1066-87

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1 Establishing control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The submission of the earls, 1066. Rewarding followers and establishing control on the borderlands through the use of earls. The Marcher earldoms. Reasons for the building of castles; their key features and importance.
2 The causes and outcomes of Anglo-Saxon resistance, 1068–71	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The revolt of Earls Edwin and Morcar in 1068. Edgar the Aethling and the rebellions in the North, 1069. Hereward the Wake and rebellion at Ely, 1070–71.
3 The legacy of resistance to 1087	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reasons for and features of Harrying of the North, 1069–70. Its immediate and long-term impact, 1069–87. Changes in landownership from Anglo-Saxon to Norman, 1066–87. How William I maintained royal power.
4 Revolt of the Earls, 1075	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasons for and features of the revolt. The defeat of the revolt and its effects.

Key Topic 3: Norman England, 1066-88

Key topic 3: Norman England, 1066–88	
1 The feudal system and the Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The feudal hierarchy. The role and importance of tenants-in-chief and knights. The nature of feudalism (landholding, homage, knight service, labour service); forfeiture.• The Church in England: its role in society and relationship to government, including the roles of Stigand and Lanfranc. The Normanisation and reform of the Church in the reign of William I.• The extent of change to Anglo-Saxon society and economy.
2 Norman government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changes to government after the Conquest. Centralised power and the limited use of earls under William I. The role of regents.• The office of sheriff and the demesne. Introduction and significance of the 'forest'.• Domesday Book and its significance for Norman government and finance.
3 The Norman aristocracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The culture and language of the Norman aristocracy.• The career and significance of Bishop Odo.
4 William I and his sons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Character and personality of William I and his relations with Robert. Robert and revolt in Normandy, 1077–80.• William's death and the disputed succession. William Rufus and the defeat of Robert and Odo.

The revision cycle



How could I revise?

'Brain dumps'

Take a big piece of paper or a whiteboard, and write down everything you can remember about the topic you are revising e.g. Trial by ordeal

You could write down:

- Dates
- Names of the different trials
- Key changes that were made
- Key individuals who made those changes
- Arguments for and against trial by ordeal
- Any other important information

Once you are happy that you cannot remember any more, use different colours to highlight or underline the words in groups. E.G. If revising Transportation you may choose to underline all the mentions that provide evidence of its success in red, and to its failures in blue.

Learning Walks

Make use of your space! Write down key facts and place them around your home, where you will see them every day. Make an effort to read the facts whenever you walk past them.

Distilling

Memory studies show that we retain information better if we visit it regularly. This means that revising the information once is not necessarily going to help it stay in your brain. Going back over the facts at intervals of less than a week leads to the highest retention of facts.

To make this process streamlined, try distilling your notes. Start by reading over the notes you've completed in class, two days later read over them again, and then write down anything you did not remember. If you repeat this process enough you will end up with hardly any facts left to write down, because they will be stored in your brain.

Using your own down time

There are always little pockets of time through the day which are not good for anything – bus journeys, queues, ad breaks in TV programmes, waiting for the shower to heat up etc. If you add all of these minutes up it would amount to quite a lot of time, which could be put to good use for revision. You could photograph your revision notes, or record yourself saying your notes out loud.

Cue Cards

Summarise key events onto cue cards/A3 paper, and keep practicing. Practice past exam questions and quick quizzes.

Key Topic 1: Anglo-Saxon England and the Norman Conquest, c.1060-66

1.1 Anglo-Saxon society

The Structure of Society

- The population of England in 1060 was approx 2 million, with everyone facing a short and hard life expectancy where infant mortality was high.
- Almost everyone farmed land to make a living.
- Saxon society was hierarchical with the elite aristocracy at the top and slaves at the bottom.
- Peasants rented land from their lord and farmed it to make a living for their family as well as to provide income for the lord.
- Some peasants called 'Ceorls' were free to go and work for another lord if they wanted to, but they still had to work for their local lord too.
- 10% of Saxon society were slaves, they were treated like property and did not face the same punishments for crimes as non-slaves as this might stop them being able to do their job.
- Slavery was a normal part of Saxon society, the Normans did not keep slaves.
- The local lords were called 'Thegns' – there were about 4000-5000 of them in 1060: they were the social elite, living in a manor house with a tower and Church, they held land more than five times that of the peasants. Their main job was to be warriors.
- Thegns paid the 'heriot' tax which meant they had to own battle equipment like a horse, helmet and a sword and spear.
- At the top of society was the King and his earls. The relationship between King and Earl was based on trust, but earls would often compete to be the one the King trusted the most – as this would make them more powerful.
- Sometimes earls were powerful enough to even challenge the King as they controlled vast areas of land and many men.
- Unlike Norman society, in Anglo-Saxon England it was possible to move up the social hierarchy.
- If a Peasant earned enough to buy five 'hides' of land and paid the taxes he owed, then he could become a Thegn.
- Slaves could be freed by their masters, and desperate peasants could sell themselves into slavery to feed their families.
- Earls could be demoted to Thegns and Thegns could be promoted to Earls.
- Anglo-Saxon society was constantly on its guard to protect its land from enemies such as the Vikings and the Welsh and Scottish.



The Role of the King

- The Saxon Kings had unique powers and his people had a duty to obey:
Powers of the King:
 - Making new laws.
 - Controlling money production.

- Giving and taking land from his friends and enemies.
- Raising an army and navy.
- Setting tax rates.

Responsibilities of the people:

- To obey the King's law.
- Using only the King's coins.
- Paying tax to the King and serving in his armed forces.
- Landowners had to provide soldiers/weapons for the king's armed forces.
- Landowners had to pay their taxes.
- The King's main role was to protect his people from attack and give them laws to maintain safety and security.
- In return for protection, the people of England owed him service; boys aged 12 would swear an oath of loyalty (promise). This oath was overseen by the shire reeve (the King's official in each 'shire' or county).

Edward the Confessor – his power

- In 1060 the King was Edward the Confessor. Whilst he was not a warrior, his earls and thegns were a formidable armed force – Edward relied on them, especially the most powerful aristocrat, Earl Godwin, to protect England from attack.
- Military power was what gave Saxon Kings their authority – they were able to buy loyalty by rewarding their followers with pieces of conquered land.
- Defeat in battle could spell disaster for the King.
- Edward the Confessor had other ways of ensuring loyalty and power however!
- He was a respected law maker – he was good at keeping the peace which was valued in a society that often collapsed due to family feuds.
- He was very religious: Saxon Kings were believed to be chosen by God, they were his messenger on earth, Edward's religiosity meant people think that God approved of him.



Edward the Confessor – limits to his power

- Saxon England was split in half: Half was controlled completely by the Saxons, but the other half was Anglo-Viking (the Vikings had previously conquered this land in the North and east of England).
- This part of England was called the 'Danelaw': the people there accepted Edward as King but were fiercely independent, with their own local laws and traditions, and this often made them difficult to control.
- The biggest threat to Edward's power however was the powerful and troublesome Earl Godwin of Wessex (South West England).
- Godwin was very rich, owning so much land he was as wealthy as the King.
- The Godwin family were Earls to so many thegns they could summon an Army far stronger than the King's.
- Whilst the Godwin family had to stay loyal to the King (if they didn't they would be committing treason, a very serious crime in Anglo-Saxon times), they

could use their wealth and power to pressure the King into doing things that they wanted him to.

- This might include getting Edward to give earldoms to Godwin's sons or making sure some of Godwin's men were promoted to important positions in the Church.
- Things came to a head in 1050. A foreign ambassador (representative of a king) was attacked whilst in Dover, and Edward ordered Earl Godwin to punish the local people responsible – Godwin refused.
- Edward, with the help of two other earls called Siward of Northumbria and Leofric of Mercia, forced Godwin into exile (forced out of England).
- A year later Godwin asked to return and to have his land restored to him, Edward had no choice but to accept as a war would have started.

Saxon Government



- **The Witan** was a council that advised the king on issues of government, it was made up of the most important aristocrats in the land. These included earls and archbishops (Church leaders).
- The Witan discussed: Possible threats from foreign powers, religious issues, arguments about land and how to settle these.
- The Witan also was responsible

for approving a new King!

- The King did not have to follow the Witan's advice, and he got to decide who was in the Witan and when it should meet.
- **Earldoms:** England was split up into 'earldoms' each controlled by the most powerful family in that area – these families would have similar powers to the King so that they could rule on his behalf.
- Godwin's family had had this role since the time of the Viking king, Cnut, in 1015.
- The earls in charge of each earldom collected taxes, keeping 33% for themselves (this money was supposed to be spent on defence and the economy).
- They oversaw justice and punishments, which meant they had a big influence on peoples' lives.
- They were in charge of raising an army for the King, by commanding hundreds of Thegns. They also maintained an elite body guard called 'housecarls' who were professional soldiers. Edward's earls were therefore his military generals as well as his legal representatives.
- England was a collection of 'powerbases' each controlled by a wealthy family, the King did his best to keep them all onside.
- The Earls were not all powerful however, especially if the King was very strong (which Edward was not), or if the Thegns beneath them refused to be loyal (which sometimes happened).

- Each Earldom was split up further into 'shires'. Each Shire had its own court, its own reeve, its own capital town which was fortified (armed) called a 'burgh', its own collection of troops who could be called up by the king to form an army called the 'fyrd'.
- Shires were divided into 'hundreds', and 'hundreds' were divided into 'tithings' (groups of ten households, each represented by a man).
- The size of the 'hundreds' was based on an area of land called a 'hide'.
- A 'hundred' = one hundred hides of land.
- Each hundred had to pay a certain amount of tax and provide a certain number of soldiers during a war.
- The **Shire Reeve** (sheriff) represented the King in each shire, they had to collect revenue from the King's land, land tax called the 'geld', and collect court fines. They had to make sure the King's law was enforced, maintain roads and fortifications. Finally they also had to make sure enough men were provided for the Fyrd.

The Fyrd – Military Service

- One fully equipped man was expected to join the Fyrd from each group of five hides. (20 men from each hundred).
- Some historians believe there were two types of Fyrd:
 - the 'select' Fyrd: which gathered men to fight anywhere in England for the King. Only Thegns who were properly armed and trained fought in this – they could be called for up to 40 days (the farms they owned would suffer if they stayed away longer).
 - the 'general' Fyrd: which gathered men to fight for the King inside their local area.



The Legal System

[The King and the Law]

- Crimes against the King were punished very harshly. The King was expected by his people to keep the peace and ensure justice was served.

[Blood Feuds and the Wergild]

- 'Blood Feuds' occurred when a victim's family hunted down a criminal to get revenge. The criminal's family would then retaliate, creating a family blood feud.
- This feud could tear whole communities apart for generations.
- The Wergild was introduced to prevent blood feuds: a victim's family would receive final compensation from the criminal and his family. People from the same social level would receive equal Wergild – however different levels of social status led to different amounts of payment.
i.e. peasant (20 shillings), Thegn (1,200 shillings), Earl (3,600 shillings).
- A Saxon shilling is about £100 in today's money.

[Collective Responsibility]

- When a crime was committed, it was the duty of all members of a tithing to hunt for the criminal – this was called the 'hue and cry'.
- The men of a tithing were also responsible for the good behavior of their ten households.
- If someone was proved to have done something wrong, they had to pay a fine.
- This community-based justice system followed the principle of 'collective responsibility'.

