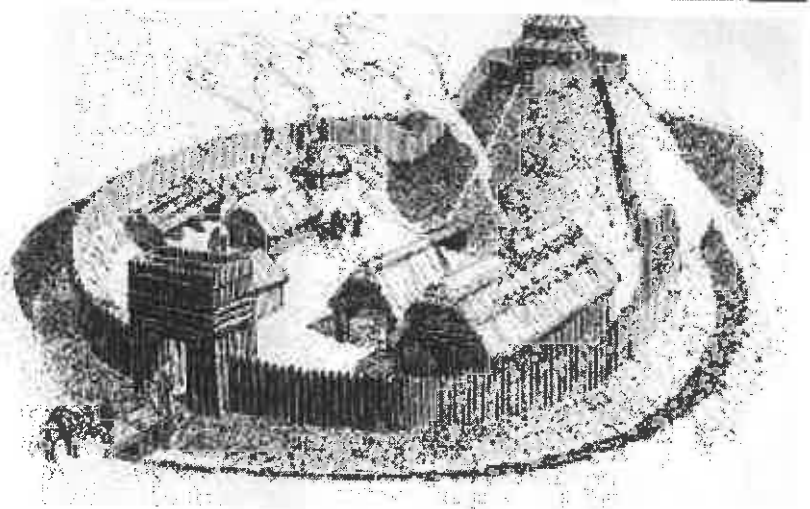
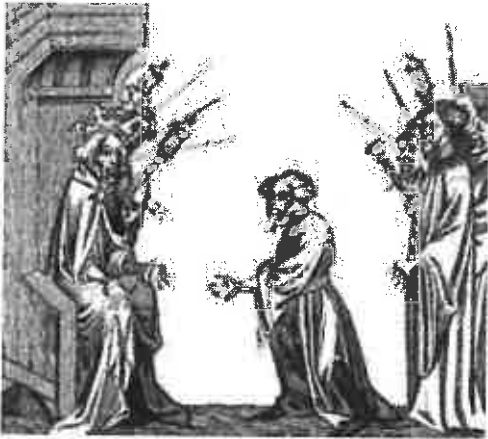


Anglo-Saxon and Norman England 1060-1088



Topic A: Anglo-Saxon England and the Norman Conquest 1060-1066

Anglo-Saxon Society c.1060

- Everyday life in Anglo-Saxon England c.1060.
- Towns and villages, the economy and social system; the influence of the Church.
- Monarchy and government: The power of the English monarchy.
- Earldoms, local government and the legal system.

The last years of Edward the Confessor and the succession

- ◆ The House of Godwin; Harold Godwin's succession as the Earl of Wessex; the power of the Godwins.
- ◆ Harold Godwin's embassy to Normandy; the rising against Tostig; the death of Edward the Confessor.
- ◆ The motives and claims of William of Normandy, Harald Hardrada and Edgar the Aethling; the Witan and the coronation and reign of Harold Godwinson.

The Battles of Stamford Bridge and Hastings, 1066

- ◆ Reasons for, and significance of, the outcome of the battles of Gate Fulford and Stamford Bridge.
- ◆ The Battle of Hastings.
- ◆ Reasons for William's victory, including the leadership skills of Harold and William, Norman and English troops and tactics.



Anglo-Saxon Society c.1060

What was the social system of Anglo-Saxon England?

The social system below the Anglo-Saxon King consisted of: the noble **aristocracy**: earls and thegns (5%); the **peasantry**: ceorls and geburs (85%); the **slave population** (10%).

Describe the key features of the earls.

- * These were the **most important men in the country after the king**. The earls competed against each other to be the king's 'favourite', so the king would give them the greatest rewards and honour. **Sometimes, earls even challenged the king to get more power**. An earl could be demoted to a thegn (e.g. Tostig Earl of Northumbria in 1065) or become a king (e.g. Harold, Earl of Wessex in 1066). **Political**
- * The earls were members of the Witan **which** was a **council of leading earls and archbishops** who advised the King on the important issues of government such as threats from potential enemies. **Political**
- * The earls were lords to hundreds of thegns (all thegns were armed and had a duty to fight for the king) and also maintained **their own elite bodyguard** of professional soldiers called **housecarls** (highly-trained troops that stayed with their earl wherever he went). They also oversaw justice in their earldom. **Political**
- * Edward the Confessor, was not a military leader and relied on his leading earls such as Harold, Earl of Wessex to defeat his enemies. Harold and his brother Tostig defeated the Welsh King Gruffudd ap Llwelyn in 1062-63. Edwin and Morcar, the Earls of Mercia and Northumbria, led their armies against Hardrada at Fulford Gate on behalf of King Harold in 1066. They also organised the fyrd (Anglo-Saxon army) for the king. **Military**
- * The **earls of Anglo-Saxon England** were responsible for collecting the taxes within their earldom for the king. They **kept 33% of the taxes** which made them very wealthy. **Economic**

Describe the key features of the thegns

- ◇ Thegns were the **local Anglo-Saxon lords**. There were about 4500 thegns in 1060. A thegn was an **important man in the local community**. He would hold more than 5 hides of land (**hide** - 120 acres of land, 1 hide was needed to support a family); live in a manor house with a tower and a separate church. They were the local aristocracy of Anglo-Saxon England. **Social**
- ◇ The thegns were the main warriors for the king's army. When a man became a thegn he paid a tax called a **heriot**. Heriot meant 'war gear' and the tax required a thegn to have a horse, helmet, coat of mail, spear (an expensive tax!). They were then equipped to fight in the king's army. **Military**

Describe the key features of the peasants

- ⇒ The majority of people (85%) in Anglo-Saxon England were peasant farmers; the vast majority of peasants were **gebur**-peasants who owed labour service to the local lord in return for their own land. **Ceorl**-peasants were free to go and work for another Lord if they wanted to. They had to do some service to their lord in return for their land. **Social**
- ⇒ They rented small farms from their local lord (thegn) to grow food for themselves and their family. They had to do a set amount of work for the local lord (thegn) in return for their land. If they did not do the work for their lord, then their land would be taken away resulting in starvation or slavery. Peasant homes were for lots of relatives living together rather than just one family. **Social**

Describe the key features of slaves

- * Some slaves were victims of defeat in war or were descended from slaves. Some **chose** to be slaves to avoid starvation – their owner (thegn) would feed and house them in return for their slavery. Slaves could be freed by their thegn and become a gebur peasant. **Social**

Describe the key features of an Anglo-Saxon village.

- ◇ Villages were where 90% of the Anglo-Saxon population lived. The peasants in the village farmed to provide food for themselves and their family; they also had to work for their local lord or thegn, normally working on his land for 2-3 days—this was known as labour-service. **Economic**
- ◇ Many villages would have a local stone church (built by the thegn); **Religious**
- ◇ Within the village, groups of ten households (**a tithing**) were bound together and responsible for one another's behaviour. This was known as the **frankpledge**. All males over 12 were made members of these groups and each tithing had a leader known as the tithing-man who was responsible for producing any man of that tithing suspected of a crime to the manor court. **Social**
- ◇ Most law and order was carried out by the local village court, known as the **manor court**. It decided the rules of the village and elected local officials such as the **pinder** who was responsible for rounding up stray cattle. **Political**
- ◇ The **thegn's manor house** was the anchor which the village-peasants' huts and fields grew around; the thegn was the most powerful person within the village community. **Political**
- ◇ Anglo-Saxon villages had their own local **mill** to grind the local grain (wheat) into flour – showing the success of arable farming in Anglo-Saxon England; **Economic**
- ◇ Anglo-Saxon villagers **were the same height as us today**; lived in a green and unpolluted countryside with a simple and wholesome diet- and very healthy teeth. **Social**



Describe the key features of an Anglo-Saxon town or burgh.

- × Towns (where 10% of population lived) had many **economic** functions. They providing **regional market centres**; centres of craft production; and places in which coins (silver) were minted. Most items were made and sold in towns e.g. Stamford pottery which were used across the country. London was the largest town (15,000) followed by York, Winchester, Norwich, Lincoln, Oxford and Thetford with populations between 5,000-10, 000). **Economic**
- × Each shire had its own town or burgh; these towns were fortified with high walls and steep earth banks guarded by men from the town – everyone in Anglo-Saxon England was within 20 miles of safety (they could find refuge in the town). **Military**

Describe the key features of the Anglo-Saxon Church.

- * The Anglo-Saxon Church was powerful. 1/6th or 16% of all the land in England was Church-owned. Key archbishops, such as **Stigand** were also members of the **Witan** who helped advise the King. **Political**
- * The Church played a key role in the everyday life of people; 2000 churches were listed in the Domesday Book (1086) and the assumption is that every village had a church and a priest. **Social**
- * The Church had its own armies of spirits or **Saints** to help fight the evil spirits of elves, imps, trolls etc. People identified with and enjoyed the stories of the numerous Saints. **Social**
- * Many **priests** were from the local community and were not always well-educated and many could not read Latin – the language of the Roman Catholic Church. They also farmed some land and were often married. **Religious**

How powerful was the King of England in 1060?

Describe the key powers of the Anglo-Saxon King c.1060.

- ⇒ Edward was a **respected law-maker** who had kept England **at peace** since 1042 (the beginning of his reign). Anglo-Saxon society valued kings who kept things peaceful and prevented fighting between rival earls which was very damaging to everyday life and trade. The king created the new laws in England. People had to **obey** the laws of the land. **Political**
- ⇒ England had become very prosperous under Edward's peaceful reign. English farmers and craftspeople were part of a wide European trading system, importing wine, spices, silk and pottery from Northern France and the Rhineland. This economic prosperity made Edward more popular. **Economic**
- ⇒ The King could **appoint the members of the Witan** and **decide how often it met**. The King could also **ignore the advice** of the Witan. **Political**
- ⇒ The **King owned a lot of land**. He could grant land to loyal earls. He could also **take land away** from disobedient earls. **Economic**
- ⇒ All Anglo-Saxon boys from the age of 12 had to swear an **oath to be loyal to the king**. **Political**
- ⇒ **Edward was seen as being very religious**. Anglo-Saxon kings claimed a special link to. It was believed that a worthy and religious king like Edward would bring God's blessings to England and help guide the king to make good decisions. **Religious**
- ⇒ The **king controlled the money of Anglo-Saxon England**. He controlled the production of silver pennies which were used as money. Only the King's **mints** could make the silver pennies. The king was in charge of **taxes**. He decided when taxes should be paid and taxes were collected and paid to him. **Economic**

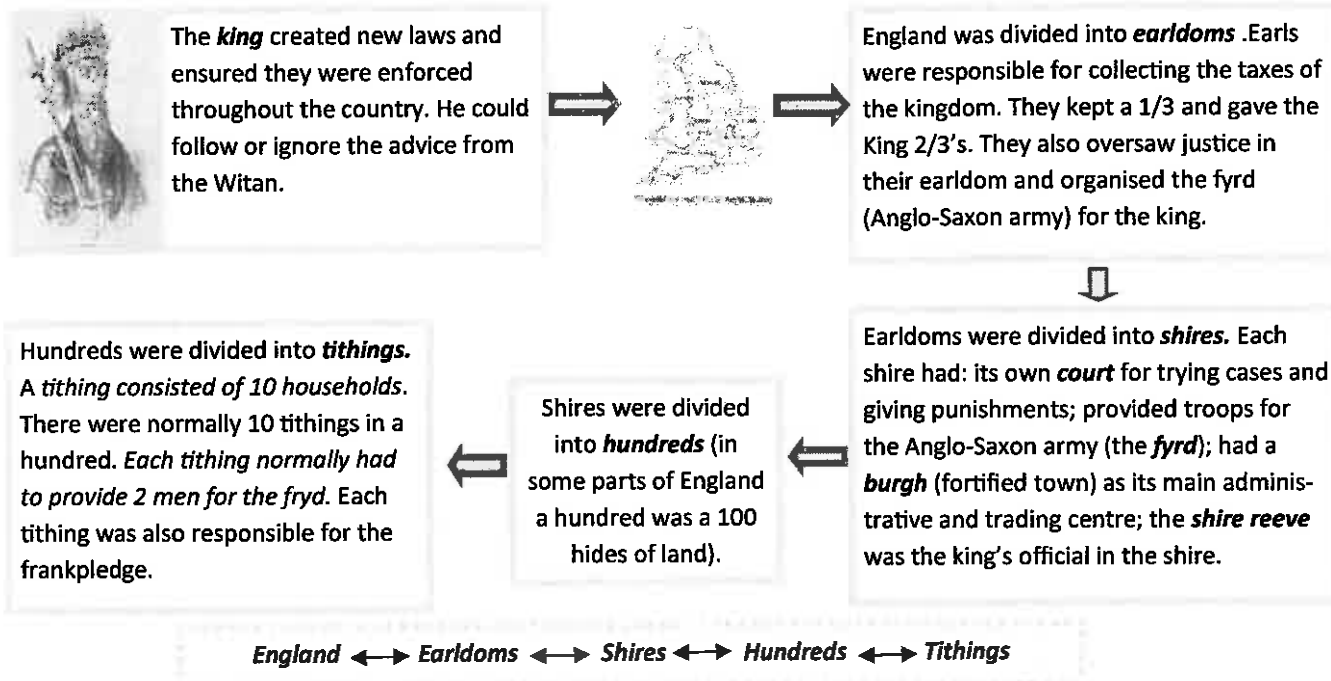


- ⇒ Edward had married Godwin's daughter, Edith of Wessex, in 1045 but their marriage **had produced no children**. This made his power less secure as the earls could disobey him without the worry of a future son wreaking revenge for their disloyalty. **Political**

King Edward or Edward the Confessor. He was King of England from 1042-1066.

Describe the limitations to the power of the Anglo-Saxon King c.1060.

- ◆ Edward the confessor was **not a warrior-king**; he did not lead his army in battle. **He did not have success in battles**. He did not defeat enemies and take their lands. His reliance on earls such as Harold and Tostig to lead his armies into battle made them more powerful and made him look weak. Earls were not faced with a King who would lead an army to destroy them if they disobeyed. The earls also had **their own elite bodyguards** of professional soldiers called **housecarls** (highly-trained troops that stayed with their earl wherever he went). **Military**
- ◆ The **House of Godwin** was incredibly powerful and a potential rival to King Edward. **The Godwin family** included the Earls of Wessex, Northumbria, and East Anglia) They controlled more land than the King and had the regional loyalty of many thegns who were the backbone of the Anglo-Saxon army. **Political**
- ◆ The English earls had used their power in **to remove Edward's Norman advisors** from government in the 1050's. **Political**
- ◆ The **earls of Anglo-Saxon England** were responsible for collecting the taxes for their earldom. They **kept 33% of the taxes** which made them very wealthy. **Economic**



Describe the key features of Anglo-Saxon government.

- ◇ The **national government** consisted of the King and the earldoms. The King passed the laws; decided when to go to war; raised taxes; appoint Archbishops; decided when or if to call the Witan. These royal decisions would be communicated to the earldoms and the local government within the earldoms would put them into practice.
- ◇ The **local government** consisted of the shires and the hundreds. The **shire reeve** was the king's local official in the shire. Each shire within an earldom would have their own shire reeve. They tried to ensure the King's laws were carried out within each shire.

Describe the key roles of the shire reeve.

