

Paper 2 Norman England c1066-c1100	G	A	R
<b>Part 1: The Normans: conquest and control</b>			
<p><b>1.1 Causes of Norman Conquest, including the death of Edward the Confessor, the claimants and claims.</b></p> <p><b>Edward never enjoyed full control of his kingdom due to the power of the Godwin family.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edward was half-brother to King Harthacanute. In 1041, Harthacanute invite Edward to become King, probably because he was ill.</li> <li>• In 1041, Edward took over as the King of England. He needed the support of the powerful Godwin family.</li> <li>• In 1051, the Godwins rebelled against Edward. Although Edward survived the rebellion, the Godwins kept their powerful positions.</li> <li>• After the rebellion, Edward named William, the Duke of Normandy, as his successor. (the person who should take over after as King after he dies)</li> <li>• However, the Godwins continued to grow in power. By 1057 they controlled earldoms in every part of England except Mercia.</li> <li>• In the late 1050's, Harold Godwinson (Earl Godwin's son) was made sub-regulus (which meant he could rule in the King's place).</li> </ul> <p><b>After Edwards's death, Harold Godwinson became king</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edward died in January 1066. He had no heir.</li> <li>• Edgar Aetheling was Edward's closest blood relative, but he was only 14 years old and did not have much support or military experience.</li> <li>• Harold Godwinson made himself King. He made this official the day after Edward's death. (In a coronation or crowning ceremony)</li> <li>• Harold was the richest man in England. Harold was a skilful military leader. He also had the support of the Witan (the King's council).</li> <li>• Harold also claimed that, just before he died, Edward had said he wanted Harold to be the next king.</li> </ul> <p><b>William, Duke of Normandy claimed the throne</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• William was a distant cousin of Edward. However, he was illegitimate (his father was the Duke of Normandy, but his mother was not the duke's wife).</li> <li>• There had been strong trade links between England and Normandy since the 990's. Normandy had also helped England against the Viking threat.</li> <li>• Edward had grown up in Normandy. When the Godwins rebelled in 1051, William had sent soldiers to help Edward deal with the rebellion.</li> <li>• In 1064, Harold had travelled to Normandy and sworn an oath (a promise) to support William's claim to the throne.</li> <li>• William was also a powerful warrior who had won many battles.</li> <li>• The third claimant was the Viking Harald Hardraada</li> <li>• Harald Hardraada believed that he had a claim to the English throne because of a promise made to his father.</li> <li>• By 1066 Hardraada was an experienced ruler. He was a famous warrior.</li> <li>• He was supported by Tostig Godwinson (one of Harold's brothers).</li> <li>• Many people in the north of England had Scandinavian (the area where the Vikings came from) roots and so might have supported a Viking King.</li> </ul>			

1.2 Military aspects: Battle of Stamford Bridge; Battle of Hastings; Anglo-Saxon and Norman Tactics; military innovations, including cavalry and castles.

***Harold prepared for an invasion by William of Normandy***

- The most important soldiers in Harold's army were the housecarls. They were full time professional soldiers in the Saxon Army. They were joined by thegns (knights called up when needed) The thegns brought with them ordinary men known as the fyrd. Harold also called on his subjects to provide a navy (a fleet of ships) to defend the south coast from invasion.

***William's preparation was more extensive***

- William did not have an army. He called on his lords to bring themselves and their knights to fight with him. There was some opposition to the invasion, but many were convinced by William's reputation as a warrior and by the papal banner which the Pope had given him to show that God was on his side. William asked his vassals (the lords who had sworn loyalty to him) to give him ships, but also built many. Historians estimate he may have had around 600-700 ships in total. William had around 7000 men including cavalry (soldiers who fought on horseback) and archers, and up to 3000 horses. The Normans also arranged materials for building castles before they landed in England. For example, they prepared all the timbers to the correct sizes and all the bolts needed to fit them together.