The Anglo-Saxon Economy

- It is highly likely that it was the production of wool which made England so effective at trading in this time – especially the west of the country.
- Eastern England was better suited to growing crops, farming was well organised with lots of flour and grain produced.
-
- Proof of England's ability to trade was that it was able to afford expensive silver imports from Germany (England needed German silver to make its coins), Wine from Normandy and weapon sharpening stones from Denmark.
- By 1066, 10% of Saxons lived in towns, all of which were connected by roads between 15 and 20 miles in length. They were guarded, with strong walls and steep earth banks.
- The people who lived in the towns were responsible for keeping them up to date.
- The towns or 'burhs' were where trading took place, this was to ensure the King received his taxes. The largest towns were London, York, Norwich and Lincoln and Bristol.
- Their size was often due to their international or long distance trading relationships.
- Villages began as a loose collection of widely separated farms and homes, all made from wood and straw, with lots of relatives living together. It was the Thegn's grander houses and Churches which provided somewhere for the local community to get together.



The influence of the Church

- Whilst the Catholic Church across Europe underwent a lot of changes in the 11th century (1000s), the English Church was resistant to them.
- English Bishops and Church men were traditionally minded, resisting reform and focussing on old Anglo-Saxon and Celtic Saints.
- These saints were often specific to local areas, and the people felt they were familiar, part of their every day lives.
- The Church was organised into large areas, each controlled by a Bishop who were rich and important.
- Bishops were often part of the King's Witan.
- The Normans accused the English Bishops of being corrupt, selling Church jobs for profit (simony).

- The Bishops and Thegns often fell out as Thegns would employ people as priests for their Churches, gradually this became harder as the Church gained more control.
- Local priests were often quite ordinary people, uneducated (couldn't read or speak Latin), and were often married and owned a small bit of land – this all went against the Catholic Church's official rules!
- England also had monasteries (where monks lived) and nunneries (where nuns lived) – each was led by a Abbot or Abbess. Monasteries were in decline in England unlike in Normandy, as numbers were shrinking the Monks became more and more part of local communities rather than being separate.
- Religion was very important to every day life. People were worried about what would happen to them when they died, so the Church was very important.
- People took part in the Church's religious activities because they hoped it would reduce the amount of punishment they received in the afterlife for their sins.



- King Edward the Confessor devoted much of his later life to the rebuilding of Westminster Cathedral (which stands to this day) and to being a model King.
- English people believed that God would punish countries if their behavior was sinful, so the King and the Church had to set a good example.

1.2 The last years of Edward the Confessor and the succession crisis

The family Godwin's power

- The House of Godwin began in 1018 when King Cnut made Godwin, the son of a Theng, Earl of Wessex.
- Earl Godwin helped Edward the Confessor become King, Edward married Godwin's sister Edith, in 1045. This meant the Godwins were close to the King and very powerful.
- When Earl Godwin died, their power was reduced as other earls took over. But the Godwin family came back fighting:
 - Earl Godwin's son Harold became the new Earl, inheriting wealth and influence.
 - His younger brother Tostig became the new Earl of Northumbria which increased the Godwin family's power reach.
 - The third brother Gyrrh was given an earldom in East Anglia.
- There were several reasons why Edward allowed the Godwins to build up so much power:
 - His marriage to Edith made the Godwins virtually his family.
 - England was under threat from Norway and Edward needed strong leaders.
 - Harold married another Edith whose family held land in East Anglia (hence Gyrrh gaining an earldom).
 - Harold Godwin worked with the King to remove the threat of the Welsh King Llywelyn who had been supported by the English Earl Aelfgar of Mercia.

Harold and his brother Tostig led two armies into Wales (one by land and one by sea), trapping the Welsh King and guaranteeing his defeat. Harold sent Llywelyn's head to Edward and personally chose a new king for Wales, one who he could control. Harold was basically in charge of the whole of Wales.

Harold Godwin and the King

- Edward had tried to limit Harold Godwin's power by promoting certain Normans into positions of power, the Normans also claimed that Edward promised the English throne to William of Normandy when Edward died.
- This caused conflict between Edward and Harold, with William of Normandy supporting Edward.
- This conflict was resolved however and Harold Godwin was the most powerful earl in the whole of England.
- In 1064 Harold went on a mission to Normandy, sent there by King Edward. He was Edward's 'embassy'.
- Harold began his journey by travelling to France, but his ship was blown of course and he landed in a part of France next to Normandy which was controlled by an enemy of England. Harold was held captive until William of Normandy organised his release.
- Harold spent time with William, helping him in two military campaigns which resulted in William giving Harold gifts of weapons and armour.
- Harold completed his mission by delivering his message to William, but he also made an oath to William (swearing on two holy relics). This oath could have been an oath of allegiance (a promise of loyalty) – had Harold promised to support William's claim to the English throne?
- The Anglo-Saxons and the Normans offered different explanations for why Edward sent Harold to see William in Normandy!
- The Normans claimed that Harold was sent to help plan William's succession to the English throne.
- The Saxons claimed that Harold was sent to get back two hostages, his brother Wulfnoth and his nephew Hakon, who William had taken captive.
- Either way, Harold's mission shows that Edward saw him as a trusted advisor.
- The Normans used the event to boost William's claim to the English throne.
- It was later used by the Normans to portray Harold Godwin as an oath breaker when he refused to support William's claim to the English throne. Think Jaime Lannister in 'Game of Thrones'!
- Oaths between lords and their followers were taken very seriously in Saxon England.



The Rising against Earl Tostig in Northumberland

- Tostig was made earl of Northumberland in 1055, it was an important role as Northumberland was very large.
- It also guarded the border with Scotland and had a long history of attacks by the Vikings across the North Sea.
- Tostig would have found the area very different to Wessex – it was part of the Danelaw (see above).
- It is highly likely that the 'southerner' Tostig, would have found the Northumbrians very hard to understand.
- Tostig ruled the area for 10 years, until there was an uprising in 1065.
- Several important Northumbrian thegns led the rising – which occurred for several reasons:
 - Tostig taxed the area too heavily, far more than they had been previously used to.
 - Tostig was friends with the King of Scotland, Malcolm III. He did not retaliate when Malcolm launched attacks on Northumberland whilst Tostig was absent, this upset the locals.
 - Tostig imposed new southern laws on the fiercely independent northerners. He also imprisoned local rivals unfairly.
 - Worst of all, Tostig had ordered the assassination of two Northern aristocrats who were his rivals... whilst they were his guests!!!
- The Northern rebels marched on York, Northumberland's capital.
- They killed as many of Tostig's Housecarls and servants as they could find and declared Tostig an 'outlaw'.
- They invited Morcar, the brother of the earl of Mercia to be their earl instead of Tostig.
- After a meeting of the Witan, Edward decided to seek peace rather than raise an army.
- He sent Harold north to communicate his agreement to the rebels' terms.
- Harold married Morcar's sister (this was his second wife). Less than a month after the rising began, Tostig had been exiled.
- Harold agreed with Edward and the other advisors that the rising was Tostig's fault.
- The two brothers would never see eye to eye again. Tostig felt betrayed.
- Even if Edward had tried to raise an army, Harold and the other advisors prevented it from happening.
- The New earl in Northumberland, Morcar, was a southerner and therefore not actually an unagreeable choice.
- Why did Harold weaken his own family by not supporting Tostig? Most likely because Harold no longer worried about his family, he wanted to be King! He knew Edward was dying and he wanted to inherit a united kingdom with Wessex, Mercia and Northumberland on good terms with each other. With Tostig exiled, Harold had one less rival to the throne of England.



- It was very significant that the earls, led by Harold, failed to obey King Edward's command. Earls were bound by oaths of loyalty to their king and they were supposed to act as his military leaders. The refusal to lead an army against the rebels therefore shows that the power of the King could sometimes be challenged: if the King was weak and if it was in the interests of the major earls to act together.

The Death of Edward the Confessor

- Edward the Confessor and his wife Edith of Wessex had no children.
- This meant that when Edward died on the 5th January 1066, there was a succession crisis – it was unclear who was going to be king next.
- The Bayeux Tapestry (see front page) depicts Edward's death. He is surrounded by people: His wife Edith, Stigand the Anglo-Saxon Archbishop of Canterbury and leader of the English Church, one of Edward's ministers and Harold Godwin.
- Harold claimed that before Edward died, he entrusted Edith to Harold's protection – a coded message that Harold was now King. But there were other people who thought they had a claim to the throne. This is why 1066 would go down in England's history!



1.3 The rival claimants for the throne

There were four claimants to England's throne when Edward the Confessor died!

Harold Godwin-son (c1022-66)

- He was on the spot when Edward died.
- He based his claim on the King's death bed words and his family connection (as brother-in-law to the dead king).
- He also claimed it based on his role in recent years as the king's right-hand man, his political influence over the earls and thegns, and his proven military prowess.
- Overall he was a very strong contender.

Edgar Aethling (c1051-c1126)

- Edgar was Edward's nephew, a direct descendent of royal blood.
- The problem was that Edgar was only a teenager. With threats of invasion from Normandy and Scandinavia, the leading aristocrats of Anglo-Saxon England did not think he was up to the task at such a young age.
- Edgar had no power to back up his claim (which was very strong in theory) – this meant he was a very weak contender.

Harold Hardrada (c 1015-1066)

- King of Norway, a fearsome old Viking Warrior, Hardrada meant 'stern ruler'.
- His claim to the throne was based on Viking secret deals and treaties – a complicated claim which Hardrada believed was strong enough for him to take the throne.
- It is unlikely that Hardrada would have taken the risk of trying to claim the throne based on complicated political history involving Norway and England in the past century, unless Tostig, Harold's brother, had offered to help because he wanted revenge over Harold.
- Tostig made out that Harold was unpopular in England, especially in the North, he was selling the old war horse Hardrada the dream of one last glorious military campaign.
- Hardrada's claim was mediocre, but the Viking connection to the North of England improved his chances, as did his extensive military.



William of Normandy (c 1028-1087)

- William was Duke of Normandy, a small county in France that he had had to defend from a young age against the French enemies who surrounded him.
- England offered William the chance of real wealth and power. It also offered the Normans the chance to expand their power across Europe.
- He based his claim on an agreement that supposedly occurred between him and William in 1051, when William visited England, and which was apparently later confirmed by Harold by his visit to William in 1064.
- William got the leader of the Catholic Church (the Pope) to support this claim.
- William's claim did not surprise the English in 1066. Harold Godwinson crowned himself King Harold II in January, and immediately started making preparations to defend England from attack from the south. No preparations were made for an attack from the North however!
- William's claim was weak because it lacked evidence and because the majority Saxon Witan would not have chosen him, but strong because he had the pope's backing and the Normans were the best fighters in Europe.

Harold's coronation and his reign

- Harold seized his chance, having himself crowned on the same day that Edward the Confessor was buried.
- The Witan were already all together in London as it was just after Christmas and the recent opening ceremony for Westminster Cathedral.
- England was facing the threat of invasion and needed a new, strong leader – they rushed to accept Harold as King.
- William was furious when he heard!
- The new king Harold faced some challenges:
 - The rival Anglo-Saxon lords, especially Mercia.

- Opposition in the North, would they accept Tostig's brother as their king?
- Tostig: He was travelling around Europe looking for allies against Harold.
- William of Normandy: Reports reached Harold that William was building an invasion fleet across the Channel.