- × They collected the revenue or rent from people who worked on the king's land. **Economic**
- × They collected the **geld** tax for the king. **Economic**
- × They enforced the king's law at the shire court. **Political**
- × They collected the **fin**es from the shire court and passed them on to the king. **Economic**
- × They were responsible for providing men for the **fyrd** and for the upkeep of the roads and **burgh** (town) fortifications. **Military**



Describe the key features of the Anglo-Saxon legal system.

- * People who disobeyed the King's law e.g. refusing to pay the geld tax or refusing to join the **fyrd** would be tried at the shire court by the shire reeve; court fines would be passed on to the King's treasury in Winchester;
- * Most people who committed a crime would be tried in their local manor court;
- * **Collective responsibility** was the **principle which underpinned** the Anglo-Saxon legal system:
 - i. When a crime was committed it was the duty of all of **the tithing** (10 households) to **hunt for the criminal** – this was known as the **'hue and cry'**.
 - ii. The men (aged 12 and over) of the tithing were also **responsible** for the good behaviour of their 10 households (the **frankpledge**). If someone in the tithing was convicted in the shire court of doing wrong, **all the people in the tithing had to pay the fine**.
- * **Wergild** was established to prevent blood-feuds—the family of a murdered victim would receive compensation from the murderer's family e.g. a murdered thegn was worth 1200 shillings and a ceorl 20 shillings.

The last years of Edward the Confessor and the succession

Why was the House of Godwin so powerful in Anglo-Saxon England c.1060?

- ◇ The **Godwins** had convinced Edward to appoint archbishops who were loyal to them. This increased their influence within **the Witan**. **Religious**
- ◇ The **Godwin family** were the Earls of Wessex, Northumbria and East Anglia. They had the loyalty of many thegns and controlled many warriors. This gave the Godwin family influence in the Witan and potentially a large private army which could challenge the power of the king and other earls. **Military**
- ◇ The **Godwin family** owned as much land in England as Edward. They were as wealthy as the king. This land meant many thegns owed them loyalty which increased their political and military power as well as their economic wealth. **Economic**
- ◇ Harold Godwinson, Earl of Wessex since 1053, was the second most powerful man in Anglo-Saxon England. Wessex was the richest earldom and Harold and his brother Tostig had gained kudos and respect for defeating the Welsh leader Gruffudd ap Llywelyn in 1063. Harold, was also politically astute; his second marriage to Ealdgyth (Edith in English—both his wives were called Edith!) the ex-wife of Gruffudd ap Llywelyn and the daughter of the Earl of Mercia gained him the support of the Welsh and the Mercians. Harold's failure to support his brother Tostig in the Northumbrian rising in 1065 also gained him the support of the Northumbrians. Harold, Earl of Wessex, was a respected military and political leader. **Political**
- ◇ Edward the Confessor was married to Godwin's daughter and Harold's sister, Edith of Wessex (another Edith!). This gave the Godwin family key influence and power within the royal circle. **Political**



Describe Harold Godwin's embassy to Normandy

- * Harold Godwinson went to Normandy in the summer of 1064 on a mission for King Edward – a type of visit called an embassy. This embassy showed that Harold was a trusted advisor of King Edward. It also shows the close ties between England and Normandy – (King Edward had been in exile in Normandy for 25 years from 1016-1041 and King Edward's mother, Emma had been a Norman).
- * Harold's ship to Normandy got blown off course by a storm and landed in Ponthieu. Harold was taken prisoner by Count Guy of Ponthieu. Duke William of Normandy forced Guy of Ponthieu to release Harold to him.
- * Harold, after his release, helped William in two military campaigns. He received gifts of weapons and armour from William. Harold, after receiving his gifts from William, made a solemn oath to William, swearing on two holy relics (**according to Norman sources**). The Norman sources state that Harold swore an oath in support of William's claim to the throne of England which was the main reason for the embassy. The Anglo-Saxon sources state that Harold's visit was to recover two hostages from William (Harold's brother Wulfnoth and Harold's nephew Hakon) and make no mention of Harold swearing an oath.



Why was there a rising in Northumbria against Earl Tostig in 1065?

- ◆ Tostig Godwinson was not born in Northumbria – he was a southerner from Wessex. Northumbria had always been governed by Northerners – people from Northumbria. Many thegns in Northumbria resented this new Southern-Wessex ruler (Tostig) as their Earl. Tostig, may have also found it difficult to understand the language and customs of Northumbria. Northumbria was part of the 'Danelaw' – the area settled by the Vikings in the preceding 200 years. Hence, Northumbria had different customs, laws and many Viking words in their Anglo-Saxon language.

Political



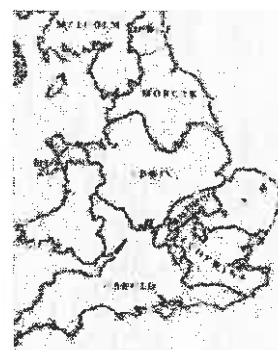
- ♦ Tostig's close friendship with the experienced Scottish King, Malcom III meant he did not defend Northumbria against Scottish attacks. Whilst, Tostig was away in 1061, helping his brother Harold, Malcom III invaded and caused destruction and damage to Northumbria. In response, Tostig did not fight back or invade Scotland but instead agreed peace terms with Malcom III. The Northumbrian thegns were furious; they had wanted revenge and a show of force to deter Malcom III from attacking Northumbria again in the future. They expected much more from their Earl. **Military**
- ♦ Tostig also falsely accused Northumbrian thegns of crimes in order to take money and land from them. Northumbrian thegns bitterly resented Tostig's abuse of his earldom powers. The trigger for the uprising in 1065 was the murder in 1064 of two thegns loyal to *Gospatric* (a leading Northumbrian aristocrat) after Tostig had invited them to York. Gospatric was then murdered by Tostig after he had been to see King Edward to complain about Tostig's rule in Northumbria. The Northumbrian thegns had suffered ten years of Tostig's abuses and wanted change. **Political**
- ♦ Northumbria as part of the Danelaw had traditionally paid little tax (the geld tax). Northumbria was used to paying much less tax than other earldoms such as Mercia, Wessex, East Anglia and Kent. So when Tostig increased the amount of tax paid by Northumbria, this was seen as a 'new' imposition and was bitterly disliked by Northumbrian society who were not used to these high fiscal (tax) demands. **Economic**

Describe the key events of the rising against Tostig.

- × *The Northumbrian rebels marched on York, the city from which Northumbria was governed and killed as many of Tostig's housecarls and servants as they could find.*
- × *The rebels (leading Northumbrian thegns and their ceorls) declared Tostig an outlaw and invited, **Morcar**, the brother of the Earl of Mercia, to be their earl instead of Tostig.*
- × ***Harold** Godwinson **refused Edward's order** to send an army to put down the Northumbrian rebels and help his brother, Tostig. Harold allowed Morcar to remain as Earl of Northumbria and married Morcar's sister-in-law, 'Edith the Fair'. **Tostig** was no longer, the Earl of Northumbria and **hated Harold** with savage intensity.*

What were the results of the Tostig rising?

- ⇒ The revolt **increased Harold's power** and influence. By helping Morcar to remain as the Earl of Northumbria he gained support from Edwin, the Earl of Mercia, whose sister, Edith, he then married. Harold now had the backing of the most powerful non-Godwin earls, to support his claim to the throne when Edward the Confessor died; (Edward was old and ill in 1065). **Political**
- ⇒ Tostig was now a bitter enemy and a potential obstacle to Harold becoming the next king when Edward died. **Political**
- ⇒ The rising showed Harold Godwinson's power and the weakness of King Edward as Harold disobeyed his orders to put down the rising against Tostig. **Political**



The death of King Edward the Confessor



- ♦ Edward died on 5th January 1066. He had no children. This meant there was a disputed succession and a succession crisis.
- ♦ The claimants to the English throne in 1066 were:
Harold, Earl of Wessex; Edgar the Aethling; Harald Hardrada, King of Norway and William, Duke of Normandy.

Harold, Earl of Wessex



Edgar the Aethling



Harald Hardrada



William of Normandy



What were the motives and claims of Harold Godwinson, William of Normandy, Harald Hardrada and Edgar the Aethling?

- * **Harold Godwinson, Earl of Wessex** was the most powerful nobleman in England when Edward died. He was earl of the richest earldom, Wessex. His brother Gyrth was the Earl of East Anglia and his other brother, Leofwine was the Earl of Kent, Surrey, Middlesex and Essex which meant that through the tentacles of the Godwinson family he had the support and loyalty of all the thegns in the South of England. Harold also had the support of Edwin and Morca, the Earls of Mercia and Northumbria. His family also had the support of the key archbishops and his marriage to Gruffudd ap Llwelyn's widow also gave him support from the Welsh chiefs. He was also a strong, military leader and an experienced and astute ruler. He was Edward's brother-in-law and had been the king's right-hand man for many years, as shown by the Normandy embassy in 1064. He was the man-on-the-spot and claimed he was named as successor to the throne by Edward on his death-bed.
- * **Edgar the Aethling** had a strong claim, by blood-line, to be the next King of England in 1066. He was Edward's nephew and 'Aethling' means 'prince of royal blood'. However, he was only a teenager (aged 15) in 1066 and had no experience of leadership or military experience. Edgar and his family had also spent many years in exile in Hungary and lacked land within England and the subsequent loyalty of Anglo-Saxon thegns. With threats from Norway and Normandy, the Witan were unlikely to choose a callow king.
- * **Harald Hardrada, King of Norway** was a fearsome warrior who believed he had a claim based on the terms of a secret treaty made by King Cnut of England (1016-1035). He also had the support of Tostig and believed his army of 15 000 Viking warriors and 300 longships could successfully invade the prosperous lands of Anglo-Saxon England. This faith in Viking military success was encouraged by Tostig who told Hardrada that his brother, Harold, was an unpopular ruler, especially in the north of England—the ancient 'Danelaw' which was where the original Viking settlers had established themselves in the ninth and tenth centuries; hence Hardrada hoped for some support from this region.
- * **William, Duke of Normandy** claimed that he had been promised the throne by Edward in 1051 (Edward had spent many years in exile at the Norman court in Rouen). William said this promise was confirmed by Harold in 1064 after he had been freed by William and had been the reason for the embassy visit. William also had support of Pope Alexander II and was a strong, successful and experienced military leader with a powerful army of Norman knights and archers.

The coronation of Harold as King Harold II (6th January 1066)

- ⇒ The Witan chose Harold as successor to Edward and he was crowned King by Archbishop Stigand at Westminster Abbey aged 43 on the same day as Edward's burial.



Explain why there were contenders for the English throne in 1066?

- ◆ **Point**— The different contenders *each* believed they had a legitimate political claim to the English throne in 1066.

evidence— Harold, Earl of Wessex

evidence— Edgar the Aethling

evidence— Hardrada, King of Norway

evidence— William, Duke of Normandy

Link— The lack of a direct male heir from Edward combined with their own individual claims to the throne was a key reason for why there were contenders for the English throne in 1066.

- ◆ **Point**— Another reason for why there were contenders for the English throne in 1066 was because of the contenders' military prowess and their confidence in victory.

evidence— One example of a contender who had this military confidence was Harald Hardrada. **Explanation**— He believed he could win the English throne due to the strength and aura of his 15 000 Viking army. They had a formidable reputation in battle and Hardrada had won victories throughout Europe and the Ottoman Empire. **evidence**— Harold also believed he could win victories against any other contenders to the throne. **Explanation**— He had won military victories against the Welsh under Gruffudd ap Llwelyn and had helped William defeat his French enemies after William had freed him during the embassy to Normandy. He also believed his home-advantage and the loyalty of the fryd combined with the shield-wall tactics and battle-hardened housecarls would result in victory. **evidence**— William of Normandy also believed he had the military skills to defeat his rivals and become the next King of England. **Explanation**— William had defeated his French enemies and gained control of Brittany and Maine through his military prowess. He also possessed a formidable army of horse-mounted knights and archers.

Link— All three contenders were prepared to risk their lives and become the next King because they believed that they had the military skills and strong armies to gain victory in the forthcoming battles against their rivals.

- ◆ **Point**—Another reason for why there were contenders for the English throne in 1066 was because of the prosperity and wealth of Anglo-Saxon England.

evidence— One example of this wealth was the geld tax system. *Explanation*— Anglo-Saxon England had an efficient and well-established system of taxation. The shire reeves ensured that payment was collected and the earls also played a key role in the fiscal efficiency as they kept one-third of all the geld tax. *evidence*— Trade was also flourishing in Anglo-Saxon England which generated wealth for the King through extra geld. *Explanation*— Burghs were well established in the shires and England traded with continental Europe and Scandinavia.

Link— All three contenders were willing to become the next King because of the economic wealth and benefits that would subsequently accrue.

The Battles of Stamford Bridge and Hastings, 1066

Describe the Battle of Gate Fulford

- ◇ **Hardrada and Tostig** with 10 000 Vikings sailed up the River Humber in 250 warships, made camp at Riccall and then marched towards York. **Edwin**, Earl of Mercia and his brother, **Morcar**, Earl of Northumbria, with 6000 troops decided to fight Hardrad's army in open battle at **Gate Fulford** before they reached York.
- ◇ Hardrada placed Tostig's army on one wing while his Viking **housecarls** (experienced battle-hardened warriors) were placed on the opposite wing. Hardrada hoped that the English would attack the weaker Tostig soldiers first which would allow the Viking housecarls to then envelop and surround the English troops in a crushing **pincer** movement. Edwin and Morcar fell into Hardradra's trap and their troops were routed. The Vikings boasted that there were so many dead Englishmen lying dead in the marsh that they could walk across it without getting their boots muddy. Gate Fulford was a crushing defeat for the English.

Results of the Battle of Gate Fulford

- * Hardrada lost some of his Viking warriors at Gate Fulford which made his army weaker at Stamford Bridge;
- * Hardrada's crushing victory over the northern Anglo-Saxon army led him to under-estimate the strength and capability of Harold and the southern Anglo-Saxon army—it was this over-confidence in his Viking army and their likelihood of victory which left his army unprepared for Harold's attack at Stamford Bridge.
- * The Anglo-Saxon army was also weakened at Gate Fulford through the loss of Edwin's and Morcar's troops; these losses did not help Harold's potential for victory in the subsequent two battles which followed Gate Fulford.

Describe the Battle of Stamford Bridge

- ⇒ Harold and his housecarls marched north to meet Hardrada collecting members of the fyrd as they went. Marching to Stamford Bridge in five days was a tremendous military achievement.
- ⇒ Harold's army arrived at Stamford Bridge undetected. Hardrada and Tostig were taken completely by surprise. The Viking army, expecting hostages and money from the people of York, were unprepared for battle—they had left their armour and a third of their warriors guarding their ships at their camp in Riccall.
- ⇒ The Anglo-Saxon army attacked the Viking shield wall with ferocious violence. The Vikings had not expected a motivated and well-led opponent because of Fulford Gate and the Tostig-led belief that King Harold II was weak and unpopular.
- ⇒ Viking morale was further eroded by the death of Hardrada—killed by an arrow in the throat. The Viking shield-wall eventually collapsed and the Viking army was slaughtered at Stamford Bridge.
- ⇒ Harold had defeated one of the most feared armies in Europe in a tremendous feat of military leadership.
- ⇒ While celebrating his victory in York, Harold received the terrible news that William and his army had landed in the South.



What was the significance of Stamford Bridge?

