

Norman Conquest Mastery Questions.

How to use:

1. Use these questions in week one of your revision programme to test your knowledge and identify gaps.
2. Find the answers to any questions you cannot answer and write them in a separate colour.
3. Write out the questions you got wrong on flash cards and test yourself regularly.
4. A few weeks after your first attempt at the questions re-quiz yourself from memory. Repeat steps 2 and 3.

Overview questions:

1. Who were the Anglo Saxons? **People from Germany and Scandinavia who controlled England before 1066.**
2. Who were the Normans? **Descendants of the Vikings who lived in Normandy in Northern France.**
3. Who were the claimants to the throne in 1066? **Harold Godwinson, Harald Hardrada, Edgar the Atheling and William Duke of Normandy.**
4. What do we mean by the term Norman yoke? **The idea that Norman rule was an oppressive burden on the Anglo-Saxon people.**
5. What does the term Anglo Saxon Golden Age mean? **An interpretation of the Anglo-Saxon period was one of peace and prosperity.**

Anglo Saxon England

6. What religion had the Anglo-Saxons been historically? **Pagan**
7. What religion were the Anglo-Saxons by 1066? **Catholic, Christian**
8. How was the Anglo-Saxon church different from the Norman church? **The bible was written in English rather than Latin. It has some pagan practises and magical beliefs such as beliefs in**
9. What were Anglo Saxon churches like? **They were wattle and daub – some worshipped under a Celtic cross.**
10. What were Anglo Saxon houses like? **Basic wattle and daub structures with a central hearth.**
11. What do we mean by the term Anglo Saxon democracy? **The idea that Anglo Saxons could help to choose the next author through the Witan.**
12. What was the Witan? **A council of the nobility who chose the next King.**
13. What was the Weirgeld? **The cash value of a human life if someone was murdered.**
14. Who was top of the Anglo-Saxon social scale below the king? **Earls.**
15. What were Thegns? **Landowners**
16. What were Ceorls? **People who worked on the land – peasants.**
17. What were Thralls? **The equivalent of slaves.**
18. Give one piece of evidence Anglo Saxon women were treated well and one piece of evidence they were treated badly? **They could own their own land or get divorced.**
19. Who was Edward the Confessor? **King of England 1042-1066.**
20. Who was Harold Godwinson? **The most powerful Earl in England who was declared king by the Witan in 1066.**
21. Name two other Anglo-Saxon Earls? **Edwin and Morcar**
22. Which Abbey was commissioned by Edward the Confessor in the Norman style? **Westminster Abbey**
23. How was Edward the Confessor related to Harold Godwinson? **He was married to Harold's sister Edith.**
24. What happened to Harold Godwinson in 1064-5? **He got shipwrecked off the coast of Normandy when going to save his brother and spent time in the court of William of Normandy. William claimed Harold promised him the throne.**
25. Who was Tostig? **Brother of Harold Godwinson and the Earl of Northumbria**

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26. Give one example of Anglo-Saxon culture. **Beowulf**

Invasion and Victory

27. **Why was William able to invade in 1066?**
defeated Harold's northern allied Earls' Edwin and Morcar.
28. How was William of Normandy connected to the English throne? **He was a distant relative of Edward the Confessor and claimed he had been offered the throne by Edward and Harold.**
29. Why did Harold Godwinson become King on Edward the Confessors death? **He was offered the throne by the Witan – he was the most powerful English Earl and related through marriage.**
30. What date with Edward die? **January 1066**
31. Why did Harald Hardrada believe he had a claim to the throne? **He claimed he was the rightful heir to the Scandinavian Kings between 1013 and 1042.**
32. What did William claim had happened in 1064? **He claimed when Harold was shipwrecked in Normandy he promised him the throne.**
33. What was a fyrd? **Anglo Saxon fyrd – part time defensive force he was made up of ordinary men.**
34. Whose claim to the throne did the Pope support? **William of Normandy.**
35. Name the three battles of 1066? **Stamford Bridge, Fulford and Hastings.**
36. Which battle came first? **Stamford Bridge.**
37. Who won the battle of Fulford? **The Scandinavians by Harald Hardrada**
38. Who lost the battle of Stamford bridge? **Harald Hardrada and the Vikings.**
39. Why were these battles a problem to Harold Godwinson? **His army became tired on the march home and many had to return to their land to farm.**
40. Why was William delayed? **His forces were ready to invade in August but could not invade until late September because he could not leave Normandy until the weather was dry and windy.**
41. Give one way William's background helped him win at Hastings. **Norman society was dominated by a Warrior aristocracy. Norman lords were bound to their subjects by vassallic bonds. Norman knights were highly trained and fought on horseback.**
42. **Give one way his personal qualities helped him win.**
43. Give one way luck helped him win – **Harold Godwinson's army were worn out from the journey back from Stamford Bridge.**
44. Give one way Harold's weaknesses helped William win. **They did not have a cavalry – they had a traditional method of warfare with a shield wall which they had to maintain. When they broke the shield wall it left them vulnerable.**
45. When was the Battle of Hastings? **28th September 1066.**