King Harold's response

- As soon as he was coronated, Harold went straight to York. He met the Witan members who had not been present in London to ensure their support – it was essential that the north did not cause Harold problems.
- Harold then gathered together the largest army England had ever seen including all of his Housecarls, his Earls and their Housecarls, as well as the Fyrd made up of all the Thegns and men from across the earldoms of England. He positioned his army along the south coast.
- He also stationed a large fleet of ships on the south coast.
- Tostig gained support from Flanders, but he quickly turned his fleet around when he heard about the strength of Harold's defences. He tried landing further north and Lincoln, but was defeated by the Mercians there and was left with only twelve ships. He headed to Scotland and plotted with Harold Hardrada instead.
- Harold's defences stayed in place all summer, but no invasion came. This was very expensive and complicated as the fyrd wanted to return home in time for the autumn harvest. By September he stepped down the army and navy.

The Battles of Fulford Gate and Stamford Bridge

- The southern army and navy defences were disbanded on the 8th September.
- Harald Hardrada and Tostig launched their attack just days later.
- 200-300 warships, carrying approximately 10,000 Viking Warriors crossed the North Sea and landed at the River Humber before marching up the river to York.
- Their route to York was blocked by a Saxon army led by Morcar the earl of Northumberland and his brother Edwin (Earl of Mercia). The two armies met at a place called Gate Fulford, with a strip of water called Germany Beck separating the two forces.
- The Saxon earls believed an open battle was a better chance for them rather than relying on York's city defences.
- The Battle of Fulford Gate (20/09/1066) was a crushing defeat for the Saxons – they were defeated for several military reasons:
 - It was likely the Saxons were outnumbered 3:2.



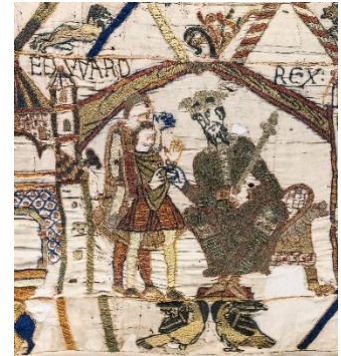
- Hardrada had a better strategy, he used Tostig's weaker troops as bait, drawing in the Saxon army, before hitting them in the side with his battle hardened Viking troops.
- Behind the Saxon army there was a marsh land, this meant they had nowhere to retreat to and they were cut down when they tried.
- The outcome of the battle was significant for several reasons:
 - Thousands of Saxon men were lost, meaning Harold had less men to call on later on. *Harold headed north before the battle at Fulford, this suggests he thought that Morcar could not win on his own anyhow.*
 - Edwin and Morcar survived Gate Fulford, but were unable/unwilling to fight for Harold later on, this severely weakened Harold's army. *Edwin and Morcar aren't mentioned in the sources about the Battle of Hastings, this doesn't prove they weren't there!*

King Harold's March North...

- When Harold learnt of the Viking attack he immediately took his Housecarls north, travelling for five days and covering 185 miles. He did not know about Gate Fulford when he started out.
- He raised his Fyrd as he travelled north, sending messages ahead to raise troops to the King's call.
- The decision to leave the south coast undefended was a terrible decision by Harold, but he would have believed at the time that it was now unlikely that William would attack as it was autumn and the sea was rough.
- The wind in the channel was blowing southward and there were storms which made William's crossing nearly impossible.
- Harold's five day march and the successful raising of an army was a massive achievement – and what he did next was sheer brilliance.
- After victory at Fulford, Hardrada and Tostig had taken hostages from across Yorkshire as a way of making sure the locals behaved themselves and did not seek revenge.
- It was agreed that further hostages would be handed over at a place called Stamford Bridge – Hardrada and Tostig were camped there waiting when Harold and his recently mobilised army launched a surprise attack.
- The **Battle of Stamford Bridge** took place on the 25/09/1066.
- Harold had learnt of the hostage exchange that had been planned and saw it as a good opportunity to attack the unsuspecting Vikings.



- He used a hill nearby to approach with his army unseen
 - Hardrada and Tostig were both killed (Tostig refused to change sides), and out of the 200 or more Viking longships, only 24 returned to Norway.
- Harold's victory was the result of several military factors:
 - The Vikings had left their armour on their ships (it was a hot day), and about a third of their men.
 - The attack was a complete surprise.
 - Hardrada's army had fought a battle five days before, and were not expecting to fight another.
 - The Viking troops felt misled, they had been told by Hardrada that England hated Harold.
 - Harold's housecarls eventually broke the Viking shield wall (a defensive 'wall' of men holding interlocking wooden shields) – a considerable achievement by Harold's men.
- Harold was not able to enjoy his victory however, news reached him on the 1st October that William of Normandy had landed on the south coast after all, on the 28th September. Harold set off south to fight the third and most significant major battle on English soil in 1066, it would be his last.
- The Battle of Stamford Bridge was significant for several reasons:
 - Hardrada and Tostig's invasion meant that Harold was not in place to prevent William's invasion. *However, Harold had already disbanded the southern Fyrd in September anyway, as its time was up.*
 - Harold's march south again must have made his remaining housecarls less battle ready than William's knights. *Morale would have been high after the victory however, so was this really a problem?*
 - Harold's success at taking Hardrada by surprise might have made him overconfident. Instead of waiting for William in fortified London, he rushed to do battle, with fatal consequences. *On the other hand, Harold and the Witan had been waiting and preparing for William for months, perhaps years. A battle on the south coast, on Harold's home turf, may have seemed the best chance of victory.*



1.4 The Norman invasion

The Key events of the Battle of Hastings

Although not everything about the Battle of Hastings is clear from the sources, some key events and factors during/about the battle are agreed by historians.

- (1) **Harold did not achieve surprise.** William's scouts informed him about Harold's advancing army. William left Hastings and threatened Harold's army as it gathered at the top of a Hill called Caldbec. Harold successfully took

control of the high ground of the Battlefield, south of Caldbec Hill. He organised his forces in a long shield wall* along the ridge.

*Shield Wall: A military tactic used by both Viking and Anglo-Saxon armies. Troops were set out in a line, several men deep. The men at the front overlapped their shields, with their spears sticking out, to create a strong defensive formation.

- (2) **William sent his foot soldiers in first.** The battle lasted eight hours which was unusually long for the medieval period. William first sent his archers forward, but the English caught the arrows on their shields. Norman foot soldiers then went up the hill towards the shield wall. The heavy axes of the English did a lot of damage. The Norman cavalry then laboured up the hill, but failed to break the wall. The battle started in Harold's favour.
- (3) **William showed his face.** Waves of Norman attacks continued throughout the day, but the English line stood firm. A rumour went around the Norman army that William had been killed or wounded, William tipped back his helmet to show his troops he was still alive and rallied them.
- (4) **Harold's shield wall was worn down.** A section of Harold's men disengaged from the shield wall and chased some of William's men down the hill. They were cut off from the rest of the English army at the bottom and were slaughtered. The Normans gradually reduced the Saxon forces until the Saxon wall began to break up and was less effective at repelling Norman cavalry charges.
- (5) **Harold's last stand.** Harold, his brothers Gyrth and Leofwine, their housecarls, and the remaining Fyrd held their position at the top of the hill – probably in rings around their standards (flags). They were now heavily outnumbered and unable to hold off the Norman cavalry. Harold and his brothers were killed, and the Housecarls died fighting to a man while the remaining Fyrd fled. William was victorious.



What were the Saxon and Norman armies made up of?

Both Harold and William employed elite professional soldiers.

- **William's knights:** Their main advantage was that they were on horseback, they could lead devastating charges and the knights had the advantage of height – striking down on

their enemies from above. However, the disadvantage was that the horses themselves were vulnerable to attack and the momentum of a charge was lost when charging up a hill.

- **Harold's housecarls:** Their main advantage was that if they worked together in a disciplined shield wall which was proof against arrows and hard to break, their heavy axes caused severe injuries and took down horses. However, discipline was key as was endurance. Once the shield wall was depleted, its advantages disappeared; opponents could charge through and it could turn into a chaotic mess.

Other troops in the battle.

- Alongside his 800 knights William around 4-6,000 foot soldiers. The foot soldiers were a mixture of Normans and soldiers-for-hire from all over Europe. They were not trained to fight in coordination with the Norman knights. Some of them would have been cross-bow men and archers. The amount of armour they had varied wildly, most carried swords or javelins.
- It is estimated Harold had approximately the same amount at the start of the battle. The men in his Fyrd were also of varying quality. The thegns were well armed, but some of the Fyrd may only have had agricultural weapons like clubs and mattocks to fight with. There were not many Anglo-Saxon archers.

The reasons for William's victory

[Tactics]

- Was it fair to say that Harold's shield wall was old-fashioned in the face of the new cavalry threat? The Shield Wall was a sophisticated defensive strategy used by the Vikings and the Anglo-Saxons to great effect. They were great at limiting damage from archer attacks, and they could stand up to early cavalry attacks as was shown at the Battle of Hastings – especially when a steep hill was there to slow the horses down, giving the Saxons time to wield their heavy battle axes.
- The battle lasted all day, which suggests the two sides were well matched. But whilst the English fought the same way the whole time, William had a mixture of troops he could draw upon to change his strategy – until he found what worked. *i.e waiting till the shield wall was weakened, then moving his archers closer to the Saxons so they could shoot more effectively and then using his cavalry to attack a much weaker shield wall.*



[What weakened the shield wall?]

- Bad discipline by the Fyrd who were not trained to hold their formation no matter what had happened.
- Greedy soldiers wanted to grab weapons and armour off the fallen Normans on the hillside.
- The 'feigned retreat' – A body of Norman troops would pretend to panic and run away, hoping their opponents would take the bait and follow them. It was very risky, as if it was mishandled it could turn into a blood bath.

[William's Leadership]

- It would be very easy to judge Harold for making mistakes, but the reality is that both Harold and William took big risks – but risks that were calculated on years of military experience. It could easily have been William who was on the losing end.
- Harold's decision to gather his defence early in the summer of 1066 gave William a major opportunity. William timed his invasion across the channel to perfection, knowing that Harold would have to disband his Fyrd by the end of the summer.

- He was clearly a strong leader as he kept his army and fleet together and did not allow the men to steal food from local farmers, forcing them to rely on official provisions.
- He took a huge risk transporting the highly trained and well bred Norman horses across the Channel. Nothing like this had been done before and special flat bottom boats had to be built especially (see the Bayeux Tapestry).
- William identified the perfect spot on the English coast to land, and marched his troops upon arrival to the town of Hastings where there was an Iron Age fort which could be adapted and made defensible. A pre-fabricated fort was transported across the Channel in sections, ready to be put together – think of an Ikea kitchen!
- He commanded his troops once in England to cause great destruction to the surrounding area. Stealing food and drink and pack horses, but also laying waste to the surroundings. *Some historians say this was a typical Norman tactic, whilst others say it was done specifically to make Harold angry and provoke him into meeting William in an open battle when he was unprepared.*



[Harold's leadership]

- Just because Harold lost the battle, doesn't mean we should regard all his decisions as bad ones, or as random. He may well have had good reasons for the decisions he took. However he clearly did make mistakes.

- Calling out his southern army early in the summer in response to the threat from Tostig's Flanders' force was an error, he couldn't keep it on the south coast long enough!

- Harold could have waited in London with strong defences rather than rushing to confront the Norman army.

{Advantages}

- London was well fortified and well stocked with food and weapons.

- Laying siege to London would have been hard as it would have required William to have had lots of food for his troops. Diseases are also a risk during a siege.

- Harold's rush to confront William meant he had fewer men in his army.

{Disadvantages}

- Harold may well have thought by moving quickly he could have trapped William in Hastings and starved him out, or caught him by surprise.

- If Harold waited in London there was a risk that William could have got further reinforcements from across the Channel.

- William was highly experienced in laying siege to towns, Anglo-Saxon armies had no experience of it and had no developed defence strategies.