- × Harold had defeated the Viking threat; Hardrada and Tostig were dead. Viking armour and weapons could be used by Harold and his army. After defeating the legendary Hardrada and his Viking army, morale must have been very high.
- × Hardrada's invasion meant that Harold was not in the South to prevent William's invasion; this meant William's army had landed unopposed, losing no casualties and gaining in confidence.
- × Thousands of English soldiers had been killed or injured at Gate Fulford and Stamford Bridge.
- × Harold and his army would now have to march 250 miles south to face William's army which would make them exhausted and weaker when they faced the Norman army in battle.

Describe the Battle of Hastings



- * Harold and his army reached Hastings after marching 250 miles south; they did not have the element of surprise as William had posted look-out scouts.
- * The initial volley of arrows from the Norman archers were defended by the Anglo-Saxon shield-wall and the Norman cavalry charges lacked impact due to the steepness of Senlac Hill.
- * The Anglo-Saxon housecarls and their famed shield-wall appeared to be too strong for the Norman army.
- * A feigned Norman retreat led to sections of the fyrd deserting the shield-wall to chase the Normans down the hill in search of war-booty. This enabled the Norman cavalry to rout them and left the English shield-wall dangerously exposed.
- * The Normans were now able to attack the weakened shield-wall and with the death of Harold (probably by a Norman arrow) the Anglo-Saxon army was eventually defeated at Hastings.

4. (b) Explain why William won the Battle of Hastings?

(12 marks)

- ◇ **Point**— One key factor for William's victory at Hastings was the military skill and tactics of the Normans.
 - e— One example of this military acumen was when William and his Norman army landed at Pevensey Bay.
 - E— William ordered his soldiers to pillage the Southern coastal villages to goad Harold into open battle. This was crucial to the Norman victory as if Harold had avoided battle in October, William's troops may have faced the problems of dwindling supplies and outbreaks of disease. William had also transported a pre-fabricated castle which prevented his army from being attacked while they waited for Harold to face them in battle.
 - e— Another example of the Norman skills and tactics was their combination of different types of troops.
 - E— The Norman mounted cavalry on their specially trained horses were a tremendous weapon in battle who had the capacity to destroy the strong Anglo-Saxon shield-walls which was crucial at Hastings. The knights on horseback were also supported by the Norman archers who often weakened the shield-wall through their volleys of arrows and the trained infantry who would exploit the gaps in the shield-wall created by the cavalry.
 - e— Another example of Norman tactical skill was William's decisions during the battle.
 - E— In the midst of the battle, the Norman army believed William had been killed. William took off his helmet to show that he was still alive which maintained the morale of his troops and was a contributory factor for victory. William also used the well-established Norman tactic of the feigned retreat. This was crucial to the weakening of the shield-wall which was the key turning-point in the battle.
 - Link— William's tactics, from the careful planning and organisation of the invasion to the decisions made in the heat of the battle were crucial to the Norman victory at Senlac Hill.

◇ **Point—** Another factor for the Norman victory at Hastings was the role of chance or luck.

e— One example of chance was how William was very fortunate in the timing of his arrival on Anglo-Saxon soil.

E— William was very fortunate that when he originally intended to sail in early August the wind was blowing in the wrong direction. If he had been able to set sail in August, he would have had to face the full strength of the Anglo-Saxon navy and a fresh, numerically-superior Anglo-Saxon army who had not been exhausted and depleted by fighting Hardrada. When the wind did change direction in late September, Harold had lost thousands of soldiers fighting at Gate Fulford and Stamford Bridge and the Anglo-Saxon army was up north allowing William to land in the South unopposed.

e— While William was fortunate with the direction of the wind, Harold was incredibly unlucky to have to fight two battles in less than a month.

E— After defeating Hardrada at Stamford Bridge, Harold would normally have had the whole winter and spring to prepare for the second invasion by William. After September, the English Channel was normally too rough for an invasion and Harold could have used this time to replace the loss of housecarls and organise the fryd for the forthcoming battle in 1067. Harold, faced terrible misfortune, in having to fight two of the most feared military leaders in Europe and then this was made even worse by having to fight them within weeks of each other.

L— To summarise, Harold's misfortune in having to fight two strong enemies within weeks of each other and William benefitting immensely from fighting after Stamford Bridge was probably the most salient factor in William's victory at Hastings.

◇ **Point—** Another factor for the Norman victory at Hastings was the decision-making of Harold.

e— One example of Harold's decision-making which may have led to William's victory was his decision to fight William in the south as quickly as possible.

E— By marching to battle so quickly, Harold left many injured soldiers behind in York. The decision also made it more difficult for the other earls to organise their thegns and local fryd to join Harold at Hastings. If Harold, had waited until November, he would have had a larger and fresher army to fight William. By advancing so quickly to counter William at Hastings, his exhausted army was outnumbered by 6000 to 7500.

e— Another example of a potentially flawed decision by Harold was not, as suggested by his brother Gyrth, to stay in the strongly-defended London and avoid open battle with the Normans until spring, 1067.

E— If he had avoided open-battle in 1066, there was a strong probability that the Norman army may have succumbed to disease and starvation and Harold would have faced a much-depleted Norman foe in 1067.

L— If Harold had waited until 1067 or even November, he would have had a much stronger Anglo-Saxon army and faced a significantly weaker Norman force. By fighting William in October 1066 at Hastings, William's chances of victory were probably higher.



Practice exam questions for Topic A

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 4 (a) Describe two features of the Anglo-Saxon Church. | (4 marks) |
| 4 (a) Describe two features of the fryd. | (4 marks) |
| 4 (a) Describe two features of stability in Anglo-Saxon society. | (4 marks) |
| 4 (a) Describe two features of the Anglo-Saxon social system. | (4 marks) |
| 4 (a) Describe two features of the Anglo-Saxon legal system. | (4 marks) |
| 4 (a) Describe two features of Anglo-Saxon earldoms. | (4 marks) |
| 4 (a) Describe two features of local government in Anglo-Saxon England. | (4 marks) |
| 4 (a) Describe two features of the king's power in Anglo-Saxon England. | (4 marks) |
| 4 (a) Describe two features of an Anglo-Saxon village. | (4 marks) |
| 4 (a) Describe two features of an Anglo-Saxon town or burgh. | (4 marks) |
| 4 (a) Describe two features of Harold's claim to be the King of England when Edward died. | (4 marks) |
| 4 (a) Describe two features of William's claim to be the King of England when Edward died. | (4 marks) |

How to answer a 4 (a) exam question:

- ◆ Focus on the specific question asked;
- ◆ Put forward two features and expand both features with specific evidence (e, e*)
- ◆ Spend approximately 5 minutes on it;

4(a) Describe two features of an Anglo-Saxon earl's power.

One feature of an earl's power was that their earldoms made them wealthy. *The earl of each earldom, for example, Harold of Wessex, collected the geld tax for Edward the Confessor. As a reward for their royal service they were allowed to keep one-third of all the taxes collected.*

Another feature of an earl's power was their political and military strength. *They had the loyalty of thousands of thegns and ceorls who provided the backbone of the Anglo-Saxon army which gave them significant influence. The leading earls were also members of the Witan, the council of wise-men, who gave advice to the Anglo-Saxon king.*

Feature (e)

(4 marks)

Expanded with
specific evidence
(e*)

How to answer a 4 (b) exam question:

- ◇ Focus on the specific question asked;
- ◇ Use the bullet-points provided—they are good clues;
- ◇ Put forward 3 x PeEeEeEL paragraphs.
- ◇ Spend approximately 20 minutes on it;



See the 4 (b) answer 'Explain why William won the Battle of Hastings?' on p11-12 as an example.

4 (b) Explain **why** there was a disputed succession to the English throne in 1066. (12 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Edgar the Aethling
 - William of Normandy
- You must also use information of your own.

4 (b) Explain **why** there was a rising against Earl Tostig in 1065. (12 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Scottish invasions
 - Higher taxes
- You must also use information of your own.

4 (b) Explain **why** the Witan elected Harold as King of England in January 1066. (12 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Earl of Wessex
 - Harold's marriage to Edith the Fair
- You must also use information of your own.

4 (b) Explain **why** the Godwin family were a threat to Edward the Confessor. (12 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Powerful ealdoms
 - Defeat of Gruffudd ap Llwelyn in 1063
- You must also use information of your own.

4 (b) Explain **why** Anglo-Saxon England was a successful kingdom c.1060. (12 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Towns or burghs
 - Shire reeves
- You must also use information of your own.

4 (b) Explain **why** Harold won the battle of Stamford Bridge in September 1066. (12 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Element of surprise
- Viking over-confidence

You must also use information of your own.

4 (b) Explain **why** William won the battle of Hastings in October 1066. (12 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Stamford Bridge
- Norman cavalry

You must also use information of your own.

How to answer a 4 (c) exam question:

- ⇒ The question will always ask you to **write an argument about whether something was the main something**;
- ⇒ Spend approximately **28** minutes on it;
- ⇒ Agree PeEeEeEL;
- ⇒ Disagree PeEeEeEL x 2;
- ⇒ JEON conclusion;
- ⇒ Use the bullet-points provided—they are good clues;
- ⇒ Choose your question carefully—you do have a choice: 4c (i) **or** 4c (ii)
- ⇒ Write a brief plan—what are your 3 **Points**? What is your **evidence** for each **Point**?
- ⇒ Try to include a sparkly specific examples in each paragraph.



4c (i) 'The main reason for William's success at Hastings were his tactics during the battle'.

How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

(16 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Feigned retreat
- Fulford Gate

You must also use information of your own.

4c (ii) 'The main reason for the succession crisis in 1066 was Duke William's claim to the English throne'.

How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

(16 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Hardrada, King of Norway
- The Witan

You must also use information of your own.

4c (i) 'The main reason for the prosperity and stability of Anglo-Saxon England c.1060 was the role of the shire reeve in the shires'. How far do you agree? Explain your answer. (16 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Geld tax
- Thegns

You must also use information of your own.

4c (ii) 'The Anglo-Saxon England King was all-powerful in Anglo-Saxon society c.1060'.

How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

(16 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Shire reeves
- The House of Godwin

You must also use information of your own.



Topic B: William I in power: securing the kingdom 1067-1087

Establishing control

- The submission of the earls, 1066.
- Rewarding followers and establishing control on the borderlands through the use of earls and the Marcher earldoms.
- Reasons for the building of castles; their key features and importance.

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

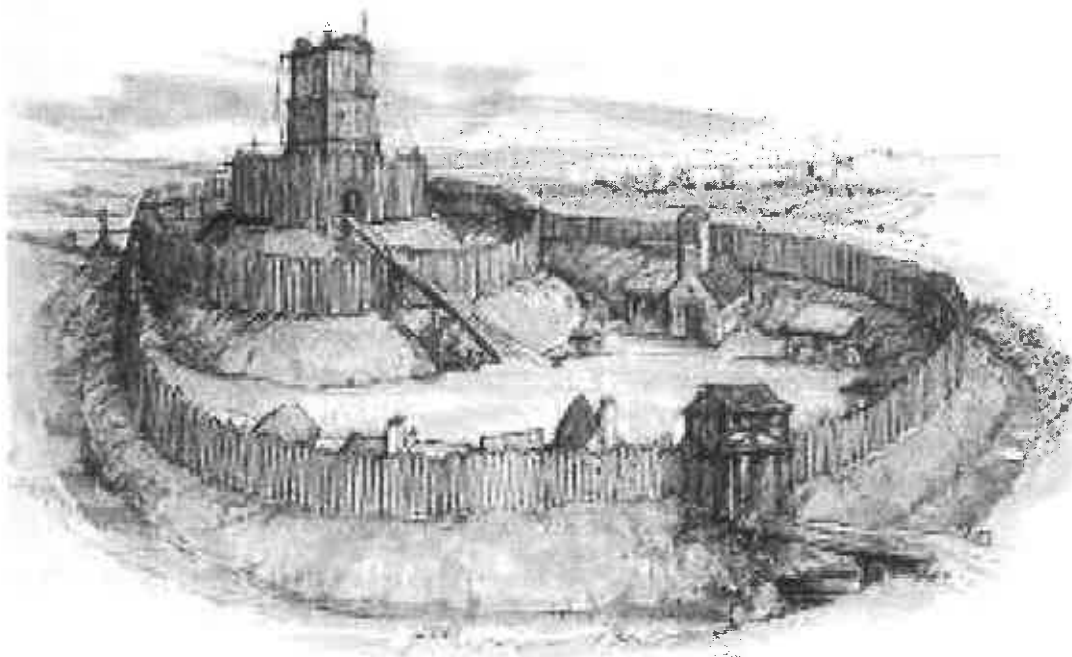
- ♦ The revolt of Earls Edwin and Morcar in 1068; Edgar the Aethling and the rebellions in the North, 1069.
- ♦ The reasons for and features of Harrying of the North, 1069–70. Its immediate and long-term impact, 1069–87.
- ♦ Hereward the Wake and rebellion at Ely, 1070–71.

The Revolt of the Earls, 1075

- ♦ Revolt of the Earls, 1075: reasons for and features of the revolt.
- ♦ Revolt of the Earls, 1075: the defeat of the revolt and its effects.

Changes in landownership and how William I maintained royal power

- ♦ Changes in landownership from Anglo-Saxon to Norman, 1066–87;
- ♦ How William I maintained royal power.



What happened after Harold was killed at Hastings in October 1066?

- ◊ Following Harold's death, the Witan including Stigand, Archbishop of Canterbury, Ealdred, Archbishop of York, and the brothers Edwin, Earl of Mercia and Morcar, Earl of Northumbria met in London and **elected Edgar Aethling king**. The commitment of these men to Edgar's cause, men who had so recently passed over his claim to the throne, must have been doubtful from the start. The strength of their resolve to continue the struggle against William of Normandy was questionable, and the military response they organised to the continuing Norman advance was ineffective. As the Normans closed in on London, the Witan in London met and decided to take the young **uncrowned king** out to meet William and submit to him at Berkhamsted.

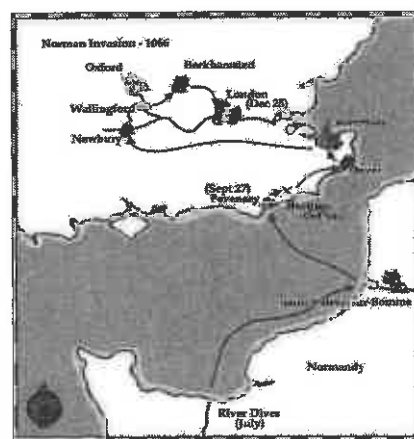
How did William establish control after Hastings in 1066?

What did William do after the Battle of Hastings from October-December 1066?

- ◇ William **took control of important towns** on the march to London such as Dover, Canterbury, and Winchester. Control of Dover allowed a secure supply route of men and supplies from Normandy. The capture of the religious capital of Anglo-Saxon England at Canterbury was symbolic of Norman power. William seized **the treasury** at Winchester which meant he could pay his soldiers and make it more difficult for any future English leader to raise an army.
- ◇ William **built temporary Norman castles** at Wallingford and Berkhamstead to guard against possible attacks. These were visual symbols of Norman control and protected William and his army from any potential attacks. William's troops destroyed homes, crops and farm animals on the march to London. This was done to terrorise the Anglo-Saxon population and force them into surrendering to William.
- ◇ William took a circular route around London **cutting London off from the midlands and the north**. London was well defended with strong stone walls. If William could not capture the city it would make him look weak which might encourage English resistance. Cutting off London would also pressurise London into surrendering to William.