***First, Harold had to fight the Vikings in the north of England***

- Throughout the summer Harold's army waited. Keeping an army fed was extremely expensive. Many of his men needed to return to gather the harvest. They were sent home. Most of the fleet was dismissed.
- Soon afterwards, Harald Hardraada joined forces with Tostig Godwinson and landed at Ricall near York. They defeated English earls Edwin and Morcar on 20 September 1066 at the Battle of Fulford. The Vikings captured York.
- Harold regathered his army and marched north incredibly quickly (200 miles in less than a week).
- On 25 September, part of Hardraada's army was on it's way to collect tribute (payments) and hostages from local leaders. As it was a hot day they had left their mail shirts behind.
- Harold's army surprised them at Stamford Bridge. He won a stunning victory. Hardraada and Tostig were killed. The Viking returned with 25 out of 300 ships and promised not to attack again.

***While Harold was still in the north, William landed at Pevensey and immediately secured his position***

- Pevensey had an old Roman fort and a large bay so was a perfect landing spot. The Normans quickly built a castle and others rode twelve miles to Hastings and built a castle there.
- Harold quickly marched to London (200 miles in four to five days). He probably left his foot soldiers in the north and gathered a new army in London.
- Rather than wait in London, Harold set off to fight William. Possibly he hoped to surprise William's army (like he had the Vikings) but he also wanted to stop the Normans terrorising the local population.
- William knew Harold was coming and expected a surprise attack. His army rode out to meet Harold's on the morning of 14 October.

***Harold's men had the high ground and some strategic advantages but were defeated***

- Harold's men formed up on Senlac ridge (a hill near Hastings). Their flanks (the sides of the army) were protected by woodland and the ground was damp and difficult.
- The Saxons formed a shield wall on foot. This was a strong defensive position – Harold only needed to stop the Normans from taking the hill and clearing the road to London.
- William attacked the shield wall with archers and then with his foot soldiers. The hill made it difficult for the cavalry to charge at any great speed so the English shield wall stayed firm.
- At some point, the shield wall fell apart as some Saxons chased a group of Normans who were retreating (or pretending to!)
- William appeared to target Harold and at some point Harold was killed (perhaps by an arrow, perhaps hacked to death).
- After this, the Normans continued to chase the remaining English ferociously but the battle was really over – William had won.

### **1.3 Establishing and maintaining control: the Harrying of the North; revolts, 1067-1075; King William's leadership and government; William II and his inheritance.**

#### **After the Battle of Hastings, William still had to fight to make himself King of England**

- Many English lords wanted Edgar Aetheling to be the next King rather than William.
- William marched through Kent attacking towns and forcing them to surrender. In each place, he built a castle and left a garrison (a group of his soldiers) to defend the area.
- English barons started to change their minds as they saw the destruction caused by William. They also doubted Edgar's ability to rule because of his age.
- In December, Edgar and some of the English lords met William at Berkhamsted and submitted to him.
- On Christmas Day, 1066, William was crowned king by the Archbishop of York, Ealdred.

#### **William tried to keep the support of English lords but began to face rebellions.**

To keep English support William:

- Continued to use English for royal writs (instructions from the King)
- Allowed Stigand to remain Archbishop of Canterbury
- Allowed English lords who pledged loyalty to him to keep their land (even Edgar Aetheling was given land)
- Encouraged English lords to marry Normans.  
Opposition increased because of the high taxes and the harsh rule of his supporters Odo and Fitz Osbern (who William left in charge when he returned to Normandy).
- In 1067, there was a rebellion in the north of England against the Norman Lord Copsig and a rebellion in Kent.
- The Normans also lost many men trying to capture the Welsh Borders.

#### ***In 1068 the rebellions became more serious and organised***

- The city of Exeter refused to swear loyalty to William. It was an area with a lot of Godwin support. William besieged the city for eighteen days before it gave in.
- In Mercia there was a rebellion led by Edwin and Morcar.
- Later in the year there were further rebellions in the south-west as Harold Godwinson's sons made two failed attempts to sail back from Ireland and attack England.