- Harold was a Wessex man by birth, and he owed it to the region to move as quickly as possible to end William's attacks on the people there.

- Harold failed to surprise William and actually gave the game away, risking his own army's exposure before it was ready to fight.

[Leadership and luck]

- In the chaos of battle, anything could happen. If Harold really was killed by an arrow in the eye just like the Bayeux Tapestry shows, then it could just as easily have happened to William. The Saxons and Normans both believed it was God's will that determined the outcome.
- Harold's defences were weakened by Hardrada's attack from the North. This was not pre-planned with the Normans and was therefore a stroke of luck for William.
- William was lucky that his fleet made it across the Channel when there was a threat of autumn sea storms which could have wrecked his plans.
- Medieval battles were chaotic. For example, the Bayeux Tapestry shows William's half-brother, Odo of Bayeux, having to rally some young Norman Knights who are panicking.
- William quite possibly owed his victory to the ill-discipline of the Fyrd.

Check your understanding: Answer these quick fire questions

1. What were the main differences between 'Thegns' and peasants?

2. What was the Witan?
3. What was distinctive about the Anglo-Saxon Church?
4. Explain in detail how England was divided up geographically/politically?
5. What was the 'reeve' and what was their role?
6. What was the 'Danelaw'?
7. Why was there a crisis on the 6th January 1066?
8. Name the four contenders and explain each of their claims to the English throne?
9. Give at least three reasons why the Northern thegns rose up against Tostig?
10. What did Harold Godwinson hope to gain by not supporting his brother Tostig?
11. Who led the Saxon forces at Gate Fulford?
12. What was the initial reason for Harold raising the Southern Fyrd in May 1066?
13. Why were Hardrada and Tostig's forces camped at Stamford Bridge when they were attacked?
14. List three reasons why Hardrada and Tostig's forces lost the Battle of Stamford Bridge?
15. Who refused to join Harold to fight William in the south? Suggest a reason why they refused?
16. Explain the difference between the 'Housecarls' and the 'Fyrd'?
17. What unique type of soldier did the Norman army possess and what advantages did it offer?
18. What was the Shield Wall?
19. What advantage did Harold hope to have from the position he put his army in on the battlefield at the start of the battle?
20. List four factors you could use to discuss the question 'why did William win the Battle of Hastings'?

Key Topic 2: William I in power: Securing the kingdom, 1066-87

2.1 Establishing control

October-December 1066

- William's victory at Hastings destroyed the power of King Harold and the Godwinsons, but it would be a long time of fighting before William could feel secure as England's new king.
- After the battle William and his surviving troops returned to Hastings. He waited there to see if the remaining Saxon nobles would come to him and admit defeat.
- The surviving Saxons fled to London, where the remaining Witan including Stigand, Edwin and Morcar chose Edgard Aethling as King.
- William needed to control the south-coast, so he could bring in reinforcements from Normandy. He sent troops to Winchester where the Saxon Royal treasury was, to seize the gold there.
- William and his troops moved towards Dover but became seriously ill by the time they got there – if the Saxons had attacked at that point they could well have defeated William.
- Once he had secured the south-coast, William and his army marched on London so that they could force the remaining Saxons to surrender. Norman soldiers burnt and plundered the land forcing the locals to surrender.
- London was a difficult target however, it had stone walls and was well defended. Initially William avoided it by taking his army to the west.
- At a place called Berkhamsted, William was met by the surviving Saxon leaders including Stigand and Edgar Aethling, the Saxons surrendered to William – they offered hostages and swore to be loyal to William, offering him the crown of England.
- It is unclear why the Saxons surrendered, as they arguably were in a stronger position than William! However, there was a danger London could be cut off, Edgar was inexperienced, and the best of Saxon England's warrior class had been left dead on the battlefield of Hastings.



December 1066 onwards

- William of Normandy, now William the Conqueror, was crowned king of England in Westminster cathedral, on Christmas Day (25/12/1066).
- William swore to rule England as best as he could, in return for loyalty from the Saxon English.
- William rewarded Saxon loyalty by allowing important Saxons like Stigand, Edwin and Morcar to keep their jobs – William wanted a trouble-free takeover.
- This was problematic however; William's Norman followers had been promised rewards for taking part in William's risky invasion.
- William used gold from the treasury in Winchester to pay the pope, Church supporters in Normandy, and mercenary soldiers he had hired.
- He also set up a heavy new 'geld tax' to pay off the rest of the soldiers.
- William also declared that as the new King, all of England's land belonged to him – he said he would give this land to whomever he wanted.
- Any Saxon who had fought at Hastings automatically lost their land (i.e all of Wessex!)

- The big winners were William's family and his Norman supporters – unsurprisingly the Saxons lost out. Big winners included William's half-brother Bishop Odo of Bayeux (he got all of Kent), William Fitzosbern (Hampshire, Isle of Wight and most of the West) and Robert of Montgomery (Essex and Sussex).
- Just like the Saxon kings, William was worried about the threat from Wales. He set up three new earldoms on the England-Wales border, each with a Norman earl. This area was called the 'March of Wales'.
- These three earldoms were smaller and compact than the other English earldoms, making them easier to control and less powerful. The three earls had the power to set up new 'burghs' (towns) and encouraged Norman people to come to England and colonise this part of the country. These earldoms also got easier taxes and were encouraged to create new castles and spend money on defences.
- The march earls had a lot of independence and were able to deal with trouble directly and rapidly. But they were not as powerful as the King and still owed him military service.
- Castles were a key way for William to establish control over England – he had 500 built during his reign! (1066-1087).
- These 'Motte and Bailey' castle designs were something completely new for England: A 'Motte' was a mound or hill of earth that the castle stood on, a 'Bailey' was an outer protection ring around the motte, built with wood or stone.
- Motte and Bailey castles were intended to be quick to build and hard to attack, they had several rings of defences which were designed to benefit the defenders massively.
- The castles were important because they were built in strategic locations, ie at a river crossing. The local earl or lord used the castle as a strong base from which to launch invasions into enemy land. Castles allowed the Normans to dominate the surrounding land and provided them with somewhere to retreat to. The castles were symbols of Norman power.
- Castles were different to 'burghs' for several reasons:
 - Burhs were public, maintained by the town to protect everyone. Castles were private, built to protect the lord and his soldiers – not the local people.
 - Burhs were easy to attack by burning them as they wooden. Castles were designed not to be burnt down.



- Often Saxon peoples' homes were knocked down so that the castle could be built – the local peasants were forced to help build the new castles (taking between 4 and 9 months).
- The Anglo-Saxon chronicle of 1067 said: *'the Normans...built castles far and wide throughout the land, oppressing the unhappy people, and things went ever from bad to worse.'*



2.2 The causes and outcomes of Anglo-Saxon resistance, 1068-71

The revolt of Edwin and Morcar in 1068

- By spring 1067, William felt confident to return to Normandy. He took many of the most important Saxons with him and most of the English treasure.
- When he returned to England 8 months later, he was under attack – by the Welsh and by a rebel Saxon thegn called Eadric the Wild.
- Morcar and Edwin ran away from William to join the rebellion up north, the Saxons objected to the harsh Norman rule: they felt like the Normans were unfair, that they had taken too much land from them and too much money.
- William marched north to confront the rebels, building new castles as he went. The rebels gave in almost immediately. Edgar Aethling fled to Scotland whilst Edwin and Morcar quickly surrendered when William took control of Warwick and Nottingham.
- The Marcher earls took revenge on the Welsh, leading several invasions – they did not end the Welsh threat however.
- Both Scotland and Wales presented threats to William, and whilst Edwin and Morcar returned to William's court, they did not stay long and escaped again in 1071. They had seen how powerful William and his castle building army were however.

Edgar Aethling and the rebellions in the North, 1069

- Rebels in Northumbria joined forces with Edgar Aethling who had been building support in Scotland. The King of Denmark also sent a fleet of ships led by his warrior brother and they teamed up with Edgar (William later paid them off).
- William's newly appointed Earl of Northumbria was slaughtered by Northumbrian rebels in Durham as an act of revenge following Norman pillaging of northern villages.
- Rebels in York also attacked and killed the Norman aristocrats and soldiers there.
- William quickly responded, recapturing the city and laying waste to it. Edgar escaped back to Scotland whilst a new castle was quickly built at York. The threat of rebellion was not over however.
- The biggest threat to William was the Danish fleet. In the north-east 'Danelaw' there were people who were sympathetic to the Vikings and William was

under pressure from constantly having to move around the country putting down rebellions.

- William's response included paying off the Danes to leave England alone and also embarking on a brutally destructive campaign called the 'Harrying of the North' in 1069-70.

The Harrying of the North

- The features of the 'Harrying' included burning crops in the fields, destroying seed crops and killing livestock to make life impossible in that region. Thousands of Saxon peasants died of starvation as a result and the Danish had nothing worth capturing.

Hereward the Wake and rebellion at Ely, 1070-71

- In 1070 the Danish king Sweyn led a new fleet which landed on the Isle of Ely, in the middle of the Fens of East Anglia – he clearly felt that William was still vulnerable.
- The Isle of Ely was marshy and very hard to attack as it was surrounded by water and swamps that only the locals knew how to navigate.
- East Anglia was part of the Danelaw and Sweyn made alliances with the local people, including a local rebel leader called 'Hereward the Wake'.
- Hereward had been exiled by Edward the Confessor, had worked as a mercenary soldier in Flanders (north eastern France) and then returned to England to find that the Normans had taken his land.
- Hereward took revenge by leading a 'guerrilla' war against the Normans, using the East Anglian fens as a base to hide in and strike from.
- The Danes and Hereward raided Peterborough Abbey together, preventing the Normans from seizing the treasure there – unfortunately for Hereward, the Danes took all the treasure and sailed back to Denmark!
- Hereward was joined by Morcar and his men, as William advanced they prepared to defend the isle of Ely.
- The Normans managed to capture Ely, possibly by bribing local monks to show them a safe way through the marshes – Morcar was captured, Hereward escaped and was never heard of again.
- This rebellion was the last of the large-scale Saxon rebellions – Eadric the Wild and the Welsh rebels also gave up around this time.



William's responses to the different threats to his rule and the outcomes of these

[Threat of Danish Invasion]

- William's response was to pay the Danes to go away. The 'Harrying of the North' removed support for future invasions and made the Saxon rebels easier to defeat as they had no support from the Danes.

[Saxon rebels' Guerrilla tactics]

- William responded quickly to outbreaks of rebellion. He used trusted followers to keep areas under control while he led larger forces to deal with serious unrest. His castles-imposed control whilst the rebels' hideouts were sought out and destroyed by the 'harrying' tactic.

[Discontent from troops and followers]

- William's knights and mercenary troops complained about constant marching, especially in Winter. William's strong leadership got them through. As did the promise of more reward – this was usually land taken from Anglo-Saxons and money collected through heavy taxes and from the Church.

[Edgar's claim to the throne]

- William made a big effort to look like a proper King. i.e leaving the north during the rebellion to celebrate Easter at Winchester – the ancient centre of royal power. William levied English thegns from the south to defend towns against the rebels! This meant some of the English were loyal to William.

2.3 The legacy of resistance to 1087

The Harrying of the North: 1069-1070

[Reasons for the Harrying of the North]

- William is reported to have regretted his decision to lay waste to the North for the rest of his life, from this it seems clear he acted out of frustration and anger, not cool strategic thinking.
- William wanted to revenge the murder of Earl Robert Cumin and his men (Earl of Northumbria) and thousands of other Normans killed at York.
- The rebels refused to meet William in open battle, they attacked when he and the main army was elsewhere. William decided to make entire areas uninhabitable to stop the rebels doing this.
- The Harrying was William's response to a rebellious north that was very different to the south of England.
- William was worried that the rebellions would spread down south if he did not stop them in their tracks.
- William was very worried about the threat of being invaded by the Danish.
- The Harrying was extraordinarily violent and brutal, some historians have called it a 'genocide'. It was on a much larger scale than the similar tactics William had used in Wessex previously.