Describe the submission of the earls in December, 1066

- × When William reached Berkhamsted, he was met by Edgar Aethling, together with the leading men of London, Archbishop Ealdred and both the earls, Edwin and Morcar.
- × They **submitted** (formal acceptance of surrender to authority) to William. They swore oaths to obey him and gave him hostages to guarantee their promises.
- × They offered him the crown and **William was crowned King of England** on 25th December 1066 in Westminster cathedral.



Why did the earls submit at Berkhamsted?

- **(P)** One key reason for why the earls submitted to William at Berkhamsted was **the weakness of the English position in December 1066**. **(e)** One example of this weakness was the lack of a strong, unifying leader. **(E)** Edwin and Morcar had no claim to the throne and had been defeated by Hardrada at Fulford Gate which weakened their credibility. Edgar the Aethling, despite being elected king by the Witan after Harold's death, was an inexperienced teenager with no military experience and with no ready-made support. The key leaders of the most powerful Saxon dynasty, the Godwin family, lay dead on the bloody field of Hastings; Harold and his brothers had perished. **(e)** Another weakness was the lack of an English army. **(E)** Hastings had been a crushing defeat; the best warriors in England had been killed. Many other soldiers had also been killed at Gate Fulford and Stamford Bridge. **(e)** Another example of English weakness was their poor morale after Hastings. **(E)** This was because many Anglo-Saxons believed that God had decided they should lose at Hastings in order to punish England for being sinful. **(L)** To sum-up, English weaknesses after Hastings was a major reason for why the earls submitted to William in December 1066.



- **(P)** Another reason for why the earls submitted to William at Berkhamsted was **the Norman stranglehold on southern England**.

- (e)** strength of the Norman army who could not be beaten in battle;
- (e)** the Norman ability to harry (destroy) any village and town;
- (e)** the Norman capture of the treasury at Winchester;
- (e)** the Norman supply of troops and supplies from Normandy.

(P) Another reason for why the earls submitted to William at Berkhamsted was because **of religious influences**.

(e) William had the support of Pope Alexander II;

(e) God had punished a sinful England and Harold for breaking his oath to William over holy relics in 1064.

How else did William secure control 1066-1067?

a) Political skill

- ⇒ **Rewarding Anglo-Saxon loyalty** in 1066-1067; key Anglo-Saxons kept their power and land. Earls like Edwin and Morcar kept their earldoms, Archbishops like Stigand and Ealdred remained as archbishops;
- ⇒ William promised to **rule England like the best Anglo-Saxon kings**;
- ⇒ William **promised land to all those who would serve him well**; he declared that all land now belonged to him;
- ⇒ He **rewarded his Norman barons and lords** by giving them land confiscated from the Godwin family and crown lands (20% of all land in Anglo-Saxon England).

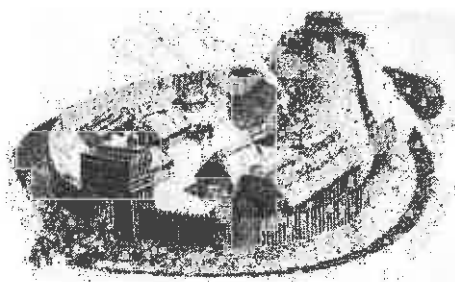
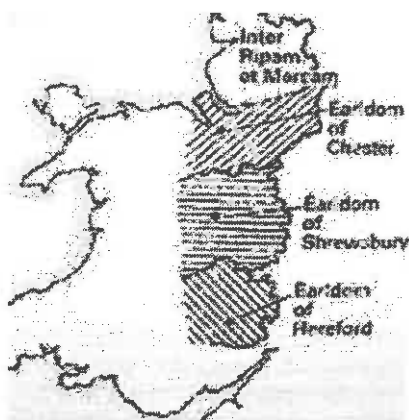
b) Creation of the Marcher earldoms

Why did William create the three Marcher earldoms?

- * The Marches were the **borderlands between England and Wales**. After Hastings, Welsh princes carried out raids into England and were potential allies for English rebels fighting against foreign Norman rule.
- * In order **to establish control in the Marches and defend the border with Wales**, King William created three new earldoms: Earldom of Chester, Earldom of Shrewsbury and the Earldom of Hereford. All the Marcher earldoms were given to loyal Normans.
- * The Marcher earldoms were also **reward for his loyal Norman lords** who had helped provide the men and money for his successful defeat of Harold.

Describe the key features of the Marcher earldoms.

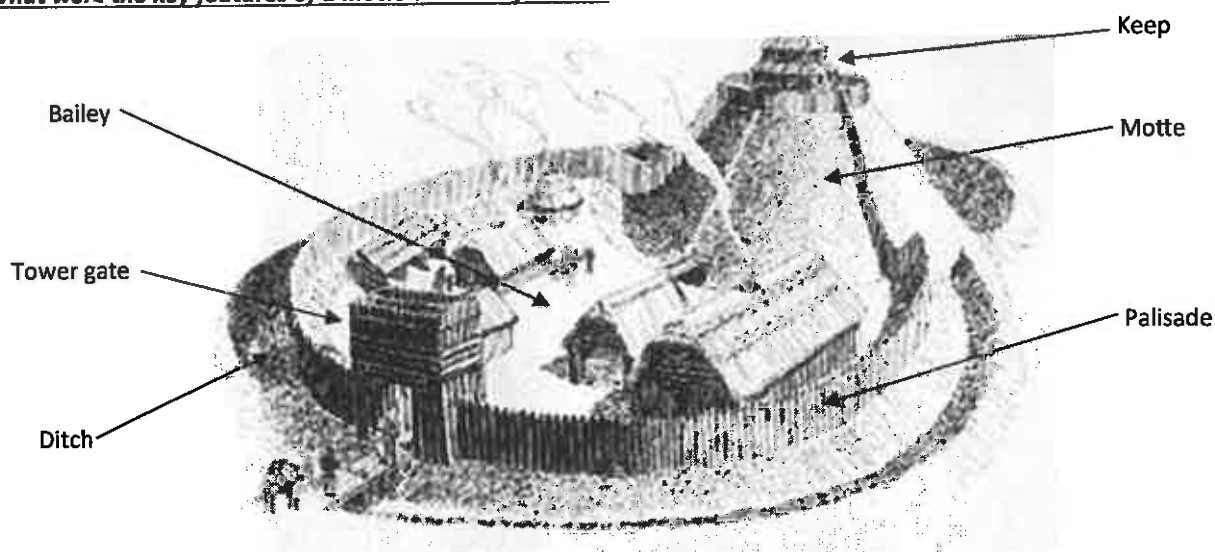
- ◇ The new **earls were men he trusted**: Hugh d'Avranches became the new Earl of Chester; Roger de Montgomery became the Earl of Shrewsbury; William FitzOsbern was made Earl of Hereford;
- ◇ Marcher earldoms were **much smaller** than the earldoms of Anglo-Saxon England. Their size made them easier for the earl to control and also ensured the Marcher earls were not as powerful as William;
- ◇ The Marcher earls did **not** have to **pay taxes** unlike the other Earls after 1066. This would allow the earls to spend more money on castles and attracting loyal Normans to emigrate to the Marcher earldoms;
- ◇ The Marcher earls were given **special privileges**: they were allowed to create markets and towns and establish new castles and Norman churches (usually only the King had these rights or privileges). This helped the earls to encourage Normans to come and settle in the Marcher earldoms.



c) The importance of building motte and bailey castles

- × The Normans built over **500 castles** between 1066-1087 which demonstrated their strategic importance for helping William secure and maintain Norman power in Anglo-Saxon England;
- × The castles were a **symbol of Norman power**—they dominated the towns and were totems of Norman rule;
- × They were used **as military bases to launch invasions** or crush rebellions; the Marcher earls launched attacks into Wales from the Norman castles at Chepstow and Hereford. If troops were beaten back they could take refuge in the castle before a later counter-attack. There had been no castles in Anglo-Saxon England and they were far more secure than the fortified Anglo-Saxon burghs or towns;
- × When castles were built in towns, like Lincoln, many **local houses were destroyed** to make room for them. Local people would also be made to build the castle and **provide supplies for the troops** based in the castle garrison.

What were the key features of a motte and bailey castle?

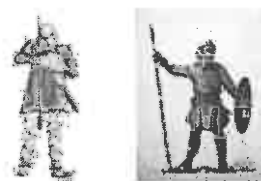


Motte	This hill was hard for attackers to climb. The Normans would often shoot at and pour oil on the attackers from the keep as they climbed up.
Bailey	This was where men, provisions and horses could be housed. Houses, stables, kitchens and chapels were often built here.
Keep	This had a defensive purpose. If the castle was invaded often people would rush to this. Weapons and other goods were sometimes stored here.
Ditch	This was often filled with water and makes the castle harder to attack. This feature would also reduce the risk of tunnelling. If this feature wasn't filled with water it often had wooden stakes in it meaning horses couldn't cross it.
Tower gate	This was the entrance to the castle. It meant people knew who was entering and leaving the castle. A portcullis was built into this - this was a grill that dropped down and stopped entry during an attack.
Palisade	This formed a wooden fence barrier preventing entry to the bailey or motte.

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

a) The revolt of Earls Edwin and Morcar in 1068

Why did Earls Edwin and Morcar revolt in 1068?



- ⇒ **Edwin and Morcar resentment:** William had promised Edwin that he could marry his daughter but then went back on his word; William had also reduced the size of Edwin's and Morcar's earldoms in Mercia and Northumbria; Edwin and Morcar also felt humiliated when they had been shown off like conquered prisoners when William toured Normandy in triumph in 1067.
- ⇒ **Hatred of castles:** Castles were hated by the English as symbols of their defeat and foreign rule. Castle building also led to many English homes being destroyed e.g. 166 in Lincoln, 300 in York. The Norman governor of the castle (the castellan) could also force the local people to feed and supply goods for the Norman soldiers in the castle;
- ⇒ **Heavy taxation:** William's taxation of England in 1067 was resented by the English people;
- ⇒ **William's absence and regent rule:** Odo of Bayeux and William FitzOsbern were placed in charge of England as co-regents when William returned in triumph to Normandy in 1067. Odo of Bayeux (made Earl of Kent by William) and William FitzOsbern (Earl of Hereford) were reported to have seized land from Anglo-Saxon thegns unlawfully and allowed their soldiers to rape Anglo-Saxon women without punishment;
- ⇒ **Loss of Anglo-Saxon lands:** The loss of English lands to Normans unlawfully was repeated all over England in 1067.

What happened during the revolt of Edwin and Morcar in 1068?

- ◇ In 1068 Edwin and Morcar fled from William's court; they went north and were joined by others in rebellion such as Edgar Aethling and Bleddyn of Powys;
- ◇ William responded with an immediate show of Norman force. His Norman army marched north and captured Warwick and Nottingham. These major towns also had Norman castles constructed to ensure Norman control would be permanent.
- ◇ Edgar and Morcar surrendered to William after Warwick had been captured and Edgar Aethling fled to the court of the Scottish king, Malcom III.

Why did the revolt of Edwin and Morcar fail?

- ◆ Lack of unity and common cause between the Anglo-Saxon leaders – Edwin and Morcar wanted to regain their power and lands in their earldoms; Edgar Aethling wanted to become King; the Welsh princes wanted greater independence and lands from the Marcher earldoms; **Political**
- ◆ Not enough troops and soldiers to attack the Norman army, especially when the Normans could launch attacks and gain safe haven in their motte and bailey castles; **Military**
- ◆ Fear of Norman harrying which could destroy all their land in their earldoms, so a quick submission would maintain their wealth. **Economic**

b) Edgar Aethling and the rebellions in the North, 1069

Why did the North revolt in 1069?

- × **Hatred of Norman rule:** loss of Anglo-Saxon land to Norman lords; high geld taxation levied by William; hatred of castles; harrying of Norman soldiers in response to the revolt of Edwin and Morcar in 1068;



Edgar Aethling



King Sweyn



Malcom III

- × **Expectations of support:** the northern rebels expected to have the leadership of Edgar Aethling, who had been elected king by the Witan before the submission at Berkhamsted. They also expected Edgar Aethling to be supported by the Scottish king, Malcom III and King Sweyn of Denmark. This combination of English rebels, Scottish troops and Danish Vikings gave the rebels the confidence to retaliate against William's harsh rule.
- × **The rule of Robert Cumin:** William chose a new earl of Northumbria, Robert Cumin in 1069. Cumin's Norman soldiers looted and attacked Northumbrian villages as they marched north to Durham. They continued looting in Durham.

What happened during the northern rebellions in 1069?

- ⇒ Robert Cumin and his troops were murdered by Northumbrian rebels in January 1069;
- ⇒ Rebels in York killed the Norman governor and many Norman soldiers;
- ⇒ Edgar the Aethling and his followers joined the York rebels in besieging the Norman castle in York;
- ⇒ William marched north immediately and killed the rebels in York; most of York was destroyed and a new Norman castle was built with William FitzOsbern, the Earl Of Hereford, as its castellan; Edgar Aethling escaped back to Scotland;
- ⇒ King Sweyn's fleet met Edgar Aethling and his supporters near York in September 1069;
- ⇒ The rebels and the Danes attacked York; both Norman castles were destroyed and 3000 Normans were slaughtered;
- ⇒ William marched north with a large Norman army and the rebels scattered—Edgar Aethling fled back to Scotland;
- ⇒ William bribed the Danes with a large amount of money to sail back to Denmark;
- ⇒ William started a deliberate policy to destroy northern England—the 'harrying of the north'.

First rebellion

Second rebellion

Why did the northern rebellions fail in 1069?

- ⇒ **The decisive response and actions of William:** He led an army northwards straight away (twice in 1069) which led to the English rebels fleeing; he built a second castle in York and allowed his men to 'harry' (destroying houses and crops) as they marched northwards; William also bribed King Sweyn with gold in 1069 to order his troops back to Denmark (William was also facing other rebellions in Normandy, Wales and south-west England in 1069).
- ⇒ **Fear:** The Harrying of the North in the winter of 1069-70 led to the total destruction of many villages and crops in the north which resulted in the deaths of thousands from starvation and cold. This acted as a deterrent to future rebellions against Norman rule.
- ⇒ **The weakness of the rebels:** Lack of unity and common cause between the rebel leaders – the Scots did not invade England; the Danes accepted his bribes to sail away in 1070; Edgar Aethling did not lead his rebels against William in battle; When the English rebels and Danish army had destroyed the Norman army in York they did not press home this advantage by marching south to threaten William and possibly gain support from the English population in the south.



4a) Describe two features of the 'Harrying of the North'.

(4 marks)

One feature of the 'harrying of the North' was the immediate brutality of William in 1069-70. He destroyed thousands of homes so the Saxons had nowhere to shelter during the winter of 1069-70. He also killed livestock and seeds so there was no food in 1069-70 and nothing to plant for the next year. This led to widespread starvation with 100 000 deaths and reports of cannibalism.

Another feature of the 'harrying of the North' was the long-term consequences. There were no further Anglo-Saxon rebellions in the North of England and the North remained weak and 'broken' for the rest of William's reign—the Domesday Book listed 60% of Yorkshire as 'waste'.

Why did William 'harry' the North in 1069-70?