#### ***In 1069 William dealt harshly with rebellion in the north of England***

- In 1069, there was an even more serious rebellion in the north of England. It started as a revolt against William's new earl, Lord Cumin.
- This led to a full rebellion supported by Edwin Aetheling. King Swein of Denmark also brought soldiers in a fleet of 240 ships.
- The rebel attacked York. William defeated them quickly and built a second castle in York. He put William Fitz Osbern in charge. He paid the Danes to go away (although they didn't)
- To deter future rebels he slaughtered people throughout the region. He burnt their homes, animals and crops so the land was unusable. This is known as the 'Harrying of the North.'

#### ***By 1071 the last English rebellion was over and William was in control of England***

- The last major rebellion was in 1070 when some Danes allied with people from the marshy fenlands in East Anglia and took control of Ely.
- They were joined by a famous Saxon warrior called Hereward the Wake and Early Morcar.
- William defeated them. Morcar was imprisoned for the rest of his life.
- English resistance was over.
- William did face one more rebellion in 1075 (the Earl's Revolt) but you can tell how thoroughly he had dealt with the English rebels from the fact that this time the rebels were not English but Norman. It was badly planned and ended before it had started.

#### ***William built castles to prevent rebellion***

- Throughout this period, hundreds of castles were built all over the country at strategic sites or in vulnerable areas, such as the border with Wales.
- These were usually a motte and bailey design: a large mound of earth (the motte) with a wooden tower on top.
- They were built quickly. English workers were forced to build them.
- The castles housed Norman Cavalry and their horses so that they could easily defend the local area.

## Part 2: Life under the Normans;

2.1 Feudalism and government: roles, rights, and responsibilities; landholding and lordship; land distribution; patronage; Anglo-Saxon government systems; the Anglo-Saxon and Norman aristocracies and societies; military service; justice and the legal system such as ordeals, 'murdrum'; inheritance; the Domesday Book.

### **Land distribution changed under the Normans. It was the main way William imposed control**

- William owned 22 per cent of the land in England himself. (Edward had only owned 12 per cent)
- William made his most loyal supporters tenants-in-chief (barons and bishops). He granted them huge areas of land, but spread across the country.
- The biggest change from Saxon times was that in return for land, military service became a formal obligation (something that the lords had to do).
- Tenants-in-chief had to provide an agreed number of soldiers usually for 40 days per year. This was called *servitium debitum*.
- To fulfil this duty, many barons granted land to knights (in return for military service) or paid knights to be part of their own household army.
- These knights had to swear the oath of fealty (loyalty) to their lords.
- By 1100, the King could call on about 5000 knights.
- William dealt with the Welsh border (called the Welsh Marches) by granting the land to his most trusted supporters (Chester, Shrewsbury and Hereford). These Marcher Lords had special powers, such as building castles without the King's permission.
- William created a new system of feudal incidents to control inheritance of land. For example, he could take back land if the owner died without a male heir.

### **William kept some features of Anglo-Saxon government**

- Saxon England had been efficiently run. William used this system. England was divided into 134 shires just like in Saxon times, but the power of the Shire Reeve (sheriff) increased.
- William gave the impression of continuity with Saxon government.
- He issued a charter (a written royal order) guaranteeing the people of London the same liberties as under Edward.
- Royal orders (writs) were produced by the Chancery (a group of educated officials who served the King). This was the same as in Saxon England. He even continued to use English. However, the Normans issued far more orders.
- After the rebellions of 1067-71 the Royal Assembly (the gathering of the King's most important lords) was increasingly dominated by Normans.

### **William kept many Saxon features but tried to make the legal system more uniform across the country**

#### ***Courts and trials***

- The Normans introduced the honourial court (or Lord's court) where the lord dealt with crimes or property transactions on his land.
- Shire courts continued to judge crimes such as violence and theft, but they now met more regularly. The most serious crimes could now only be tried in the King's court.
- Trial by ordeal continued (either by cold water or hot iron) but the Normans also introduced trial by combat.

#### ***Law enforcement***

- Most villages had constables to arrest people and break up fights, and also watchmen to enforce the curfew (the time when the villagers had to return to their houses).
- After a crime took place, the hue and cry meant that everyone shared responsibility to alert people to a crime and help catch the suspect.
- In some places freemen joined groups of ten to twelve men in a tithing. They promised to stop each other committing crimes.