[Immediate impact of the Harrying]

- From the River Humber to the River Tees, William and his army laid waste to the land. Approximately 100,000 died.



- Without any crops to harvest, or livestock to slaughter and eat, and with little protection from the cold winter after their homes were burned down, people starved or froze to death.
- William's troops also destroyed seeds for the next year's crop, so there was no hope of starting again. Thousands of refugees fled the area.
- There were reports of cannibalism and of people selling themselves into slavery for food.

[Long term impacts of the Harrying]

- The Harrying of the North was a deliberate attempt to remove the people of Northumbria as a threat to Norman control – there were no further rebellions in Northumbria.
- Recording information about land and farming twenty years later, the Domesday Book shows historians that the region had not recovered in that time:
 - 60% Yorkshire's land was classed as waste and without livestock.
 - There were between 80,000 and 150,000 fewer people than in January 1066.
- By removing large numbers of Anglo-Danes from the region, it greatly reduced the chance of a Danish invasion there.
- William had tried to win over the Anglo-Saxon aristocracy, now he had decided to replace them.
- The Harrying of the North was widely criticised, including by the Pope. William spent the rest of his reign giving money to the Church to make amends.

Changes in Landownership from Anglo-Saxon to Norman, 1066-87

[A Landholding revolution]

- Between 1066-87 the Normans replaced the Anglo-Saxons as landholders.
- By 1087:
 - Over half of all land in England was held by 190 'tenants-in-chief's (only two of them were Saxon). 11 of these men owned over half of the land between them.
 - A quarter of the land was held by the Church which was run by Normans.
 - The King owned 20% of the land himself.
 - Less than 5% of the land was owned by Anglo-Saxon nobles, typically in very small estates.



[Landownership and Rebellion]

- The rebellions by the Anglo-Saxons had shown they could not be trusted, so William took their land and gave it to his loyal followers.

- He was careful not to give anyone too much land, as he wanted to be in control.
- He did not want to be challenged as King, like Edward the Confessor had been.
- William made sure the Saxon thegns were no longer a threat by removing their Saxon overlords from power and making the thegns reliant on Norman nobles.



[How did Anglo-Saxons lose their land]

- There were three main ways to redistribute land, two of these were legal – William needed to do things legally if he wanted to maintain his image as a just and fair king:
 - (1) By forfeit: If anyone acted against the king, their land was forfeit. Land removal was a punishment for a crime.
 - (2) New earldoms: This allowed land ownership to be legally rearranged by putting together different blocks of land seized by forfeit.
 - (3) Land grabs: This was an illegal way that Anglo-Saxons lost land. There were both straightforward thefts and seizures of land and corrupt dealings that left Saxons with less land than before. Norman sheriffs were notorious for doing this.

[Changes in how land was held after 1071]

- After Hastings William had been able to put Normans in charge of land forfeited in the south west (previously owned by Saxons who fought against William at Hastings).
- Following the Harrying of the North he was able to do the same to land in Mercia and Northumberland.
- Before 1071, what an Anglo-Saxon held was passed on to Norman 'heirs' wherever it was in the country, this meant landholders often had multiple plots of land in different places.
- After 1071 this was changed so that blocks of land within the same region were owned by the same person – this ensured strong Norman lords across the country.

[Changes in land holding laws]

- Under the Saxons that had been lots of different ways to 'own' land, these included:
 - Bookland: Lords gave out pieces of land to their followers, with a document to prove ownership. This document could be passed down through generations.
 - Leases: Land was loaned to someone for money. This was for a set period of time. i.e 'three generations'.

- Either way, land ownership carried taxes such as the 'fyrd obligation' (five hides = one soldier) and the Geld and inheritance taxes.
- Under the Normans there were some differences:
 - There was only one landowner, the king. Everyone now had land tenure from the King.
 - Anglo-Saxon landowners had to pay William money to keep the right to use their land, this was very unpopular.
 - Norman followers did not have to pay this charge, but if the Norman died and his son inherited it, then the son had to pay a tax.
- William's much more strict approach made him far more powerful than the Anglo-Saxon kings had been.
- William's 'tenants-in-chief' were also very powerful, they could give land to their followers, dispossessing Saxon thegns. They could take land away from thegns who were a threat to them.
- Many thegns left England, choosing exile rather than serving a new Norman lord, they worked as mercenary soldiers.

[Changes for the peasants]

- Life for the peasants had been hard under the Saxons. But it got harder with the Normans because the landowners were stricter about collecting taxes.
- The free peasants or 'ceorls' didn't own the land they worked on, they leased it from the lord and were independent farmers. Their number fell after the Normans took over. Peasant independence was reduced.

Maintaining royal power

[Military Strength]

- William's military skill and strength meant that many believed that God was showing his favour.
- He was ruthless in using military force to put down the Saxon rebellions.
- His military strength kept him in power and increased his legitimacy in the eyes of the English who had always respected great warrior kings.



[The legitimate successor]

- William continually stressed his legitimate claim to the English throne throughout his reign (Edward the Confessor's promise and Harold's broken oath).
- He argued that God had given him victory at Hastings because Harold had broken his promise.

[Royal Ceremonies]

- William made sure he was seen wearing his crown at ceremonies three times a year. It was here he brought together his Witan to discuss important issues for the kingdom.

- He made sure he travelled to different parts of the kingdom to do this, having been officially and properly coronated at Westminster Cathedral.

[Coinage and Writs]

- William took control of the minting of coins.
- The coins had an image of William on them, as did his royal seal. This seal appeared on all official royal documents.

[Journeys around England]

- William and his royal court travelled around the country, meeting with important local families and officials – this was his way of showing his authority in the different regions.
- There would always be huge celebrations arranged for a royal visit.

[Owning the land]

- William constantly used the fact that he owned all the land in England, to exercise his power. Taking land from rebels and enemies, giving it to followers and friends.

[Oath-Taking]

- William took oaths very seriously, held large ceremonies where all men would swear to serve him loyally. He did this especially during times of danger, such as the threat of Viking invasion in 1086 – thousands of landholders were made to attend and swear loyalty to the king.



2.4 Revolt of the Earls, 1075

[The Conspirators]

- The Revolt of 1075 was different to the ones that went before. This was because it involved Normans rebelling against William, and Anglo-Saxons defending their Norman King.
- Ralph de Gael – Earl of East Anglia – plotted with Roger de Breteuil (earl of Hereford) and Waltheof, Earl of Northumbria, to overthrow William and divide England between them.
- Ralph contacted the Danes who sent over a large fleet to help with the revolt.
- Despite being the son of William Fitzobern, a loyal follower of William, Roger de Breteuil was angry he had been granted less land by William than his father had. He had also lost authority when William introduced new Sheriffs to his earldom.
- Waltheof was a Saxon and it is unclear what his motives were, as you will see later on, he switched sides.

[The events of the Revolt]

- Ralph married Roger de Breteuil's sister Emma. There was a big wedding feast that many important landowners came to. It was here that Roger and Ralph recruited Waltheof, a man with a history rebelling against William.
- At the time William was in Normandy and had left Archbishop Lanfranc in charge of England – the rebels saw their chance.
- Their plan failed mainly because they did not get widespread Anglo-Saxon support, and the Danish fleet arrived too late. The revolt was defeated before it had even really begun.
- Waltheof sold Roger and Ralph out, informing Lanfranc of the plan. Lanfranc's officials reported back to him that the rebels were strengthening their defences and building up troops ready to attack.
- Lanfranc wrote to Roger and Ralph to try and get them to change their minds. When this failed he excommunicated Roger from the Church (this condemned Roger to an eternity in Hell after his death).
- Under Lanfranc's orders, the neighbouring earls of Roger and Ralph got together Norman and Saxon troops to stop them leaving their regions.
- With William's return to England, the Danes thought better of trying to attack and after a brief raid on York they returned home.

[The defeat of the Revolt]

- Ralph escaped to Brittany in France, where his family joined him later on. His rebellious followers were either banished from England or blinded.
- Waltheof fled but was tricked back by William because he thought he was going to be forgiven. He was soon imprisoned and later executed.
- William imprisoned Roger for life, just like he had Morcar.
- William tried to attack Ralph's castle in Brittany but was unsuccessful.



[The effects of the Revolt]

- The revolt of the Earls suggests that there had been significant changes in Norman England.
- William now had to be careful of the ambition and resentment of his own earls. They were jealous of the power William had kept to himself.
- The Anglo-Saxons' helped William out against the rebel earls, this shows some of them were starting to support the Normans.
- Despite this, there is no evidence of William reversing his policy of eliminating the Anglo-Saxon aristocracy. If anything, the earl's revolt made William stamp down on the Anglo-Saxons harder.
- The failed Danish invasion in 1075 was the last attempt the Vikings ever made. William did not know this however and took extraordinary measures to strengthen England's defences.

Check your understanding: Answer these quick fire questions

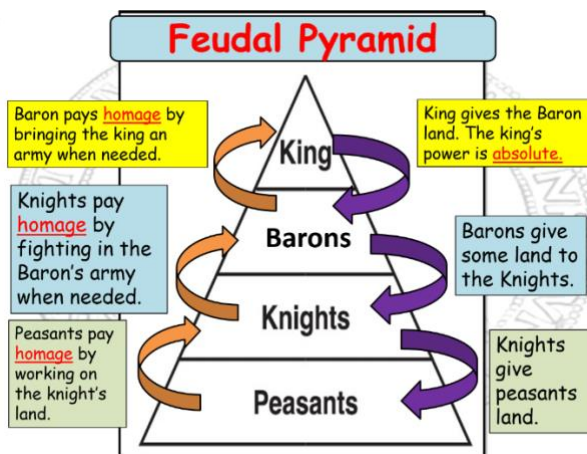
1. Where did Edgar Aethling and Stigand surrender to William?
2. How did William pay his mercenaries after the Battle of Hastings?
3. What was the strategic importance of the Welsh Marches?

4. How did the Normans use castles to improve their control of England?
5. Why was Robert Cumin (Earl of Northumberland) murdered?
6. Who was Hereward the Wake?
7. Why did Hereward use the isle of Ely as his base?
8. What was a 'motte' and 'bailey' castle?
9. What was the Harrying of the North?
10. How do we know the Harrying had a long term impact?
11. What were 'booklands' and 'leases'?
12. Name the three ways the Normans took land of the Saxons?
13. Which one of these was illegal and why?
14. What made the March lords different to other earls?
15. Why was William so much more powerful than Edward the Confessor was? *Think about land!*
16. Why did the three earls revolt?
17. What was the big difference between the 'earls' revolt' and the those that happened before?
18. Name five ways that William maintained his royal power?
19. When was the late Viking threat of an invasion of England?
20. Why did the earls' revolt fail?

Key Topic 3: Norman England, 1066-88

3.1 The feudal system and the Church

The Feudal Hierarchy



[The Feudal System]

- The Feudal system was a way for William to ensure he had enough men for his armies which he needed to defend England and Normandy, without having to pay the huge costs of a professional army.
- The system worked like this. William gave land to loyal followers called 'tenants-in-chief' but in return they had to promise to provide men when William needed and an army. This obligation was called a 'fief'.
- The 'fief' would involve men serving William

in battle or defending one of his castles for 40 days. Their tenant-in-chief would pay their living costs during this time, but the men were not paid for their service.