(P) - Norman frustration with Anglo-Saxon resistance 1068-1070.

e - the two uprisings in York and the revolt of Edwin and Morcar had all taken place in the North of England.

e - William wanted to wreak revenge for the death of Robert Cumin and hundreds of other Normans in York in 1069.

(P) - William also harried the North for reasons of military strategy.

e - It was a response to Anglo-Saxon guerrilla warfare; by destroying Saxon houses and food the Saxon rebels could have no shelter and supplies and thus would be unable to launch future rebellions in the North.

e - The Norman 'scorched-earth' policy would also prevent King Sweyn or other Vikings as using the North as a base for future attacks on William's new kingdom.

(P) - The harrying also took place to act as a serious deterrent and warning to other areas of England.

e - the utter destruction of the North and the deaths of over 100 000 showed the dire consequences and futility of resisting William's rule in England;

e - William's brutality was deliberate to instil terror in the Anglo-Saxons and prevent future acts of defiance.

c) Hereward the Wake and the rebellion at Ely, 1070-71

Why did the Hereward the Wake revolt in 1070?

- ⇒ Hatred of Norman rule (castles; land-grabbing Normans; higher taxes);
- ⇒ Support from King Sweyn and his Danish fleet;
- ⇒ Confidence that the water and marshlands around Ely would provide protection against the Norman soldiers;
- ⇒ Leadership from a local Anglo-Saxon thegn (Hereward) who had military experience.



Why did the rebellion fail in 1071?

× The decisive response and actions of William:

- ◆ He led an army to deal with the rebellion straight away;
- ◆ William captured Ely by tying small boats together and covering them with wooden planks which allowed his cavalry to cross into Ely.
- ◆ William bribed the Ely monks to show his army a safe way through the marshes to the island of Ely;
- ◆ William bribed King Sweyn to sail away (again);
- ◆ William cut off the hands or feet of the rebels and also blinded many to act as a warning against future rebellion.

× The weakness of the rebels

- ◆ Lack of unity and common cause between the rebel leaders –the Danes accepted William's bribes to sail away in 1071;
- ◆ English 'traitors' showed William a safe way across the Ely marches.

Why was William able to secure Norman power 1068-1071?

(P) - The military strength of the Normans was crucial in William securing Norman power 1068-71.

e - William and his army responded with speed to the revolts of Edwin and Morcar and the Northern rebellions in 1069-70.

E - These decisive responses prevented the rebellions from gaining momentum and led to the Saxon leaders, Edwin and Morcar submitting to William and Edgar Aethling fleeing back to Scotland.

e - The new Norman motte and bailey castles provided security for the roaming Norman army.

E - The castles enabled the Norman army to move around safely and bases to launch attacks on Saxon rebels.

e - The brutality of William also deterred future revolts.

E - William's decision to cut off the feet and hands of English rebels and the harrying of the North prevented many Saxons from joining with the rebels.

L - Norman military strength was the keystone for William being able to secure his new kingdom 1068-1071.

(P) - The weakness of the Anglo-Saxon rebels was also significant in William securing Norman power 1068-71.

e - The Anglo-Saxons lacked a strong and decisive leader.

E - Edgar Aethling lacked experience and fled to Scotland when William's army marched North. Edwin and Morcar also submitted to William as soon as he responded to their revolt in 1068. The key Anglo-Saxon military leaders, King Harold and his brothers had been slain at Hastings and the surviving Earls and Edgar Aethling were no match for the experienced military prowess of William.

e - The rebels did not co-ordinate their rebellions against Norman rule.

E - William would have found it much harder if Edwin, Morcar, Edgar Aethling and Hereward with the support of King Sweyn and his Danish-Viking army had co-ordinated their rebellions and united as a single rebellion. A single rebellion across Mercia, Northumbria and East Anglia with Danish troops would have really stretched William's military

e - The 'betrayals' of King Sweyn.

E - To defeat the Norman army the rebels needed the support of King Sweyn and his Danish army. However, King Sweyn accepted William's bribes in 1069, thus ending any chance of rebel success in the Northern rebellions. King Sweyn also accepted William's money in 1070 as well as stealing the treasures from Peterborough Abbey, thus weakening Hereward's rebellion in 1070.

L - Successful Saxon rebellion to overthrow William was unlikely after the crushing defeat at Hastings, but the lack of a united rebellion under a strong leader ensured William and his Norman army would be secure in power.

(P) - The political decisions of William 1068-1071 were also crucial in William securing Norman control 1066-1071.

e - Norman propaganda emphasised that William had been Edward's chosen successor as well as his relative.

E - This meant that some Saxons accepted the legitimacy of William's rule and therefore did not join the rebellions which were mainly limited to the Northern parts of the realm.

e - William's control of the Church also reinforced his power.

E - His appointment of the Norman Archbishop Lanfranc increased control of the messages given out in every church in England which reinforced the positive benefits of William's rule and the support given to William's invasion and claim to the throne by the Pope.

e - William's image on all the coins and royal writs increased his royal standing in England.

E - The continuation of national and local government after Hastings and William's image reinforced the perception that William's power was entrenched and permanent and thus made rebellion less likely.

L - To conclude, William's astute political decisions combined with his military advantages made the chances of successful Saxon rebellions very unlikely.



The Revolt of the Earls, 1075

⇒ In 1075, three Earls tried to remove William from power. This was the last revolt William faced in England.

⇒ The three Earls were:

- | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| • Ralph de Gael, Earl of East Anglia; | } | Normans |
| • Roger de Breteuil, Earl of Hereford; | | |
| • Waltheof, Earl of Northumbria. | } | The last Anglo-Saxon Earl |

Why did they rebel against William in 1075?

- × **Loss of the Earls' power and prestige** — William did not want his earls to have too much power so took the opportunity to reduce the size of the Earldoms of Hereford and East Anglia on the deaths of Ralph's and Roger's fathers'. Ralph and Roger felt humiliated and belittled by William and wanted revenge.

- × **William's absence in Normandy** - William was residing in Normandy in 1075 leaving England to be ruled by his regent, Archbishop Lanfranc. The earls saw this as an opportunity to gain power while William was powerless in Rouen.
- × **Support from King Sweyn and Saxon rebels** - The three earls were also promised support by King Sweyn and William's French enemies in Brittany. They also believed Anglo-Saxon rebels would join their revolt against William, especially with the Anglo-Saxon Earl Waltheof being part of the triumvirate.

What happened in 1075?

- ◆ Waltheof told Archbishop Lanfranc about the planned revolt; he obviously changed his mind but was later executed by William;
- ◆ Bishop Wulfstan and the Bishop of Evesham prevented Roger, Earl of Hereford from taking his troops across the River Severn; this meant that Roger's forces could not join forces with Ralph's East Anglian troops or the Danes; the revolt was therefore doomed to failure almost instantly. The Norman Earls had no support from the last Saxon Earl, Waltheof and (not surprisingly) and neither did Anglo-Saxons join their forces;
- ◆ Anglo-Saxons in the Midlands also joined loyal Norman castle-garrisons in preventing Ralph's, Earl of East Anglia's troops, from breaking out of East Anglia;
- ◆ The Danish army transported by 200 ships did not want to face the Normans in battle (yet again!) so raided York Cathedral and returned to Denmark;
- ◆ William returned to England and ended the revolt; Roger, Earl of Hereford was imprisoned for life and Ralph escaped to Brittany.

Significance of the Earls' Revolt, 1075

- ⇒ Anglo-Saxons supported William such as the Bishop Wulfstan of Worcester and refused to join the revolt;
- ⇒ The planned Danish invasion marked the end of the Viking threat to William's new kingdom;
- ⇒ The new threat to William was from his own embittered Norman earls and barons;
- ⇒ William was now securely in control of England.

Changes in landownership and how William I maintained royal power

Changes to Landownership 1066-1087

- ◇ **William's land in 1087 made up 20% of all the land in England** and had twice as much land as anyone else put together with an annual income of £12 600 a year from his land – a Norman billionaire!!;
- ◇ **Less than 5% of the land was held by Anglo-Saxon aristocrats**, typically in small estates;
- ◇ The **Church owned 25% of all the land** in England – the Normans held most senior Church positions;
- ◇ **50% of the land was held by about 190 tenant-in-chiefs** (large landowners who held their land directly from the king); only 2 of them were Anglo-Saxon (Thurkill of Arden and Colswein of Lincoln);
- ◇ 50% of the land of the 190 tenant-in-chiefs were held by **just 11 powerful Normans (they owned 25% of all the land in England)** e.g. Odo of Bayeux, William FitzOsbern (Earl of Hereford) and Hugh D'Avranches (Earl of Chester). Hugh of Chester had an income of £800 a year from his land-holdings which made him a multi-millionaire of Norman England.
- ◇ **After the Anglo-Saxon rebellions 1068 - 1071 the transfer of land to William's Norman followers increased dramatically.**

What was the impact of the changes to landownership in England 1066-1087?

Point — The change in land ownership increased the power of William ;

evidence — William now had his own vast personal wealth as he owned 20% of all the land in England.

Explanation – This increased William's power because he had a vast personal income which he could use to hire extra

mercenaries or bribe enemies such as King Sweyn during the Hereward the Wake rebellion in 1071.

evidence — Another example of how land ownership increased William's power was the threat of forfeiture.

Explanation — Forfeiture increased William's power because if any Anglo-Saxon thegn or Norman earl rebelled against William they would have their land taken away from them. This made rebellion less likely and was a key factor for why Anglo-Saxon rebellions petered out after 1071.

evidence — Another example of how land ownership increased William's power was the virtual elimination of Anglo-Saxons as the land-owning class in England.

Explanation — By reducing Anglo-Saxon land-ownership from 100% in 1066 to 5% by 1087, William removed the economic and political power of the Anglo-Saxon aristocracy. This meant that the Anglo-Saxons possessed no economic threat to William as they had so little land and they were stripped of the loyalty of their Saxon peasants who now had to obey their new Norman lords in return for their land. This made the potential for Anglo-Saxon rebellion very remote by 1087.

evidence — Another example of how land ownership increased William's power was the reduction of the earls' landholdings and hence their power to threaten the monarchy.

Explanation — By reducing the land of his leading Norman earls he made them much weaker. This did provoke rebellion from Roger, Earl of Hereford and Ralph, Earl of East Anglia in 1075 but this temporary setback was more than compensated by the reduction of the earls' power in England by 1087. William never had to face a powerful earl family, unlike Edward the Confessor who was shackled by the power of the Godwin family.

Link — To conclude, the changing in landownership in England was the key reason for William become secure in his new kingdom after 1075.

Point — Another significant impact created by the change in land ownership was the increase in economic revenue for William ;

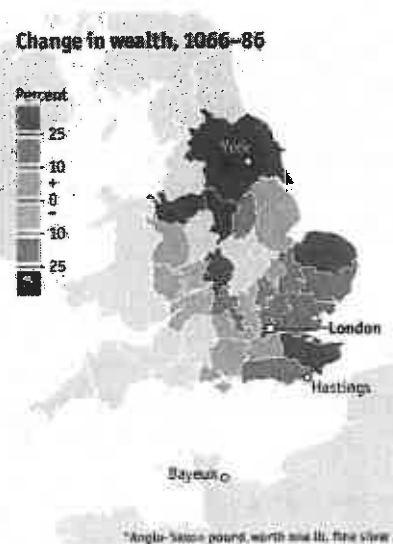
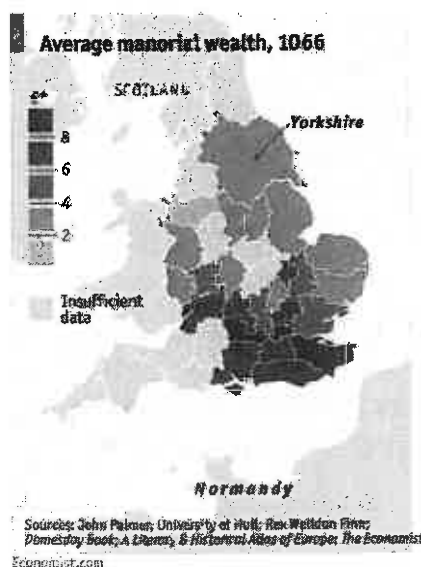
evidence — Anglo-Saxons after 1066 had to pay William to redeem land (get back the land they owned before as William stated that as the new King of England he owned all the land!) and their heirs paid the king to inherit land.

Explanation — This created a very profitable and secure long-term stream of income for William.

evidence — William also increased his revenue when landholders (Norman or Anglo-Saxon) died without an heir.

Explanation — This increased William's wealth as their land went back to the King who could then sell it to another Norman or Anglo-Saxon lord.

Link — To conclude, the change in landownership provided William with a rich seam of income which also was a factor in his increased power and security, especially after 1071.



How William maintained royal power:

◊ Military strength

- ⇒ William's prowess as a great warrior-king earned him begrudging respect from the Anglo-Saxons; his swift response to rebellions (Edwin and Morcar 1068; Rebellions in the North 1069; Hereward the Wake 1071) helped to ensure obedience;
- ⇒ William treated rebels with savage harshness; rebels had their hands and feet cut off and the Harrying of the North in 1069 led to the death of 100 000 Anglo-Saxons. The repercussions of failed rebellion acted as a major deterrent which also ensured William's power was maintained after 1071;
- ⇒ Motte and Bailey castles provided security and safety for his Norman army and followers. They were also a potent symbol of Norman power.

◊ Religious influence

- ⇒ William used his power as King to appoint loyal Normans to senior positions in the Church. Archbishop Lanfranc was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury and he ensured churches throughout England were used to praise William as king.

◊ Economic strength

- ⇒ William kept 20% of all the land in England for himself; he had twice as much land (demesne) as anyone else put together with an annual income of £12 600 a year from his land (demesne) – King Edward in 1065 only received £ 6 000 a year from his land; William had increased the king's income from crown demesne by 110%;
- ⇒ This wealth allowed William to show himself off as a rich, magnificent and unchallengeable ruler – he held splendid royal ceremonies at Christmas, Easter and Whit to show off his wealth and power;
- ⇒ William ensured he knew who owned all the land in England by completing a survey of England in 1085 (Domesday Book). This meant he could collect more geld (tax).

◊ Landownership

- ⇒ William was able to use forfeited Anglo-Saxon land (all the landholdings of the Godwin family) to reward his loyal Norman followers such as the Marcher Earls. This helped him ensure their loyalty to William's rule;
- ⇒ William also used the threat of land forfeits to ensure the loyalty of his major Norman earls and tenants-in-chiefs; any Norman earl who disobeyed the King would lose their lands and power as shown in 1075 in the Revolt of the Earls;

◊ William maintained the established traditions of Anglo-Saxon kingship

- ⇒ Norman propaganda stressed that William had been Edward's rightful successor;
- ⇒ William also consulted with the Witan during royal ceremonies;
- ⇒ William's minted silver coins featured his image to reinforce his role as king;
- ⇒ William maintained the efficient systems of local government (shire reeves, shire courts);
- ⇒ William held oath-taking ceremonies in which landholders swore their allegiance to William as their king.

◊ William's personality

- ⇒ William was a very strong character who dominated everyone and made sure that no one challenged his power as king; The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle described him as 'a very stern and violent man. No one dared do anything against his will.'
- ⇒ He took the power of the Anglo-Saxon kings in theory and put them into practice.