### **William commissioned the Domesday Survey in 1085 to give a full account of land ownership**

**Reasons** - England was under threat of invasion from the Count of Flanders and the Vikings. Also a huge amount of land had changed hands and the Normans wanted to be certain about who owned what.

**Process** - The country was divided into seven circuits. Anglo-Saxon records were studied and then commissioners visited each hundred. Some areas were left out such as northern areas which weren't fully under Norman control. The findings were presented to a jury at the shire court- a mix of Norman and Saxon landowners. The jury had to check that the account in Domesday was accurate.

**Write up** - The findings were compiled into two accounts, ordered by individual and by location. The findings were presented to William at Salisbury in August 1086. At a formal ceremony his main tenants had to swear loyalty to the King.

2.2 Economic and social changes and their consequences: Anglo-Saxon and Norman life, including towns, villages, buildings, work, food, roles and seasonal life; Forest law.

**Daily life in villages remained much the same**

- Village life occurred on a cycle depending on the seasons. It revolved around farming.
- In February, the fields would be ploughed. In March, seeds would be sown by hand. In April, trees would be pruned.
- June was the harvest and the most important time of the year. Crops had to be gathered quickly to prevent damage. Sheep were also sheared in June.
- Sheep farming remained the main industry.
- However, the amount of cultivated land (land used for crops) was also increasing.

**There were major differences between the life and diet of the rich and poor**

**Life for the poor**

Usually had a small strip of land to farm.

All work done by hand, except when an ox-drawn plough was used.

Bread and pottage(soup) was the main food.

Had small gardens to grow vegetables and common land to graze animals (land which everyone could use)

Most were peasant farmers, but there were more specialised jobs such as blacksmiths and carpenters.

**Life for the rich**

- Lived off the rents paid by tenants and the produce grown by the tenants on their land.
- Knights would spend time perfecting their military skills.
- Diet was probably worse than that of the poor.
- Did not eat much dairy or vegetables as these were seen as food for the poor.
- Many had bad teeth and diseases like scurvy or rickets.

**There were a number of economic consequences of the Norman Conquest**

- The power and wealth of the lords increased. One Norman lord called Alan Rufus managed to increase income from his land in Norfolk by 40 per cent.
- Many previously free peasants (known as ceorls) lost their freedom because they could not afford to pay higher rents. In Bourn, Cambridgeshire, over half of the freemen had become villeins (tied to a lord) by 1086. The number of slaves fell by 25 per cent by 1086.
- Trade increased as England was now more connected with Europe. A new wool trade was opened up with cloth makers in Flanders.
- Jewish moneylenders were brought to England to manage finance and fund businesses.
- Some villages, particularly in the north, fell in value. One example is Pickering which fell from £88 to £1 probably because of the Harrying of the North.

**In the longer term the Conquest also had a significant impact on towns**

- Some large Saxon towns such as Oxford, York and Norwich saw a fall in population. Stafford had 179 houses and 40 per cent of these were empty in 1086.
- However, some new towns developed, mostly around castles (such as Ludlow) or trading links such as rivers or bridges.
- Norman castles or cathedrals were often built in existing towns and most towns got new lords.
- By 1086, there were eighteen towns with a population of over 2000 and 112 smaller towns. However, only five per cent of the population lived in towns.
- It was 50 years after the conquest before Norman market towns really began to grow and thrive.