- The tenants-in-chief would give away their land to their loyal followers as a reward but also to make sure they could provide William with soldiers when he needed them. For example if a tenant-in-chief held a 'fief' which obliged him to give William ten soldiers, he would give out ten parcels of land, one for each man. When they were needed for war, they would go off to fight for William.
- William was therefore automatically the most powerful man in the country, he was at the top of the Feudal hierarchy. Below him were the tenants-in-chief, below them were the under-tenants and at the bottom were the peasants.

[The role and importance of tenants-in-chiefs]

- Tenants-in-chief held their land directly from the King, they had military, economic, social, political and sometimes religious roles (some tenants-in-chiefs were Church leaders):
 - Military role: fought for William and provided him with soldiers, expected to defend Norman land on William's behalf.
 - Social role: redistributed land to ensure there were men to fight for William. They were crucial to redistributing land from Saxons to Normans. Also involved in ensuring justice and the law was guaranteed in their 'fief'. The most powerful tenants-in-chief were those who held the most land, these were called a 'barony'.
 - Economic role: provided tax collections to the King, keep some for themselves.
 - Political role: Advised the king, also hosted him when he travelled around England.

Knight Service

- Historians think there were about 6,000 Knights in Norman England – they varied vastly in terms of their wealth.

- Their duty was to train to fight and to protect their lord, and to provide 40 days of knight service to the King.
- More powerful and rich knights would fight as part of the Royal Court or lead a band of lesser knights.
- Knights were effective in battle because they rode horses – the Vikings, Scottish and Welsh all feared the Norman 'cavalry charge'.
- Often based in the Norman 'motte' and 'bailey' castles, they were crucial to putting down Saxon rebellion.
- Knights were also socially important, they were the Norman equivalent of the Saxon 'thegn', living in manors and running local manor courts.



The nature of Feudalism

[Landholding]

- William's feudal system made land ownership very simple.
- William owned all the land and people had to prove their loyalty before they were allowed to use land given to them – they did this by swearing oaths and by paying the 'relief' tax to the King.
- William would charge different amounts of 'relief' tax to different people, rewarding loyal followers with low tax and making life difficult for his enemies.
- This was an entirely new system, never seen before. William used 'relief tax' to control his opponents, but it also led to a lot of discontent!

[Homage]

- When William granted land, the tenant-in-chief paid 'homage' by swearing an oath of loyalty to the King – this was sworn on the Bible.
- Tenants-in-chief would then carry out a similar ceremony with their knights/vassals.

[Labour service]

- Labour service was about working the lord's lands in return for the use of the land.
- Peasants would farm this land on top of their land service, for their own benefit. This might involve ploughing, sowing seeds and harvesting crops. It might also include providing produce; for example, planks and poles for fencing, honey from beehives or fish from rivers.

[Forfeiture]

- If service was not provided by a landowner, either military or land service, they could have to pay a big fine or even lose their land.

The Church in England

[Social and political roles]

- They were not just there to save peoples' souls.
- Church Bishops and Abbots were highly educated which made them valuable advisors to the King and other nobles.
- They develop laws for the king and gave him legal advice.
- Church clerks issued the King's writs (written demands) and made sure the King's seal was on key documents.
- The most senior Church leaders, the Archbishops, sometimes acted as the king's representative in negotiations. Archbishop Lanfranc often served in William's place when William went to Normandy.
- After the Saxon rebellions of 1068-70 William replaced all the Saxon Church leaders with Normans. In 1070 the leader of the English Church, Stigand, was replaced by the reforming Archbishop Lanfranc.



[Stigand vs Lanfranc]

- There were similarities between Stigand and Lanfranc's roles:
 - Both part of the Witan/Royal council.
 - Legal experts and acted as representatives for the King.
 - Aided in the defence of the country, and were tenants-in-chief.
 - Were part of the King's household and carried out legal work on his behalf.
- Lanfranc had some different roles too however:
 - Head of the Church in England.
 - Reorganised the Church and had complete control of it.
 - Reinforced Norman rule.
 - Religious reforms: separating politics from religion.
 - In charge of Church rebuilding.
- The Norman Church owned a lot of land, the Bishops in charge of each region were crucial to William's control of England and they made sure that William was portrayed in a positive light.
- The Church could be problematic however, who did Lanfranc serve? The King of England or the Pope in Rome? This would lead to trouble later on!
- Where as Stigand was a former ally of Harold Godwin-son who had been given his job thanks to Harold's support, Lanfranc was chosen by the other Norman religious leaders.
- Lanfranc wanted to end the use of Church land to make money for individual Church leaders – this was called 'simony' which Lanfranc thought was morally wrong.

[Lanfranc's reforms]

- Lanfranc's reforms were all about separating the Church from every day life such as making money, trying to gain power and getting involved in sexual relationships.
- Reformers like Lanfranc believed that those who worked for the Church should be pure and that society should be ruled by the Church under a strict hierarchy.
- The Pope was at the top, then a leading Archbishop in charge of each country, several archbishops below him, then bishops and parish priests below them.
- Lanfranc banned new priests from getting married or having sexual relationships – under Stigand and the Saxons this had been allowed.
- The Church set up its own courts and Church members could only be tried here, the Church also took charge of trial by ordeal (1076).
- New Cathedrals replaced old Saxon ones, usually in strategic locations such as important market towns.
- A new role called the 'Archdeacon' was introduced to make sure that local parish priests followed the rules.
- Lanfranc encouraged the return and growth of monasteries in England and he ensured that Church law in England followed the Pope's guidance.

[Normanisation and the Church]

- Within 50 years of 1066, every English Church, Cathedral and Abbey had been demolished and rebuilt in the Norman style.
- All except one of the Anglo-Saxon bishops were replaced with Normans, this meant the Normans had complete control over the Church.
- This 'Normanisation' helped William and the Normans take control of England.
- The Norman controlled Church held lots of land, the Norman Church leaders enforced Norman traditions and customs. They also ensured that King William was presented positively.
- The Norman Church leaders swore oaths of loyalty to William, they paid money to William and William appointed key members of the Church. He also controlled the Church's relationship with the Church in Rome, making sure they were loyal to him.



The extent of change

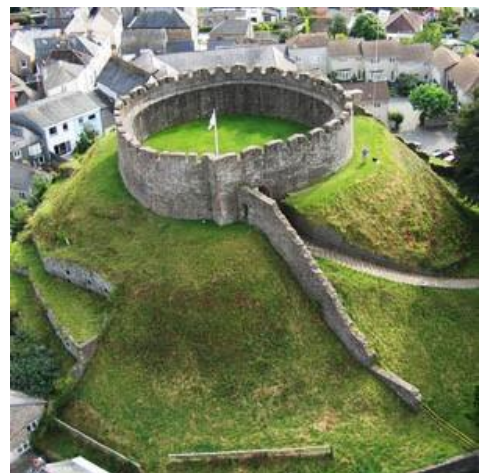
- Landholding was the basis of society and the economy. William's imposition of the Feudal system looks like a huge change to the Anglo-Saxon way of life. But was it?

[Continuity]

- Village life for the peasants wouldn't have changed all that much. They were primarily concerned with trying to survive bad harvests and disease.
- The structure of the Royal Household stayed the same under the Normans.

[Change]

- Slaves were freed by the Normans.
- There were less free slaves as the Normans tied them to particular lords.
- Saxon thegns were destroyed by the Norman invasion and replaced with the vassals of the tenants-in-chief.
- Demands on peasants were higher as William charged more taxes.
- The power of the earls was much reduced in Norman England, their earldoms were smaller and they paid money and homage to the King.
- Castle and Cathedral building meant that Norman symbols of power dominated the landscape.
- Trade (especially in the north and east of England) shifted away from Scandinavia and towards Normandy. Despite the Harrying of the North, cities like York benefited from Trade and grew rapidly.
- The biggest changes were almost always related to gaining control over England's economy and reducing the chance of resistance to Norman control.



3.2 Norman government

Changes to government

- Anglo-Saxon government systems were far more advanced than those in Normandy, so William wanted to keep what worked after he conquered England.
- William took the existing systems and refined them so that they gave him more power, more money and helped him control the country.
- The Normans kept the 'shire' and 'hundred' systems, the Witan and the Anglo-Saxon silver currency.
- William centralised power in his hands so that he didn't face the opposition Edward the Confessor had. He did this in several ways:

[Centralised power]

- Fiefs and homage: kept his supporters loyal by giving them land.
- Royal demesne: William held onto far more land than Edward had, including the Royal Forests which were reserved for hunting.
- Feudal system, Knight service, the Church, the economy and...
- The Domesday Book! A complete guide to what his tenants-in-chief (and their tenants) were worth and so what they could be expected to pay the king.

[Reduced role of earls]

- William reduced the power and the number of earls dramatically.

- He phased out earldoms and made the earls tenants-in-chief. They were still key for military defence but they were much more tightly control – this is what led to the Earl's revolt in 1075!

[The role of regents]

- William had two countries to run and he relied on regents to govern for him when he was in the other country. He only gave this role to his most trusted advisors such as Lanfranc, his wife Matilda, his brother-in-law Bishop Odo and his loyal follower William FitzOsbern.
- It was Lanfranc who dealt with the revolt of the earls and it was often Matilda who took care of Normandy in William's absence.
- His first two regents Odo and FitzOsbern were too greedy and violent in the early days of the Norman conquest and this is what led to the waves of Anglo-Saxon resistance that followed.



The office of the sheriff and the demesne

- During Edward the Confessor's reign, the shire reeve/sherriff had two main roles:
 - Being the king's local representative, collecting the geld tax and administering the king's demesne (estates).
 - Being the earl's representative, administering justice and ensuring the shire met its military obligations.
- These roles stayed the same after the Normans arrived, William just changed the people doing the jobs! By 1071 almost all were Norman, many of the Saxon sheriffs had contributed to the resistance to Norman rule.

[Resentment against the Sheriffs]

- Norman sheriffs unlike their Saxon predecessors were allowed to share in the tax revenue they collected, and some of the court fines – this meant the Sheriffs could make a lot of money for themselves by squeezing the locals for more money.
- Sheriffs also paid a set amount of money to the king for the right to collect revenues from the King's estates, any amount above this they could keep for themselves.
- Both these measures, and the involvement of sheriffs in stealing land from the Saxons, made them very unpopular!

The introduction and significance of the 'forests'

- Another role that Sheriffs had was to enforce the Forest Law and punish people who broke it.

[The introduction of the 'forest']

- William loved hunting and he took advantage of the Conquest to vastly increase the land he could hunt on. This meant families could be evicted and

landholders (including even the Church) were forfeit as William reserved the land for hunting.



[Forest Laws]

- This land was protected by the 'Forest Laws'.
- These laws included protection for animals such as Deer that were preferred for hunting and protection for the vegetation these animals ate. It was illegal to carry hunting weapons in the 'forest' or to bring a hunting dog with you.
- There were many restrictions on cutting down wood, clearing land or constructing buildings in the

'forest'.

- This made life difficult for people who depended on woodland for fuel and timber for construction, who used dogs for herding animals and who hunted rabbits and birds for food.

[The significance of the 'forest']

- The introduction of the 'forests' showed the King's power above everyone else.
- It made land grabbing look acceptable to the Normans, even the King did it!
- The Forest Law showed the brutal reality of Norman law, if someone was caught hunting the King's Deer they were to be forcibly blinded.
- The 'forests' became another source of money as the right to hunt in them could be sold by the King, and fines for breaking the Forest Laws were paid to the crown.
- The Forest Laws were seen as very unfair, but also showed the King's power.