Practice exam questions for Topic B

- 4 (a) Describe two features of William's march to London during October-December 1066. (4 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe two features of the Marcher earldoms. (4 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe two features of the Norman motte and bailey castles. (4 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe two features of the castles that made it difficult to attack. (4 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe two features of the rebellions in the north, 1069. (4 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe two features of William's responses to the Anglo-Saxon resistance, 1068-71. (4 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe two features of the Danish support to the Anglo-Saxon rebellions, 1069-71. (4 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe two features of the rebellion of Hereward the Wake, 1071. (4 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe two features of William's rewards to his Norman followers. (4 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe two features of the Harrying of the North, 1069-1070. (4 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe two features of the changes to landownership from 1066-1087. (4 marks)

- 4 (b) Explain **why** the earls submitted to William at Berkhamstead in 1066. (12 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

● Battle of Hastings

● Norman capture of Winchester

You must also use information of your own.

- 4 (b) Explain **why** Norman castles helped William secure control of England. (12 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

● motte and bailey

● castle-building in towns

You must also use information of your own.

- 4 (b) Explain **why** there were revolts against William's rule 1068-1071. (12 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

● Edwin and Morcar

● Norman castle-building

You must also use information of your own.

- 4 (b) Explain **why** the Anglo-Saxon earls and Edgar were not able to win against William. (12 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

● King Sweyn

● Harrying

You must also use information of your own.

- 4 (b) Explain **why** King Sweyn's invasion in 1070-71 went to Ely rather than the north. (12 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

● Harrying of the North

● Hereward the Wake

You must also use information of your own.

- 4 (b) Explain **why** William carried out the Harrying of the North in 1069-70. (12 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

● Death of Robert Cumin

● King Sweyn and the Danes

You must also use information of your own.

4 (b) Explain **why** the Revolt of the Earls occurred in 1075.

(12 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Lanfranc's regency
 - Loss of Marcher privileges
- You must also use information of your own.

4 (b) Explain **why** William changed landownership in England between 1066-1087.

(12 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Anglo-Saxon resistance 1068-71
 - Marcher earldoms
- You must also use information of your own.

4 (b) Explain **why** William was able to secure Norman power between 1066-1075.

(12 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Forfeiture
 - Norman castles
- You must also use information of your

4c (i) 'The main reason for the Harrying of the North was to prevent another invasion'.

How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

(16 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Robert Cumin
 - Danelaw
- You must also use information of your own.

4c (ii) 'William's strategy for ruling England had failed by 1070'.

How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

(16 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- The submission of the earls
 - The Harrying of the North
- You must also use information of your own.

4c (i) 'The main reason for the defeat of Hereward's rebellion was William's leadership'.

How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

(16 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- King Sweyn
 - Disloyal Ely monks
- You must also use information of your own.

4c (ii) 'William's castle building was the main reason for the Normans securing control of England between 1066-1087'.

How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

(16 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Forfeiture
 - Cutting off the hands and feet of rebels
- You must also use information of your own.

4c (i) 'The main consequence of Anglo-Saxon resistance 1068-1071 was an increase in Norman control of England'.

How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

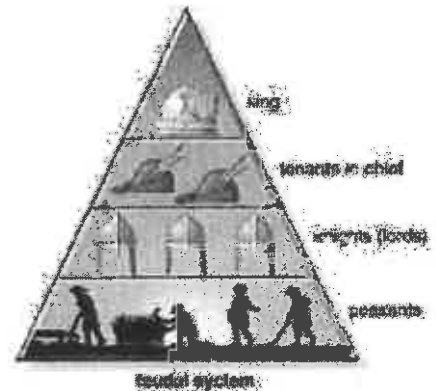
(16 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Norman sheriffs
 - Archbishop Lanfranc
- You must also use information of your own.

The feudal system and the Church

- 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.



The Norman government

- ◆ 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.

The Norman aristocracy

- ◇ The culture and language of the Norman aristocracy;
- ◇ The career and significance of Bishop Odo.

William I and his sons

- * 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.

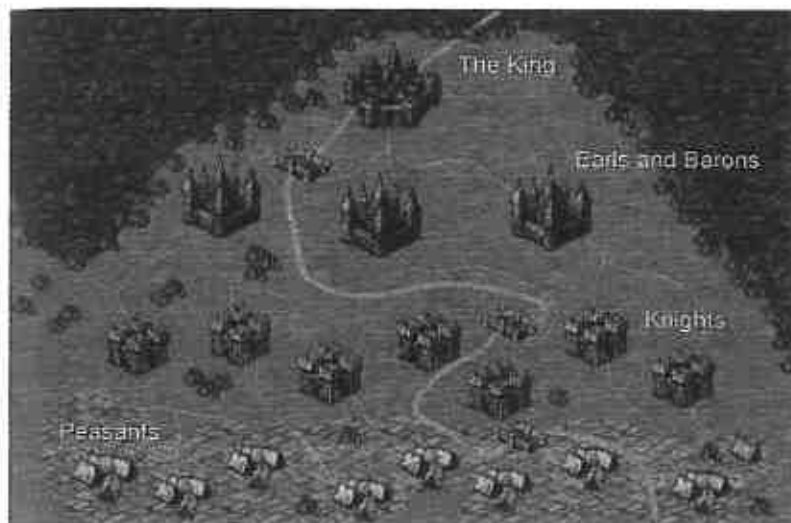


Robert Curthose



William Rufus

The Feudal system



The **king** owned all the land.

The king gave some land to the **tenants-in- chiefs** or earls/barons, if they promised to give him money (geld tax) and knights for the army.

The barons gave some of their land to a number of **knights**, if they promised to fight when needed and pay taxes.

The knights gave a few strips of land to large numbers of **peasants**. For this, the peasants had to work on the lord's land (demesne) and give him a share of their produce/crops. They were not allowed to leave, and were not free men.

4a) Describe two features of the feudal hierarchy that increased William's power.

(4 marks)

One key feature of the feudal hierarchy that increased William's power was knight service. The tenant-in-chief or baron had to provide William with an agreed number of knights who had to fight for the king for 40 days a year or garrison his new Norman castles for 40 days a year in return for their land. The key feudal feature of knight service provided William with 4000-5000 knights. This was a faster and more reliable way of raising troops and was free, hence increasing William's power.

Another feature of the feudal hierarchy that increased William's power was labour service. In return for their land, the peasants had to work on the land (demesne) of their Norman knight-lord for 2-3 days a week. This enabled the knight to have enough money to live on and pay for their expensive military equipment and hence were able to fight for William for their 40 days a year and thus increase William's power.



4a) Describe two features of the tenants-in-chief in the feudal hierarchy

(4 marks)

One key feature of the tenants-in-chief in the feudal hierarchy was their loyalty to William. They were expected to fight with him and lead their own band of knights and also put down any rebellions in their own fiefdoms (their areas of land). They also gave **homage** to the king where they promised to remain faithful in return for their land. If they broke this promise or failed to provide the king with the required knights or taxes they would lose all their lands which was known as **forfeiture**.

Another key feature of the tenants-in-chief in the feudal hierarchy was their role in government. They often served in the Witan and advised the king when he requested it. They also ran the Baronial Courts where they made judgements on land disputes or the amount of 'knight service' owed to the king. They also collected the taxes and other revenues owed to the king from their lands.



A tenant-in-chief giving homage to William.

Everyone in the feudal system was meant to honour their land-holding 'contract'. If a knight did not provide 40 days 'knight service' he would have to forfeit his lands and if the peasants did not fulfil their 'labour service' by working on their knight-lord's demesne land or providing them with produce (for example wooden poles for fencing; honey and beeswax candles from beehives) they would also **forfeit** their land.

The Normanisation and reform of the Church in the reign of William I.

4b) Explain why William wanted to have control of the English Church from 1066-1087.

(12 marks)

P—One key reason why William wanted to control the English Church was due to the important role they would play in his Norman government.

e— one example of this important governmental role was the role of churchmen as royal advisors.



E—Archbishops and abbots were effective advisors as they were educated and literate and often had international contacts through the European nature of the Roman Catholic Church.

e— Another example of their importance to William's government was their contribution to law-making.

E—They played an important role in regal law because they kept scrupulous collections of the law and could advice the king on legal matters, especially previously used Anglo-Saxon laws.

e— Another example of their importance to William's government was their role in teaching reading and writing throughout the country.

E— This was important because local government which included shire courts required officials who could read the king's writs or laws.

L—To summarise, if William wanted a loyal and efficient system of government in his new kingdom it was essential that he had the willing co-operation of the English Church.

P—Another key reason for why William wanted to control the English Church was due to their influential role in Anglo-Saxon society.

e—One example of their key role in society was their communication from the pulpit.

E— From the Church pulpit in every village and town they could help William by praising the king and reinforcing his claim as Edward's legitimate heir.

e— Another example of their key role in society was their role in shire courts and other legal processes where God's will needed to be interpreted.

E— They were important in the legal process as they were needed to interpret God's will for a number of moral crimes.

e— The Church also played a significant economic role in society.

E— The Church owned 25% of all the land in England and many peasants worked for the Church. The Church therefore collected much revenue for the royal treasury in Winchester.

L— By having control of the Church, William could have a reliable 'official' in every village and thus helping him slowly to become more secure in his new kingdom.

P—Another key reason for why William wanted to control the English Church was due to the corruption of the Anglo-Saxon church and the need for religious reforms.

e— One example of corruption was pluralism.



E—This harmed the Church as greedy Bishops such as Stigand were bishop for more than one area which led to a poorer religious diet for the local parishioners.

e— Another example of corruption was simony.

E— This harmed the Church as simony was when church posts were given in return for money rather than ability which led to many parish priests being ineffective.

L—To conclude, William needed to have control of the Church so he could introduce much-needed reforms under Lanfranc to root out the endemic corruption.

Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury

**The Archbishop of Canterbury: Stigand out, Lanfranc in (1070)**

The Anglo-Saxon Archbishop of Canterbury, Stigand, who was a pluralist (he was also the Bishop of Winchester as well as Canterbury) was sacked in 1070 and replaced by the loyal Norman Lanfranc as the new Archbishop of Canterbury.

Lanfranc's reforms of the Church

- * The Archbishop of Canterbury was now in sole charge of the whole English Church (previously it had been shared with the Archbishop of York);
- * Lanfranc held regular Church councils, called synods, to push through his church reforms;
- * All Bishops were now given archdeacons to help supervise parish priests;
- * Simony and pluralism were stamped out by Lanfranc;
- * Nepotism (giving Church posts to family members and friends) was also significantly reduced;
- * Clergy were now tried by Church courts instead of shire courts;
- * After 1075, no new priests could be married; they needed to be celibate so they could devote their life to God.

The Normanisation of the Church

How did the English Church become more 'Norman' in England between 1066-1087?

- ◆ By 1088 all the bishops were Norman (apart from Bishop Wulfstan of Worcester who had showed his loyalty during the Revolt of the Earls, 1075);
- ◆ Normans also took over as the abbots of the largest abbeys in England. By 1086 only three abbeys had Anglo-Saxon abbots;
- ◆ Every church and cathedral, for example, Lincoln cathedral, were rebuilt in the Norman style;
- ◆ Lanfranc oversaw the growth of monasteries, especially in the north of England. He promoted monastic values such as study and prayer. He believed it was important that all monks were well educated so they could educate people outside the Church;
- ◆ Lanfranc also removed the relics and bones of English saints from their cathedrals, claiming that there was not enough evidence that these saints had lived holy lives.

4a) Describe two features of Lanfranc's Church reforms.

(4 marks)

One feature of Lanfranc's Church reforms was the removal of high-level corruption. Lanfranc worked hard through the appointment of archdeacons and the establishment of church courts to reduce the problems of nepotism, simony and pluralism; this reforming zeal was symbolised by the removal of the pluralistic Stigand in 1070.

Another key feature of Lanfranc's Church reforms was the greater centralisation of the English Church. The Archbishop of Canterbury became the sole leader of the English Church as power was no longer shared with the York Archbishopric. New Church laws were also clearly explained and disseminated through the regular use of Church synods.

4a) Describe two features of the Normanisation of the English Church between 1066-1088

(4 marks)

One feature of the Normanisation of the English Church was the replacement of the Anglo-Saxon leading churchmen with Normans. By 1088, all the bishops were Norman (apart from Bishop Wulfstan of Worcester) and the abbots of the largest abbeys in England were also supplanted by Normans.

Another feature of the Normanisation of the English Church was the changes to Anglo-Saxon cathedrals. Anglo-Saxon Cathedrals in isolated rural locations were demolished and moved to the nearest large town e.g. Sherborne to Salisbury and many new, much larger cathedrals were built in all the major towns of England as another, like the castles, as large and imposing symbols of Norman power.

Norman government

What parts of Anglo-Saxon government stayed the same after 1066?

The Anglo-Saxon government was very effective and advanced—so William kept what worked: the geld tax system based on hides of land was maintained; the earldoms, shires and hundreds were kept as the administrative structure; the Witan was also kept by William—when Norman England was facing Danish invasion in 1085 William gathered all the important tenants-in-chief that resembled a large Witan; William also kept the Anglo-Saxon silver pennies and the royal treasury remained at Winchester; sheriffs and shire courts were also kept but the role of sheriffs changed.

What changed in the government or the running of the country after 1066?

William decided to give himself (the king) more power after 1066; he wanted power to be at the centre of government—literally with the king who was at the centre. This is known as **centralisation**.



How did William centralise power?

- ◊ **Use of land to reward and threaten:** William as king, insisted that he owned all the land in England—he was able to grant English land to gain loyalty from his Norman followers and threaten forfeiture (removal of land) if anybody disobeyed his orders;
- ◊ **Royal land:** William kept much more land for himself than King Edward; William owned 20% of all the land in England and could use this royal wealth to reward followers and show his power and status;
- ◊ **Taxes and the Domesday Book:** William increased geld tax revenues by making heirs to land pay him revenue known as 'reliefs' to inherit land. William also was able to extract more revenues as he knew exactly how much land and wealth all the land-holders possessed in England after the creation of the Domesday Book 1085-1086;
- ◊ **The creation of the feudal system:** Everyone who owned land in England had to pay homage (swear loyalty) to the king and all were at risk of forfeiting their land if they refused to obey William's wishes;
- ◊ **Knight service:** All troops had to swear their loyalty to the king—this gave William a strong and loyal army;
- ◊ **Control of the English Church:** It was easier to control the Church as William owned all their land and priests were more controlled after the reforms of Lanfranc (archdeacons, church courts, synods);
- ◊ **Reduction of Earls' powers:** William reduced the power of earls to make sure even his Norman followers could not become too powerful and potentially threaten his power (the leading earls of Anglo-Saxon England had disobeyed Edward by not helping Tostig crush his rebels in 1065);
- ◊ **Increased royal control of sheriffs:** Anglo-Saxon Sheriffs were replaced by loyal Norman followers and were now the leading figure in their shire, answerable only to the king (not the local earl, as in Anglo-Saxon England); the sheriff also was in charge of the king's castles—sole and direct control of the sheriffs in every shire increased William's control significantly.

4a) Describe two features of Norman government.

(4 marks)

One feature of Norman government was the increased power placed in the hands of the king, known as centralisation. William increased his powers by giving the sheriffs much more power in the shires—they were the leading figure in the shire and answerable only to the king, not the local earl or tenant-in-chief. This gave William much more control of local government and also the network of castles which were also overseen by the sheriffs.