**Life in towns was very different to life in villages**

- Town citizens (burgesses) had special freedoms such as the right to be tried only in a town court.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a wider range of occupations and trades in towns including bakers, blacksmiths, armourers, apothecaries (who provided treatments and remedies) and barbers.</li> <li>• There are opportunities to join a trade. Young men could become an apprentice for seven years, before becoming a journeyman and eventually a master craftsman.</li> </ul>			
<b>Part 3: The Norman Church and monasticism</b>			
<p>3.1 The Church: the Anglo-Saxon Church before 1066; Archbishop Lanfranco and reform of the English Church, including the building of churches and cathedrals; Church organisation and courts; Church state relations; William II and the Church; the wealth of the Church; relations with the Papacy; the Investiture Controversy.</p> <p><b>One of William's aims in the Norman Conquest was to reform the English Church</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• William had been given a Papal banner by Pope Alexander II to show his support for the Norman conquest of England.</li> <li>• One reason for this was because William had promised to sort out problems in the English Church.</li> <li>• There were some good leaders in the English Church, such as Bishop Wulfstan. Others did not seem to take their religious duties seriously. Pluralism = clergy who held more than one important position. Simony = buying powerful positions in the Church. Nepotism = Positions in the Church being given to relatives or friends. Marriage = Clergy were supposed to take a vow of celibacy (to not get married). However, marriage among the clergy was common by 1066.</li> <li>• Some Church leaders were considered corrupt, for example Stigand, the Archbishop of Canterbury, was one of the richest men in England and was excommunicated (cut off from the Church).</li> </ul> <p><b>Archbishop Lanfranc introduced reforms from 1070</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lanfranc was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury (one of two Archbishops in England) in 1070.</li> <li>• He came into conflict with Thomas, Archbishop of York. Both wanted to show the primacy of their position (that it was the most important).</li> <li>• Eventually, Thomas submitted to Lanfranc, but only after King William and the Pope got involved.</li> <li>• Lanfranc created synods (Church councils) and Church courts.</li> <li>• Lanfranc wanted the clergy to face trial only in Church courts. William supported this, but it became a big issue under the later kings.</li> <li>• He introduced new positions into the Church hierarchy. These included archdeacons (who served bishops) and deans. He also officially ended marriage amongst the clergy.</li> <li>• The role of the parish (local) church also increased. The number of parish churches doubled from 1070 to 1170.</li> </ul> <p><b>The Normans drastically changed church buildings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By the early 1100s, the Normans had knocked down almost every Anglo-Saxon cathedral except for Westminster Abbey. This was spared because it had been built by King Edward in a similar style to Norman Cathedrals.</li> <li>• Cathedrals were moved to larger towns or cities.</li> <li>• The Normans wanted cathedrals and churches in a Romanesque style with thick walls, rounded arches and sturdy pillars.</li> <li>• Norman churches were built out of stone.</li> <li>• These churches were a display of Norman power and a sign that God favoured the Normans.</li> <li>• The first Norman cathedral, such as Canterbury, were similar size to those in Normandy. Later cathedrals, like Durham, were much bigger.</li> </ul> <p><b>William I had a good relationship with the Pope</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many popes in this period wanted to reform the Church across Europe. They wanted it to follow religious rules more strictly and follow the instruction of the Pope.</li> <li>• William had originally had a good relationship with the Pope. He had helped Lanfranc get rid of simony in the English Church.</li> </ul>			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• However, William came into conflict with Gregory VII who became Pope in 1073. William refused to swear loyalty to Gregory.</li> </ul> <p><b>Serious conflict emerged under William Rufus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Archbishop of Canterbury, Anselm, openly criticised William Rufus for not being religious enough.</li> <li>• William put the Bishop of Durham, William of St Calais, on trial in 1088 because he did not provide troops to stop a rebellion. Rufus refused to let St Calais be tried by a Church court.</li> <li>• Simony reappeared. Ranulf Flambard paid £1000 to be made Bishop of Durham.</li> <li>• There was a row over whether the Archbishop should swear loyalty to the Pope of the King. This was resolved at the Council of Rockingham.</li> <li>• Henry II (who became King in 1100) had a similar dispute over lay investiture (the king giving new bishops the symbol of their position)</li> <li>• The Concordat of London in 1107 agreed that bishops would be given their investiture by the Pope, but would swear homage to the King.</li> </ul>			
<p>3.2 Monasticism: the Norman reforms, including the building of abbeys and monasteries; monastic life; learning; schools and education; Latin usage and the vernacular.</p> <p><b>The Normans wanted English monasteries to be stricter like the new monasteries in Normandy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monasteries had existed since Roman times. They were religious houses where monks or nuns lived and worked.</li> <li>• Most monasteries in England belonged to the Benedictine order.</li> <li>• Monks and nuns took three vows: Poverty – to give up all of their possessions. Chastity – promising not to marry and remain celibate. Obedience – to follow the instructions of the abbot/abbess or prior/prioress.</li> <li>• Most monasteries were supported by a rich patron who paid for their building but expected some control (and often monetary rewards) in return.</li> <li>• Vikings raids, poverty and the local lords had led to a decline in monasticism (the number of people who were monks or nuns) before the conquest.</li> </ul> <p>The Normans wanted to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the power of the local lords over the monastery. They often decided who became abbot and took money made by the monastery.</li> <li>• Ensure that monks and nuns followed traditional rules such as fasting. (not eating)</li> </ul> <p><b>Lanfranc introduced monastic reforms from 1077</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lanfranc had been a monk himself and he was keen to reform English monasteries.</li> <li>• In 1077, he introduced new constitution at Canterbury. This laid out strict rules for monks’ daily lives and for the creation of saints.</li> <li>• He also reformed the liturgy. (the words used at religious services)</li> <li>• Although some monasteries were already following these strict rules, this made others more like the monasteries in Europe.</li> <li>• There was some resistance to these changes. In 1083, Thurstan, the Abbot of Glastonbury, sent knights to force his monks to accept a new chant. Three people were killed and eighteen injured.</li> <li>• The Normans were gradually replaced English Church Leaders. Although abbots were replaced less quickly than bishops, by 1086 there were only three Anglo-Saxon abbots remaining.</li> </ul> <p><b>The reforms dramatically increased monasticism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Between 1066 and 1135, the number of monks and nuns had increased from 1000 to 5000.</li> <li>• The number of religious houses grew from 60 to 250.</li> <li>• Many monasteries became Cluniac monasteries. These were less independent than earlier monasteries and had to follow the rules of Cluny Abbey in France.</li> <li>• The first Cluniac monastery was Lewes Abbey, which was founded in 1077. By 1135 there were 24 Cluniac monasteries in England.</li> </ul>			