The Domesday Book and its significance

- William ordered a survey of England in 1085 – the result was the Domesday Book: a record of the landholdings of each shire, who held what land, what taxes they owed to the king and whether they could pay any more.

[The significance of the Domesday Book]

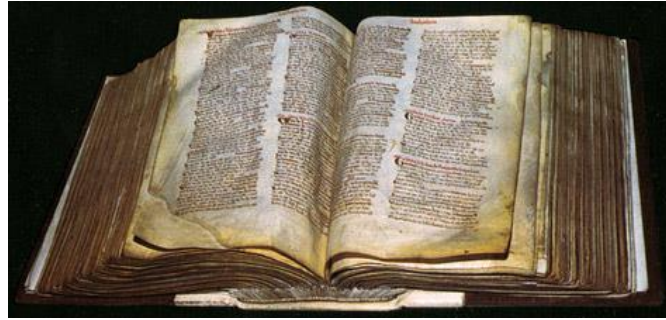
- The Domesday Book was very significant to Norman government for financial, legal and military reasons.

[Financial significance]

- The detail the book provided was a great way for William to make money by looking for cash making opportunities. Especially when tenants-in-chief changed.

[Legal significance]

- The book was used to settle land disputes, it recorded many cases of Saxons complaining about Normans taking their land – everyone got a fair chance to contribute to the making of the records.



[Military significance]

- The book was also an opportunity for the King to see how many extra soldiers he could leverage from each tenant-in-chief during the threat of Danish invasion.

3.3 The Norman aristocracy

Culture

- Norman aristocratic culture was all about demonstrating superiority over the English.
- Buildings was the main way of showing this: cathedrals, churches and castles.
- It was all about making buildings that were bigger and more impressive than ever before (i.e the largest hall, the tallest tower, the largest stained-glass window). The Normans did not value jewels and fancy clothes like Saxon aristocrats had.
- The Norman aristocrats had their own hair cuts and their own ceremonies for activities like hunting.
- Norman aristocrats brought the culture of 'chivalry' with them. Chivalry idolised the knight and created a whole set of moral rules which governed how you lived and fought. This might include imprisoning captured prisoners, rather than executing them.

[Christian culture]

- Norman aristocrats were very religious and obsessed with warfare.
- Penance was an idea which allowed them to reconcile their Christian and violent lifestyles.
- Penance was about paying back for your sins, such as killing. i.e all the Norman soldiers who survived Hastings had to do penance. A year of penance for each man killed, 40 days for each man injured, and if you weren't sure how much damage you did, build a Church!
- By doing penance and giving money to Church, the Normans hoped to avoid punishment for the soul after death.

[Attitudes to the English]

- The Norman Church men threw out many old Anglo-Saxon relics, destroying the tombs of former abbots – dismissing them as unholy and stupid.
- The Normans treated the Saxons as inferior and dismissed their history and culture.

[Changes to landholding]

- Saxon families who owned land tended to pass on their property to lots of different members of their family. A Norman family believed in the oldest heir inheriting all land and property.



Language

- Neither William (who had tried) and Lanfranc, could speak English.
- Written English soon disappeared, with Latin replacing it. English was now only the language of the peasants, with the Norman Aristocrats speaking French.
- Often translators were used, but the children of nobles often learnt both. Even many Norman aristocrats didn't understand Latin, the legal language.
- Norman culture did not emphasise reading either, stories were passed on by word of mouth.

Bishop Odo

[Odo and the Conquest]

- A man with a bad reputation, he was nonetheless supported by William and rewarded with land following his support for William during the Norman Conquest.
- They shared the same mother and Odo was the second biggest land owner after William – the Domesday Book records him owning 20 counties!

[Odo and power]

- When William went back to Normandy in 1067, Odo was co-regent with William FitzObern. They took advantage of their power and ruled unfairly over the English.

[Odo in trouble]

- The Domesday Book records pages of complaints against Odo, including for illegally seizing land from the Church. Eventually Lanfranc took the complaints to William and Odo had to hand them back.
- Odo was in charge of the burning and pillaging of Durham and the surrounding land after the Norman earl was murdered.
- Odo fell out with William in 1082 and was imprisoned. He was released five years later – when he was on his deathbed.
- William had to be persuaded to do this and to forgive Odo before Odo died.
- Odo's corrupt behavior and greed for power was problematic, but what finally led to William losing patience was that Odo tried to take some royal

knights with him on a trip to Rome – he was trying to become Pope – and this went directly against the King's authority.

3.4 William I and his sons

The character and personality of William I

[A stern, brutal and greedy man?]

- Toughness and determination were a big part of William's character. He had always had to fight to get to the top – he was the illegitimate son of Robert of Normandy and yet managed to become his heir.
- He survived assassination attempts when he was made Duke of Normandy aged 8. When he was old enough to fight, he was constantly at war.
- By 1066 he had decades of experience of war, leadership, logistics, military strategy, castle building and siege warfare.
- He also built up a group of devoted supporters.
- William was often criticised for being too greedy.

[A religious king, a devoted husband?]



- He was very religious. He was interested in what the Church could do for him, but also promoted Church reform and Lanfranc's work.
- William recognised his life had been bloody and brutal, and when he was on his death bed he was supposed to have repented for his sins.
- William took the English crown by force, but he wanted to be seen as legitimate.
- He was devoted to his wife Matilda. When she died in

1083, he grieved for days and he had trusted her to rule Normandy in his place for years.

Relationship with his son Robert

- William and Matilda had at least nine children. Robert was the eldest and father and son had a difficult relationship.
- Robert was a good warrior, but William didn't trust Robert to defend Normandy which was under threat from its next door neighbours.
- Robert and his siblings got into a fight which almost descended into a civil war.
- Robert lived in one of the French King's castles and repeatedly led attacks on William's Norman property. Matilda sent money to Robert to help him out. William was angry when he found out.
- Robert and William fought each other during one battle, and Robert knocked William from his horse – very humiliating for William who had to leave the battlefield.
- In Easter, 1080, Matilda forced father and son to make peace. Robert was made heir of Normandy.

William's death and the disputed succession

[William's death and funeral]

- In July 1087, William led a raid into France, burning down a castle and the town of Mantes. William was very fat by this time, and he suffered internal injuries when his horse stumbled. He died after a long and painful death.
- There was panic when he died, the Barons ran away to defend their castles and the servants stole everything.
- At his funerals, his body wouldn't fit the coffin and when they squeezed it in. The corpse burst making the Cathedral smell terribly. The event was a fiasco and a very bad omen – it suggested that God was angry.

[The succession]

- Before he died, William ensured that Robert took over Normandy. He wanted his second son, William Rufus to be king of England, but because he was so worried about his sins, he said he would let God decide.

William Rufus and the defeat of Robert and Odo

- William Rufus left for England before his father's death. 'Rufus' is latin for red and this probably meant he had red hair or a reddish face.
- He carried with him a letter from his father William, recommending that William Rufus be the next king of England. The letter was addressed to Lanfranc.
- Lanfranc supported William Rufus and he was crowned in September 1087. The Witan's authority was not needed now that the Normans were in charge.

[Odo and Rebellion]

- William II faced serious opposition to his rule. His older brother Robert wanted England as well as Normandy, claiming that this was Norman culture.
- Many of the Norman Barons who had land in both England and Normandy were worried about having to deal with two kings, not just one. Especially if the two kings ended up fighting each other.
- In 1087, Bishop Odo was freed from prison. He rebelled against William II and supported Robert. He thought Robert was weaker and easier to control.
- Odo's brother, another Robert, joined him in rebellion and this meant they controlled several major castles and much of southern England. At the same time, several other barons rebelled independent of each other.
- Interestingly, nearly all the Norman aristocrats, most of the Bishops and the English population backed William Rufus and the rebellion was put down.
- Odo and Robert escaped, but Odo was later captured, stripped of his possessions and exiled. Robert was forced to rule Normandy jointly with William.
- England was happy about Rufus' victory as he promised to relax his father's laws – including getting rid of the 'forests' and turning things back to how they were with the Saxons.
- Unfortunately for the English, Rufus went back on his word, about pretty much everything!



Check your understanding: Answer these quick fire questions

1. Explain the Feudal system?
2. What was 'chivalry'?
3. What were the 'Forest Laws'?
4. What was a demesne?

5. How did Lanfranc try to change the English church?
6. How did the Normans express their superiority over the Saxons?
7. How were Lanfranc and Stigand's roles similar?
8. What impact on England's relationship with Scandinavia did the Norman Conquest have?
9. What was the Domesday Book?
10. What was the role of the Norman Sheriff?
11. Why were the Sheriffs sometimes unpopular?
12. Who were the tenants-in-chief?
13. What were vassals?
14. What did paying homage mean?
15. Who had more power: Edward the Confessor or William the Conqueror? State three examples to prove your opinion?
16. Why was William's wife Matilda significant?
17. What was penance?
18. Who did William I trust to rule in his absence?
19. Why was Bishop Odo imprisoned?
20. Why did the Norman barons not like Robert and William ruling Normandy and England between them?

How do I answer the Paper 2 questions?

Q1. Describe two features of... [4 Marks]
<p><u>State the feature:</u> Identify a feature of the topic named in the question</p> <p><u>Describe the feature:</u> This is where you provide the evidence for the feature you have named.</p> <p><u>You need to do this twice to get full marks.</u></p>

I.E. Describe two features of earldoms in Anglo-Saxon England. (4)

England was split up into regions called 'earldoms' and a feature of an 'earldom' was that it was controlled and ruled by a powerful aristocratic Anglo-Saxon family. Evidence of their control of a region included delivering justice on behalf of the King and ensuring that taxes such as the 'Geld' Tax were collected on the king's behalf.

For tax and military purposes, another feature of the 'earldoms' was that they were each divided into smaller areas called 'hundreds' – this was done using a unit of land measurement called a 'hide'. The King would expect each 'hundred' to pay a specific amount of taxes and to also provide a specific number of fully armed men in times of war.

Q2 Explain why... [12 Marks]
<u>Point:</u> State the reason which explains the historical process identified in the question.
<u>Evidence:</u> Give specific evidence/description of the change (how).
<u>Explanation:</u> Explain why it changed (think about features of the period for top marks)
Complete three paragraphs using the P.E.E structure outlined above.

I.E. Explain why there was a rising against Earl Tostig in 1065. (12)

You may use the following in your answer:

- ***The Danelaw***
- ***Taxation***

You must also use information of your own.

One of the reasons there was a rising against Earl Tostig in 1065 was to do with the political and cultural background of the North-East of England – otherwise known as the 'Danelaw'. The Danelaw was the area of England which had been heavily influenced by the Vikings from Scandinavia. Not only had the Vikings regularly raided this part of Britain for hundreds of years, they had also ruled it for a long period of time and had left a long lasting influence in terms of customs, traditions, laws about taxes and other legal issues. Earl Tostig was not from this part of England and he did not understand the local traditions and cultures of the Danelaw. This created tension as it was clear that Tostig did not respect the people of the Danelaw and wanted to impose rules from the south of England on the fiercely independent northerners.

A further cause of the rising against Tostig in 1065 was Tostig's friendship with King Malcolm III of Scotland. Tostig and Malcolm were friends and allies and this meant that Tostig did not want to cause any trouble between them. Whilst Tostig was absent from Northumbria, Malcolm launched several attacks on Northumbria from across the Scottish border. When Tostig returned there was no attempt made by him to take revenge, instead he re-established peace with Malcolm. This made the local

people very angry. The Scottish raids had damaged peoples' property and had involved loss of life – the northern earls and their people did not feel that Tostig was protecting their interests, this added further fuel to the fire.