Another feature of Norman government was the continued use of successful Anglo-Saxon administrative systems. William kept many features of the advanced system of Saxon government; the structure of shires and hundreds were maintained and William continued with the use of shire reeves or sheriffs as well as the use of silver coins and the established mints.



A Norman shire reeve or sheriff



POWER for



The reduction in the power of the earls

- × William made earldoms much smaller; the large and powerful Anglo-Saxon earldoms were significantly reduced in size and the large earldoms of Wessex and Mercia disappeared; less land for each earl meant less power as they had less wealth from land and less followers who owed them allegiance;
- × William also ensured that he owned all the land in England—any earl who disobeyed him would lose or forfeit their land; the earls' heirs also had to pay William reliefs to inherit 'their' land; all earls had to swear loyalty to William in public displays of homage;
- × William also reduced the power of the earl in his earldom by increasing the power of the sheriff who answered only to the king not the local earl;
- × Use of castles—William built castles throughout the earldoms who were controlled by the king's sheriffs; this gave William military bases throughout the earldoms which made any potential revolt by an earl much easier to crush with royal troops;
- × The initial powers of the marcher earldoms (they could build castles as they wished and had control over their sheriffs) were reduced after the threat of Anglo-Saxon resistance melted away after 1071;
- × Knight-service—knights owed their loyalty and 40 days service to William, not their local earl. This meant that William had a strong, loyal army of knights to counter any threat of the earls;

(The Revolt of the Earls, 1075 showed that William's reduction of earls' powers was resented and also successful as the revolt was easily crushed by William and his regent, Lanfranc).

The role of regents

- * William was the Duke of Normandy and the King of England so he had to rely on regents to run England when he was in Normandy and a regent to run Normandy (often his wife, Matilda) when he was in England;
- * He spent 80% of his time in Normandy between 1072-1087—which showed the success of regency government and the security of Norman rule in England;
- * William appointed his most trusted Norman supporters as regents with all the powers of a king: Odo of Bayeux, William FitzOsbern, Earl of Chester and Archbishop Lanfranc;
- * The regents had a mixed record of success in running England:
- ⇒ Bishop Odo and William FitzOsbern who were regents in 1067 helped provoke future Saxon rebellions, 1068-71 with their illegal land-grabs and violent actions;
- ⇒ Archbishop Lanfranc was a very successful regent who coped effectively with the Revolt of the Earls in 1075.

The role of Norman sheriffs



- ◆ They were appointed by William who were in charge of the shire;
- ◆ The sheriff managed the king's land in the earldom;
- ◆ Sheriffs were responsible for law and order in the shire, for example, punishing people who broke the Forest laws;
- ◆ Sheriffs were responsible for the defence of the shire from attack; they were also responsible for the new Norman castles in the shire.



Why were sheriffs hated?

- ◇ Anglo-Saxon sheriffs were replaced by Norman sheriffs especially after the Anglo-Saxon rebellions 1068-1071 which created local resentment;
- ◇ Sheriffs took a share of the revenue they collected for the king—this gave them an incentive to 'squeeze' people in the shire harder for geld tax and royal fines;
- ◇ Many sheriffs seized land illegally after 1066; they had absolute power in the shire and their victims were helpless;
- ◇ The Saxon and Norman earls also resented the increased power of the sheriffs in their earldoms;
- ◇ The sheriff also maintained and collected taxes to support the unpopular Norman castles which were the visual symbols of Norman control;

The forest and forest laws

What was a forest? - A forest was an area of land that the king said was to be used only for hunting; the forest could have trees but it could also be open farmland' forests also had their own specific laws. William set aside much more land than previous Anglo-Saxon kings for hunting, for example, he created the 'New Forest' in Hampshire forcing 2000 people to move and 12 villages to be destroyed to make hunting easier. 33% of all the land in Southern England was now 'forest' and all of Essex became 'forest'.

Why did William create the new Norman forests?

- ◇ The new and expanded 'forests' were used mainly by rich Norman lords for hunting – an enjoyable past time but also excellent training for war;
- ◇ The expansion of 'forests' and the new 'Forest laws' showed the power of William. They were hated by the English but they were powerless to stop William doing what he wanted;
- ◇ Forest laws were introduced to protect the animals that were best to hunt such as deer and wild boar also to protect the vegetation that the animals needed. The way animals were given protection while people went hungry was bitterly hated by the English peasantry.



Why were the forest and forest laws unpopular?

- Anyone now caught hunting in the 'forest' for food such as rabbits, wild boar and deer faced brutal punishments such as blinding or execution.
- Cutting down trees and collecting wood to repair homes or for fuel were illegal. This made life very difficult for people living within the 'forests';
- Forest laws were run by forest officials who held their own courts to punish offenders. Fines were high and the money went straight to the king's treasury making William even wealthier;
- Many peasants were evicted from their homes and villages when their land was reclassified as 'forest'; this was bitterly resented, especially as the 'forest' was the plaything of the rich-privileged Norman elite;
- The unfairness of Norman rule was emphasised by the 'forest' - William's rule appeared harsh and unfair with Anglo-Saxons suffering just so William and his Norman cronies could have deer to hunt in their leisure-time.

4a) Describe two features of the Norman forest.

(4 marks)

One feature of the Norman forest was its harshness towards the local Anglo-Saxon population. Many Saxons were evicted from their lands when it was reclassified as 'forest', for example, 12 villages were destroyed in the creation of the 'New Forest' in Hampshire. Hunting was also illegal within the 'forest' and any Saxons caught could face harsh fines, blindness or execution. They were also forbidden to collect wood for fuel or cottage repairs.

Another feature of the Norman forest was its enormous size. William set aside much more land than previous Anglo-Saxon kings for hunting, showing his power; 33% of all the land in Southern England was now 'forest' and all of Essex became 'forest'.

How far did England change under the Normans 1066-1087?

Feature	Continuity or stayed the same	Change after 1066
Local Government	The role of shire reeve or sheriff remained as the key person for dealing with law and order in the shires.	The Anglo-Saxons sheriffs were replaced by Norman sheriffs after 1071. Norman sheriffs were also powerful landowners who answered to no one but the king. They were also normally castellans.
National Government	William also consulted with his powerful earls and Archbishops when facing important decisions—like the Witan.	William (and when absent in Normandy, his Norman regents Odo, Lanfranc) replaced the last Anglo-Saxon King, Harold II, as the rulers of England.
Landowner-ship	The Church still owned 25% of all the land in England.	95% of land was now owned by Normans in 1087. William owned 20% of all land in England.
Earls	Earls were still powerful figures in their earldoms.	Anglo-Saxon earls were replaced by Norman earls. Earldoms became much smaller and the three Marcher earldoms (Chester, Shrewsbury, Hereford) were created by William to defend the Welsh borderlands. The earls' power was dependent upon William—if they disobeyed him they would forfeit their lands. The earls' power was also reduced by the increased powers of the sheriff in their shires.
Anglo-Saxon thegns		Anglo-Saxon thegns were wiped out as a landowning class and replaced by Norman knights-lords.
Peasants	Norman lords may have worked their peasants harder but life in the village remained very similar.	The number of ceorls (peasants who were free to work for any lord) was reduced over time as feudalism forced peasants to work for one knight-lord in return for their land.
Slaves	William kept the system of 'hue and cry'—the entire village were meant to put down tools and join the hunt to find the criminal. Ensured effective policing of the local villages.	The Normans thought slavery was wrong and freed many slaves. William made a new law that if a Norman was murdered, all the people of that region had to join together and pay a high fine called the Murdrum fine. New, harsh 'forest laws' were also created by William.
Law and order	The Normans kept the system of tithings (all males over 12 joined a group of 10 men—if one member of the tithing broke the law the other men had to take him to court or pay a fine) – collective responsibility.	The fine of 'wergild' (which was paid as compensation to the victim or his family before 1066) was now stopped. Fines were now paid to the king. The Normans introduced Church courts. These dealt with moral or religious crimes such as blasphemy or adultery. They were also used for crimes committed by churchmen.
Language	Anglo-Saxon peasants still spoke Anglo-Saxon in their day-to-day lives.	William used the death penalty for serious crimes. Executions were carried out in public to show the power of the king. Executions had been rare before 1066 due to the payment of wergild. Norman-French became the official language used in court procedures and all court records were kept in Latin. Most English people did not understand either language.



Feature	Continuity or stayed the same	Change after 1066
Coins	William kept the Anglo-Saxon currency of silver pennies and the royal treasury remained at Winchester.	William's image replaced Harold's on the silver coins.
Economy	Farming was still dominated the economy and peasants continued to work on their and their knight-lord's land.	Trade with Scandinavia was reduced and trade with Normandy increased which benefitted towns and merchants in the south of England. The Northern economy was reduced significantly after the destruction of crops and villages during the 'Harrying of the North' 1071.
Geld tax	William continued to use the geld tax to raise royal revenue.	William increased the level of geld taxation and ensured he received the correct revenues after the Domesday Book survey 1085-1086.
Religion	The majority of Anglo-Saxon parish priests remained the religious leaders in their village.	All churches and cathedrals were rebuilt in the Norman style. Lanfranc reduced corruption (simony, pluralism, nepotism) and made the Church more efficient and organised through the use of archdeacons, church courts and synods. The Archbishop of Canterbury was now in charge of the English Church. Marriage for new priests was banned. By 1088 all the bishops were Norman (apart from Bishop Wulfstan of Worcester who had showed his loyalty during the Revolt of the Earls, 1075); Normans also took over as the abbots of the largest abbeys in England. By 1086 only three abbeys had Anglo-Saxon abbots;
Castles		Motte and bailey castles were built throughout England; they were hated symbols of Norman power and control.

4c. 'The main change which took place in England between 1066-1088 was the change in landownership'.

How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

(16 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

William's demesne was 20% of all the land in England

Lanfranc became the new Archbishop of Canterbury

You **must** also use information of your own.

(P) I agree to an extent that a major change in England by 1088 was the change in landownership. **(e)** One example of the change in land ownership was the whole-scale transfer of landownership from Anglo-Saxons earls and thegns to the Norman aristocracy. **(E)** Before 1066 all the land was held by Anglo-Saxons but by 1066 only 5% of land was owned by Anglo-Saxons. This revolution in land-ownership also had a significant impact on the political landscape. **(e)** Another example of the change in land ownership was the increase in the land-holdings or demesne of King William. **(E)** William, after 1066, became the largest and richest land-owner in England; he owned 20% of all the land in England and had twice as much lands as anyone else put together with an annual income of £12 600 a year from his land. **(e)** Another example of the change in land ownership was the changes to the earldoms. **(E)** Wessex and Mercia disappeared and William created the three Marcher kingdoms of Chester, Shrewsbury and Hereford to defend the Anglo-Welsh border. William also reduced the size of earldoms to ensure that the King was less likely to

be threatened by a resentful aristocracy. (L) To conclude, the transfer of land from the Anglo-Saxon aristocracy to the victorious Norman aristocracy was a significant political and social change post 1066.

(P) However, the change in religion was also very significant as this had a direct impact on the entire population after 1066. (e) One example of the change in religion was the whole-scale transfer of the religious hierarchy from Anglo-Saxons to Normans, aping the changes in landownership. (E) By 1088 all the bishops were Norman apart from Bishop Wulfstan of Worcester who had showed his loyalty during the Revolt of the Earls, 1075 and Normans also took over as the abbots of the largest abbeys in England and by 1086 only three abbeys had Anglo-Saxon abbots. (e) Another example of the change in religion was the physical appearance of the religious buildings. (E) Anglo-Saxon Cathedrals in isolated rural locations were demolished and moved to the nearest large town e.g. Sherborne to Salisbury and many new, much larger cathedrals were built in the Norman style in all the major towns of England as large and imposing symbols of Norman power. (e) Another example of the change in religion was the removal of many corrupt practices through the reforms of Lanfranc. (E) Simony, nepotism and pluralism were stamped out by Lanfranc and all new priests had to be celibate and unmarried. (L) To conclude, the changes in religion were significant and disseminated throughout England.

(P) There were also significant changes to law and order during the Normanisation of England between 1066-1087. (e) One example of this change was the introduction of new forest laws. (E) The new and expanded forest covered large swaths of England and anyone caught hunting or collecting wood faced brutal punishments such as blinding or execution. (e) Another example of change to law and order was the new law for killing a Norman. (E) If a Norman was murdered, all the people of that tithing had to join together and pay a high fine called the murdrum fine. (e) Another example of change to law and order was the abolishment of wergild. (E) Wergild which pre-1066 was paid as compensation to the victim or his family was now stopped, instead fines were now collected by the sheriff and paid to the king. (L) To conclude, changes to the system of law and order in society was also a significant long-term social change.

(J) Overall, I agree that the main change which took place in England between 1066-1088 was the change in land-ownership (E) because this also had a significant political and military impact as it stripped the remnants of the surviving-Hastings Saxon aristocracy of any economic and social standing. This was the key change which allowed William to introduce the feudal structure which allowed Norman power to be permeated throughout the social system with the replacement of Saxon thegns with Norman knight-lords. (O) On the other hand, changes to religion were also significant and long-lasting but many priests still remained the same after 1066. (N) Nevertheless, The changes to landownership combined with the imposing symbols of Norman castles and cathedrals showed how much Anglo-Saxon England had been transformed under William's effective and sometimes brutal leadership, 1066-1087.

The Domesday Book 1085-1086



What was the Domesday book?

William sent men to every shire to investigate who held what land and what taxes they owed to the king and whether they could pay any more. The results were written up by 1086 and the result was the Domesday Book. No other European country had such a detailed survey of landholdings and tax obligations for centuries. It was the financial 'bible' of England.

Why was the Domesday book significant or important?

- × The Domesday book showed William's power and control—he had the authority to send his officials unmolested to complete an unpopular task;
- × The Domesday book increased his financial wealth and power—the survey allowed William to see which landholders should be paying more geld tax to the royal coffers; it also allowed William to work out the relief payments due to him when people inherited land;
- × The survey and publication of Domesday Book only took 1 year showing the efficient system of local Anglo-Saxon government.

Who were the Norman aristocracy?

- ⇒ The Norman aristocracy were the new ruling elite of England after 1066; they were the barons, nobles and lords who became the land-owning class of England by 1088.

Describe the key features of the Norman aristocratic lifestyle:

- ◆ One feature was their **public displays of wealth**— Norman lords built stone castles and stone halls to display their wealth and power. Many also paid for the rebuilding of the local churches in the elaborate Norman style. They also wore silks and furs to show off their status and ate at the top table during feasts.
- ◆ Another feature was their **love of hunting**—boys were taught to ride from the age of seven. Hunting was a good preparation for war as it involved riding and the use of bows. Deaths and injuries were common and they also used birds of prey such as falcons and hawks while hunting.
- ◆ Another feature was their **religious beliefs**—the Normans were very religious and believed that they should atone for the violence they had used in conquering England and crushing the rebellions. Showing sorrow or penance involved prayer and acts that helped the Church such as building churches or giving generous endowments to the Church.
- ◆ Another feature was their belief in **chivalry** (a knight's code) - they believed that bravery, loyalty and honour were the most important qualities of a lord as well as the requirement to show mercy and generosity when appropriate.
- ◆ A final feature was their belief that **Norman culture was superior** to the Anglo-Saxons— this was shown in their continued spoken use of the Norman-French language and refusal to learn Anglo-Saxon.