<p><b>Monasteries had a significant impact on education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There had been schools (such as King’s School in Canterbury) before the Conquest. These were attached to cathedrals and monasteries.</li> <li>• Many more Church schools were formed under the Norman Church schools focused on teaching Latin, music, law and mathematics as well as the text of the Bible.</li> <li>• The first university in England, at Oxford, was running by 1096. It was the only university in England until Cambridge was founded in 1209.</li> <li>• Secular (non-religious) education did not begin until 1382 when Winchester College was founded.</li> </ul> <p><b>The use of language also transformed under the Normans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Latin was the language used by the government and the Church. It was also used by merchants across Europe.</li> <li>• English was no longer used in official documents. One Anglo-Saxon chronicle continued (written in English) but this ended in 1154.</li> <li>• In everyday life, people continued to speak English. However, people were increasingly taught Norman-French and this became the main language for the upper and middle classes.</li> <li>• This developed into Anglo-Norman (a mix of English and Norman-French). This was the main language of the upper classes and was used in law courts, schools and universities.</li> <li>• Today, around a quarter of modern English words are based on French.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Part 4: The historic environment of Norman England</b></p>			
<p>4.1 The study of the historical environment will focus on a particular site in its historical context and should examine the relationship between Durham Cathedral and associated historical events and developments.</p>			
<p>4.2 You will be expected to answer questions on concepts of change, continuity, cause and consequence, and to explore them in relation to the wider events and the time period studied.</p>			
<p>4.3 You should be able to explain key features of the specified site and understand their connection to the wider historical context for example how people lived at the time, how they were governed and their beliefs and values.</p>			
<p>4.4 The following aspects of the site should be considered</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Location</li> <li>b) Function</li> <li>c) The structure</li> <li>d) People connected with the site eg. The designer, originator and occupants</li> <li>e) Design</li> <li>f) How the design reflects the culture, values, fashions of the people at the time</li> <li>g) How important events/developments from the depth study are connected to the site.</li> <li>h) You will need to know how key features and other aspects of the site are representative of the period studied. In order to do this, students will also need to be aware of how the key features and other aspects of the site have changed from earlier periods.</li> </ol>			