Lastly, the issue of taxation was another reason for why there was a rising against Tostig led by the Northern Earls. The Danelaw region had been used to Viking taxation laws as well as Saxon laws, but had typically paid lower taxes than the rest of Saxon England. When Tostig took over as the new Northumbrian earl he tried to introduce higher taxation. As he was the one who would oversee the collecting of these taxes, he stood to gain a lot of money by raising peoples' taxes. This naturally created even more tension and anger against Tostig and combined with the other factors discussed above it led to the northern earls rising up against Tostig in 1065.

Q3 i or ii: 'Quote' How far do you agree? [16 Marks + 4 SPAG]
<u>Point:</u> State the reason why you agree/disagree.
<u>Evidence:</u> Give specific evidence/description (how)
<u>Explanation:</u> Explain why this argument agrees/disagrees with the quote
<u>Evaluation:</u> How important/How far does this factor matter?
Complete three paragraphs using this structure – you <u>must</u> show arguments for why you agree/disagree
<u>Conclusion:</u> Reach a judgement about the quote – YOU MUST DO THIS! (Discuss criteria for judgement to get full marks)

I.E. 'The main reason for the English defeat at the Battle of Hastings was superior Norman tactics.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- ***The feigned defeat***
- ***The shield wall***

You must also use information of your own.

The main military strategy employed by Harold Godwinson's Saxon army was known as the 'Shield Wall'. Harold positioned his troops on the ridge at the top of Caldebec Hill with each soldier standing shoulder-to-shoulder, their round wooden shields were then locked together in a long 'wall'. This was a powerful military tactic which Harold had previously used successfully and as sources about the early stages of the battle of Hastings tell us, the 'shield wall' successfully repelled William's Norman archers and several assaults made by Norman infantry and cavalry. In order to reach a judgement about the importance of Norman tactics for the defeat of the English, it would have to be shown that it was Norman tactics which allowed them to break down the Saxon shield wall – this is subject to intense historical debate. In order to come to a conclusion about the statement above one needs to look at other important factors. It is clear however that the Saxon shield wall was initially a very successful tactic.

A major Norman tactic that some historians have identified as key to the outcome of the Battle of Hastings was the 'feigned retreat'. This was where a band

of Norman soldiers deliberately tricked some of the Saxons into thinking that they were running away from the battlefield. The Saxon soldiers broke ranks and chased the Normans down the hill, this was a grave mistake, and they were encircled by Norman soldiers and were slaughtered. By running down the hill the Saxons had also left gaps in their shield wall which was now unable to prevent the Norman cavalry from charging into them. If it could be proved that this was indeed a deliberate trick, then it would be hard to disagree with the statement above. However, other historians have argued that the Saxon shield wall broke down by accident, and that it was the ill-discipline of the Saxon soldiers which fatally weakened their army's position. If this was the case, then it was bad discipline and not Norman tactics which caused William to win.

In order to draw a valid historical conclusion about why the English lost the battle of Hastings, it is important to consider the wider context within which the battle took place. Whilst William's Norman army arrived fresh from their Channel crossing, Harold's army had had to force march south after defeating Harald Haardrada at the Battle of Stamford Bridge. Harold Godwinson had also taken the decision not to rest up in London and wait for back up; he had commanded his army to march straight down to the south coast to confront William. It is known from eleventh century primary sources that the Battle of Hastings lasted a whole day, unusually long for a medieval battle. It is evident therefore that Harold's men would have been very tired before the battle even started. The fact that the 'shield wall' lasted so long indicates that Harold's army was a strong match for William and the Normans. Nonetheless, the long term tiredness of Harold's army would have contributed to their defeat.

In conclusion it is clear that in order to decide whether or not it is true to say that 'superior Norman tactics' led to the English being defeated at Hastings, one has to decide whether or not it was superior tactics or Saxon ill-discipline that led to the collapse of the 'shield wall' and the fatal weakening of Harold's army. It is this debate which provides the key criteria for making a judgement about the accuracy of the statement. Overall however, whether or not the shield wall was broken initially by accident or design, it is clear that this was a key turning point of the battle as Harold's tired army was exploited by Norman tactics – especially the use of cavalry charges. The statement should therefore be considered as accurate overall.

Your Turn! Practice Exam Questions

	Q4a (4 marks)	Q4b (12 marks)	Q4c (16 marks)
Anglo-Saxon England and the Norman Conquest, 1060 - 66	Describe two features of earldoms in Anglo-Saxon England. See <i>model answer</i> above.	Explain why there was a rising against Earl Tostig in 1065. You may use the following in your answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Danelaw • Taxation 	'The main reason for the English defeat at the Battle of Hastings was superior Norman tactics.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

		You must also use information of your own. See <i>model answer above</i> .	You may use the following in your answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The feigned defeat • The shield wall You must also use information of your own. See <i>model answer above</i> .
	Describe two features of William's troops at the Battle of Hastings.	Explain why there was a succession crisis after the death of Edward the Confessor. You may use the following in your answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normandy • The Witan You must also use information of your own.	'The main reason why there was rivalry over the throne in 1066 was because Edward the Confessor did not have a son'. How far do you agree? Explain your answer. You may use the following in your answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The succession • The wealth of Anglo-Saxon England You must also use information of your own.
	Describe two features of the Witan.	Explain why William won the Battle of Hastings. You may use the following in your answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knights • Tactics You must also use information of your own.	'The main consequence of the Norwegians invasion of England in 1066 was that there was no English army to stop William of Normandy's army landing in England.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer. You may use the following in your answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stamford Bridge • Edwin and Morcar You must also use information of your own.
	Describe two features of the Anglo-Saxon legal system.	Explain why Earl Harold of Wessex became king of England in 1066.	'The main reason for the Norman victory at the Battle of Hastings was Duke William's

		<p>You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Witan • Oath of loyalty <p>You must also use information of your own.</p>	<p>leadership.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.</p> <p>You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feigned flight • Harold army <p>You must also use information of your own.</p>
	Describe two features of village life.	<p>Explain why King Harold lost the Battle of Hastings.</p> <p>You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership • Tactics <p>You must also use information of your own.</p>	
	Describe two features of the work of the king.	<p>Explain why there was rivalry for the throne in 1066.</p> <p>You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edward the Confessor • Oath of Loyalty <p>You must also use information of your own.</p>	
	Describe two features of the power of the Godwin family.		
	Describe two features of William of Normandy's claim to the English throne.		
	Describe two features of Harold Godwineson's embassy to Normandy.		
	Describe two features of the Battle of Stamford Bridge.		

	Describe two features of William's preparations to invade England.		
	Describe two features of the Anglo-Saxon army at the Battle of Hastings.		
	Describe two features of William's leadership at the Battle of Hastings.		
William I in power: securing the kingdom, 1066-87	Describe two features of Motte and Bailey castles.	<p>Explain why William created the Marcher earldoms. You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting the borders • Rewarding followers <p>You must also use information of your own.</p>	<p>'The main reason for the Harrying of the North was to prevent another Danish invasion'. How far do you agree? Explain your answer. You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Cumin • Danelaw <p>You must also use information of your own.</p>
	Describe two features of the rebellions in the North, 1069.	<p>Explain why changes in landownership made resistance to Norman control less likely after 1071. You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenants-in-chief • Thegns <p>You must also use information of your own.</p>	<p>'William's strategy for ruling England had failed by 1070'. How far do you agree? Explain your answer. You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The submission of the earls • The Harrying of the North <p>You must also use information of your own.</p>
	Describe two features of the Revolt of the Earls in 1075.	Explain why William was able to become King of England after the Battle of Hastings.	'The main reason for the defeat of Hereward's rebellion was King William's leadership'. How far

		<p>You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Castles • Rewarding loyalty <p>You must also use information of your own.</p>	<p>do you agree? Explain your answer.</p> <p>You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bribery • Tactics <p>You must also use information of your own.</p>
	Describe two features of Hereward the Wake's rebellion 1070-71.	<p>Explain why motte and bailey castles were built throughout England.</p> <p>You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defence • Control <p>You must also use information of your own.</p>	<p>'The main consequence of the Harrying of the North was that there were no more rebellions in the north of England after 1071'. How far do you agree? Explain your answer.</p> <p>You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction • Castles <p>You must also use information of your own.</p>
	Describe two features of William's rewards to his Norman followers.	<p>Explain why William I ordered the Harrying of the North.</p> <p>You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenge • Control <p>You must also use information of your own.</p>	<p>'The main reason for the failure of the Revolt of the Earls in 1075 was Waltheof's warning to Lanfranc'. How far do you agree? Explain your answer.</p> <p>You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Danes • Bishop Odo <p>You must also use information of your own.</p>
	Describe two features of the Harrying of the North.	<p>Explain why the Revolt of the Earls in 1075 failed.</p> <p>You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waltheof • Lanfranc 	<p>'The main reason William I was able to keep control of England in the years 1066-75 was the building of castles.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.</p>

		You must also use information of your own.	You may use the following in your answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motte and Bailey • Danelaw You must also use information of your own.
	Describe two features of the changes in landownership during William I's reign.	Explain why the English rebellions against William the Conqueror failed. You may use the following in your answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hereward the Wake • The Danes You must also use information of your own.	
Norman England, 1066-88	Describe two features of Norman government.	Explain why William Rufus was able to defeat the rebellion in 1088. You may use the following in your answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop Odo • The Church in England You must also use information of your own.	'The main consequence of the Normanisation of England was that the king became more powerful'. How far do you agree? Explain your answer. You may use the following in your answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Feudal System • Archbishop Lanfranc You must also use information of your own.
	Describe two features of feudalism.	Explain why Bishop Odo lost power in 1082. You may use the following in your answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenant-in-chief • The Church You must also use information of your own.	'The main significance of the Domesday Book was financial'. How far do you agree? Explain your answer. You may use the following in your answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasion threats • The geld tax

			You must also use information of your own.
	Describe two features of Lanfranc's reforms of the English Church.	<p>Explain why Lanfranc made changes to the Church in England. You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corruption • The Pope <p>You must also use information of your own.</p>	<p>'Of all the changes the Normans made in England, the most important was the change to the Church'. How far do you agree? Explain your answer. You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lanfranc • The feudal system <p>You must also use information of your own.</p>
	Describe two features of the Forest Laws.	<p>Explain why changes took place in Anglo-Saxon society and economy after 1066. You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction • Trade <p>You must also use information of your own.</p>	<p>'It was changes in landholding that did the most to secure Norman control of England'. How far do you agree? Explain your answer. You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenants-in-chief • Forfeiture <p>You must also use information of your own.</p>
	Describe two features of the Domesday Book.	<p>Explain why Robert of Normandy rebelled against his father in 1077-80. You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money • Enemies in France <p>You must also use information of your own.</p>	<p>'The main consequence of religious reforms was that English cathedrals were all rebuilt'. How far do you agree? Explain your answer. You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canterbury Cathedral • The Pope <p>You must also use information of your own.</p>
	Describe two features of the	Explain why the rebellion against	'The main consequence of

	<p>culture of the Norman aristocracy.</p>	<p>William Rufus in 1088 was settled. You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop Odo • Robert of Normandy <p>You must also use information of your own.</p>	<p>William I's decisions about the succession was that William Rufus inherited the English crown'. How far do you agree? Explain your answer. You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebellion • Bishop Odo <p>You must also use information of your own.</p>
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