Bishop Odo

The highs and lows of Bishop Odo's career

Highs:

- * Odo was the half-brother of William;
- * William gave Odo a huge amount of English land worth £3000 a year after 1066. Only William had more land than Odo;
- * Odo was appointed Earl of Kent in 1067. This was an important position as Kent needed defending against potential attacks from William's French enemies ;
- * Odo acted as William's regent on several occasions when William returned to Normandy;
- * In 1075, Odo led the king's army to defeat the Norman Ralph, Earl of Norfolk and end the Revolt of the Earls;
- * In 1080, Odo was put in charge of the Norman army that harried Northumbria as punishment for the murder of the new Norman bishop of Durham.;
- * In 1087, William, on his death-bed, released Odo from prison.



Lows:

- × Odo was hated by the English. He was described as a 'ravening wolf' and as a tyrant who ignored fairness and the law in order to seize land illegally and his poor rule as regent in 1067 helped provoke the English rebellions of 1068-69;
- × In 1076 Lanfranc investigated Odo for illegally seizing land, including Church land in Canterbury. Odo was forced to hand back the land.
- × In 1082, Odo was imprisoned in Rouen by William. Odo had tried to take some knights to Rome with him to help him become pope. Knight-service was to the king only. Odo had over-stepped his power and authority;
- × In 1088, Odo led many barons in revolt against William Rufus. Odo's revolt failed and William II banished Odo and took all his lands and titles.

What does Bishop Odo's career tell us about William's rule?

- ◆ William and Odo were half-brothers. William only put his trust in family and a few close friends.
- ◆ Odo's large landholdings and wealth in England showed the changes in landownership from Anglo-Saxon to Norman and showed how the Norman aristocracy benefitted financially from their victory at Hastings.
- ◆ Odo commissioned the Bayeux Tapestry as a piece of Norman propaganda. It was important to William's rule to show that he was Edward's rightful heir.
- ◆ William's choice of Odo as regent in 1067 showed that he was confident in his control of England after Hastings and the submission of the earls at Berkhamstead.
- ◆ William's appointment of Odo as co-regent in 1067 with William FitzOsbern showed that William was not always politically astute. They allowed illegal land-grabs and the rape of Anglo-Saxon women by Norman knights and sheriffs which helped provoke resistance and rebellion 1068-71.
- ◆ Odo having to return church land in 1076 showed that there were limits to the power of Norman earls, even those as highly-placed as Odo.
- ◆ Odo's imprisonment showed William's ruthlessness and his insistence on loyalty from everyone, even his own family.

William I and his sons

Describe the key features of William I's personality

- ⇒ William was a very tough and determined leader—this was shown in his decision to harry the north of England in 1071 and the arrest of his half-brother Bishop Odo in 1082.
- ⇒ William was also very religious—this was shown through his support of Lanfranc during the reforms of the English Church—the removal of pluralism, nepotism and simony.
- ⇒ William was devoted to his wife Matilda and respected her political skills—this was shown through their loving marriage which produced 9 children and Matilda acted as regent in Normandy many times while William was absent in England.
- ⇒ William was a skilful military leader—this was shown in his decision-making during the Battle of Hastings and his swift responses to the revolt of Edwin and Morcar in 1068.

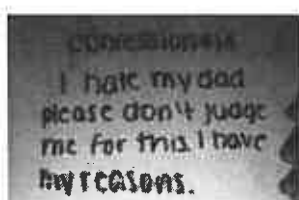
Robert Curthose was William and Matilda's eldest son. He expected to be chosen as William's heir to the kingdom of England and the Duchy of Normandy which as the eldest son was the Norman tradition.



William Rufus was William's second son and Robert's younger brother. He and his younger brother, Henry played a prank on Robert in 1077 which started Robert's revolt against

Robert and revolt in Normandy, 1077-80

- ◆ William bullied his eldest son, Robert, and refused to let him have any real power in Normandy or England. This led to open rebellion by Robert from 1077-80. Robert and William even fought each other at the Battle of Gerberoy in France in 1079.



(P) One key reason for Robert revolting against his father 1077-1080 was due to his anger about William not giving him political power. (e) One example of William not giving him political power was his refusal to make Robert a regent in either Normandy or England. (E) William chose his wife, Matilda to act as regent in Normandy and his half-brother Odo or Bishop Lanfranc in England while he was absent in either country. (e) Another example of William not giving him political power was his refusal to publically name Robert as his heir for both his kingdoms, England and Normandy. (E) This angered Robert as he thought William was slighting and humiliating him because it was Norman tradition for the eldest son to inherit all his father's titles. (e) Another problem Robert faced of William not giving him political power was the damage to his reputation. (E) Norman nobles might decide to shift their allegiance and support to William Rufus if they believed that Rufus was to be William's chosen heir which would weaken Robert's long-term chances of being King of England or the Duke of Normandy. (L) To conclude, William's decision not to give his eldest son, Robert, any political experience was the key reason for his growing resentment which led to revolt in 1077.

(P) Another key reason for revolt was William's personal dealings with Robert which left Robert feeling belittled and angry. (e) One example of William annoying Robert was William calling him by his nickname. (E) William called him 'Curthose' which meant 'short boots' or 'fat legs' which annoyed Robert who believed he was not being shown the respect he was warranted as the eldest son. (e) Another example of William annoying Robert was when he belittled him in front of key Norman nobles. (E) William publically refused to let Robert rule Normandy and according to a chronicler drove Robert away 'with jeers in that terrific voice'. (L) To conclude, William's personal view that Robert was spoilt and foolish and unfit for kingship, was shown publically in his relations with Robert which only stoked Robert's resentment further.

(P) The immediate reason for revolt was the actions of William Rufus and Henry towards their brother. (e) In 1077 William Rufus and Henry urinated onto the heads of Robert and his friends from a first floor gallery which turned into a massive brawl which was only stopped by the intervention of William. (E) Robert was very annoyed that William did not punish his brothers and fled with his supporters to try and take control of Rouen castle. (e) Robert was also angered that his brother William Rufus was growing in closeness towards his father. (E) Robert was jealous and worried that William Rufus might usurp him as the next ruler of England and Normandy. (L) To conclude, Robert's insecurities were further heightened by William's treatment of William Rufus and the prank provoked Robert into outright rebellion in 1077.



Describe the key events of Robert's revolt in Normandy, 1077-1080.

- ⇒ Robert and his followers tried to take control of William's castle at Rouen (the capital of Normandy). **Robert's revolt against his father had begun.**
- ⇒ Robert was then given troops and a castle at **Gerberoi** by William's enemies in France (King Phillip of France and the Count of Flanders) and money by his mother Matilda (without William knowing!).
- ⇒ Robert's troops did raids into Normandy which forced **William to lead an army against his Robert at Gerberoi**. Robert attacked William's army and won, **Robert himself wounded William in the arm** and William had to be rescued by an Englishman, Toki of Wallingford. William Rufus, fighting with his father, was also injured. The defeat made William look weak and 'over the hill'.
- ⇒ **William and Robert made peace in 1080**. Robert was confirmed as the heir of Normandy and was allowed to lead the English army against the King of Scotland in 1080.



William's death in 1087

- × William was at war with the King of France in 1087, attacking the town of Mantes;
- × William's horse reared upwards;
- × The iron pommel on his saddle was driven hard into his very fat stomach;
- × The injury caused severe internal injuries. He was in pain for many weeks before he died in September 1087.

What was the disputed succession in 1087-88?

- ◆ A disputed succession is when people disagree and quarrel about who should be the next King or ruler;
- ◆ In 1087 there was a disputed succession because both Robert Curthose and William Rufus both wanted to become King of England after the death of their father, William.

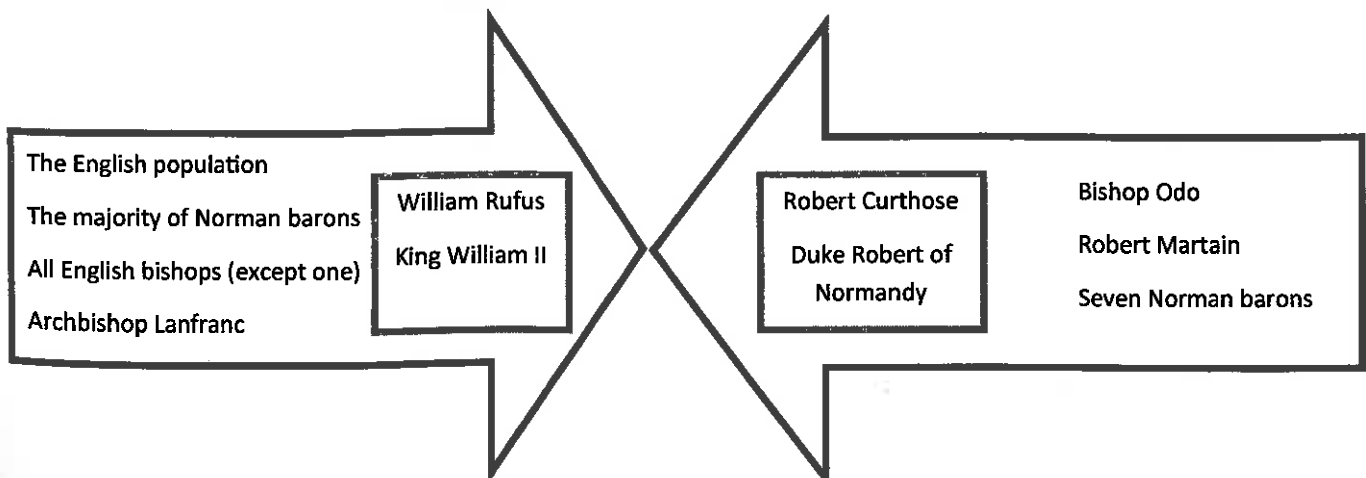
Why was there a disputed succession in 1087?

(P) The main reason for the disputed succession in 1087 was that both Robert Curthose and William Rufus wanted to be the next King of England. (e) Robert expected to be King as the eldest son and was annoyed that William had not made him heir to the English throne. (E) Robert as the new Duke of Normandy and the eldest son expected to gain the support of the key Norman nobles and had gained confidence after defeating his father, William, at the battle of Gerberoi. (e) William Rufus also expected to be King of England as he was William's favourite son and was chosen by William to be the next King of England in 1087 and was crowned by Lanfranc in 1087. (E) He also believed he had the support of many Norman nobles and was prepared to fight Robert to remain as the second Norman king of England. (L) To conclude, both Robert and William Rufus believed they should be the next King of England and were prepared to fight for their claim, hence a disputed succession in 1087.

(P) Another important reason for the disputed succession in 1087 was the actions of the Norman nobles who supported both Robert and William Rufus. (e) Bishop Odo and his brother Robert Mortain chose to support Robert's claim to be King of England. (E) They supported Robert because he was weaker than William Rufus and they believed they would be able to increase their power and wealth in England under Robert's rule rather than Rufus' rule. (e) The actions of the majority of the Norman nobles in England also led to the disputed succession in 1087 as they supported Rufus as King. (E) They supported William Rufus as they trusted the judgement of his father and Lanfranc and believed a strong King of England—Rufus rather than Robert - was needed to protect their lands and wealth in England. (L) To conclude, Norman nobles supporting both candidates led to a disputed succession as both Robert and William Rufus had supporters and thus conflict became inevitable.

(P) Another important reason for the disputed succession in 1087 was the actions of William I. (e) One example, of William causing the disputed succession in England, was him dividing his kingdoms between Robert and Rufus. (E) By giving Robert the Duchy of Normandy and Rufus the kingdom of England he made the disputed succession inevitable. Robert had the support of Norman nobles based in Normandy and was therefore in a position to challenge Rufus in England. (e) Another example of William causing the disputed succession in England was his refusal to follow the Norman tradition of inheritance. (E) If William had followed the tradition of the eldest son, Robert, inheriting all his titles then it is unlikely that there would have been a disputed succession in England. (L) To conclude, William's action in dividing his titles between his two eldest sons, made a quarrel over the next King of England inevitable.

William Rufus and the defeat of Robert and Odo in 1088



4a) Describe the key features of William Rufus' defeat of Robert and Odo's rebellion of 1088**(4 marks)**

One key feature was the support for William in England during Odo's rebellion in 1088. This was shown in the almost complete support from the English Church with all the Norman bishops (bar William of Saint-Calais) and Lanfranc rejecting Robert and Odo and remaining loyal to the new King William II. The English population also supported William probably remembering the unfairness and brutality of Odo's reign as co-regent in 1067.

Another key feature was the disparity or differences in the military decisions of William Rufus and Robert. During the rebellion William took decisive action, he attacked and captured Rochester castle where Odo was leading the rebellion in England. The capture of Odo, removed the major figurehead for rebellion in England and thus the rebellion petered out. Whereas Robert showed no military decisiveness. He failed to invade England and thus support Odo at Rochester Castle or Robert Mortain at Pevensey Castle thus leaving his key supporters isolated and at the mercy of William Rufus.

Practice exam questions for Topic C

- 4 (a) Describe two features of the feudal hierarchy that increase William's economic strength. (4 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe two features of the feudal hierarchy that increase William's military strength. (4 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe two features of knight service. (4 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe two features of the labour service owed by a peasant in return for his land. (4 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe two features of the rebellion against William Rufus in 1088. (4 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe two features of the problems with the Anglo-Saxon Church before Lanfranc's reforms. (4 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe two features of Lanfranc's Church reforms. (4 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe two features of change which took place in England under the Normans between 1066-1087. (4 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe two features of the regents in England between 1067-1087 (4 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe two features of the centralization of power in Norman England. (4 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe two features of the forest and forest laws. (4 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe two features of the changing role of the Norman sheriff. (4 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe two features of the culture of the Norman aristocracy. (4 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe two features of the career of Bishop Odo. (4 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe two features of the relationship between William and his two eldest sons. (4 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe two features of Norman government. (4 marks)

4 (b) Explain **why** William established a feudal structure in England after 1066.

(12 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Tenant-in-chief
- Labour service

You must also use information of your own.

4 (b) Explain **why** the English church was changed under the Normans after 1066.

(12 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Archbishop Stigand
- Simony

You must also use information of your own.

4 (b) Explain **why** the forest was resented in Norman England.

(12 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- The New Forest
- illegal land grabs

You must also use information of your own.

4 (b) Explain **why** the sheriff and forest were resented in Norman England.

(12 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- The New Forest
- illegal land grabs

You must also use information of your own.

4 (b) Explain **why** there was a disputed succession after the death of William I in 1087.

(12 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Bishop Odo
- Robert Curthose

You must also use information of your own.

4 (b) Explain **why** William Rufus was able to defeat the rebellion of 1088.

(12 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Bishop Odo
- The Church in England

You must also use information of your own.

4 (b) Explain **why** Bishop Odo lost power in 1082.

(12 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Tenant-in-chief
- The Church

You must also use information of your own.

4c (i) 'The main consequence of Lanfranc's changes to the English Church was an increase in cathedral building'.

How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

(16 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Archbishop Stigand
- The Monasteries

You must also use information of your own.

4c (ii) 'The main consequence of the Normanisation of England was the king became more powerful'.

How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

(16 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- The feudal system
- Archbishop Lanfranc

You must also use information of your own.

4c (i) 'The main significance of the Domesday Book was financial'.

How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

(16 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Invasion threats
- The geld tax

You must also use information of your own.

4c (ii) '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.

(16 marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Lanfranc
- The feudal system

You must also use information of your own.