Resistance

46. Give one example of an early castle William built to control England. **Pevensey.**
47. What did William in March 1067 do which suggests he felt confident in his victory? **He went back to Normandy.**
48. Where was the major rebellion against William in 1068? **Exeter**
49. Who led this rebellion? **Harold Godwinson's mother Gyrtha.**
50. How did William respond to this rebellion? **He gouged out the eyes of the rebels and when Exeter**

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- surrendered he promised to protect the towns inhabitants.
51. Which part of the country began to rebel in 1069? **The North**
52. Who led this rebellion? **The nobles of Northumbria with Edgar the Atheling, King Malcom III of Scotland and King Swein of Denmark.**
53. What was the Harrying of the North and how was this related to the events of 1069? **William and the Normans marched through the North burning villages, damaging the land so it could not produce crops and killing the people.**
54. Who led a rebellion in the East? **Hereward the Wake.**
55. Which foreign powers were involved in this rebellion? **The Danish forces.**
56. How did William defeat this threat? **William besieged the Isle of Ely where the rebels were based.**
57. Who was Hereward the Wake? **He was an Anglo Saxon thegn whose land had been confiscated.**
58. Who was Gyrtha? **The mother of Harold Godwinson.**
59. Who were Edwin and Morcar? **Former Earls of Mercia.**
60. How would you describe William's response to rebellions?

Castles

61. What is a motte and bailey castle? **A Norman Castle with a mound (motte) topped with a keep with a defended surrounding enclosure (bailey).**
62. What material were they originally made from and what does this suggest about how / why they were built? **Wood – they were built at speed to conquer the land recently acquired.**
63. Where was the only area with castles before the Norman invasion? **The Welsh boarder**
64. What is the name for an Anglo Saxon fortified town? **Burh-geat**
65. Name two early castles built in the aftermath of the conquest **Pevensey and Hastings**
66. Why were castles built in the North of England in places like York? **To defend the local area after the Northern rebellions of 1068.**
67. Give one example of a castle built for military purposes – how do you know? **Exeter Castle - built after defeating rebels, had a ditch and rampart.**
68. Give one example of a castle built as a status symbol – how do you know? **Castle Acre – had a two storey keep used for monks, they diverted the Roman road to create grander views.**
69. Between 1066-1071 what was the main purpose of castles? **Military and defence**
70. After 1071 what was the main purpose of castles? **Status symbols demonstrate authority**
71. What were ringworks? **Circular earthwork banks surrounded by a protective ditch**
72. How many Norman castles had been built by 1087? **84**
73. What are the four different approaches to researching early Norman castles? **Looking at stone structures, surveying earthworks, looking at landscapes and digging castle sites.**

Conquest and control

74. What was presented to William at Old Sarum in 1086? **Domesday survey – a record of who owned the land and the value of people's possessions.**
75. What are the three different potential purposes of the Domesday Book? **Financial – to make sure they received all the taxes from the land. Military to know what military and financial**

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- resources were available to him when he faced invasion from the Danes. Legal – to settle land disputes between Anglo Saxons and Normans.
76. How was information for the book collected? Tenants in chief and government officials in each shire made lists of who owned the land and travelled around each region (known as circuits) and met the local courts to get information on who owned what.
77. What was the feudal system? The Norman social hierarchy with the King at the top, followed by Earls, Knights and Villains.
78. What did the Normans abolish in England? Slavery but it was already declining in England before 1066.
79. In 1086 what % of the population of England were Norman? 1%
80. By 1086 what % of land was owned by English landowners? 5%
81. Give two reasons the English lost their lands. Those who died had Hastings had their land taken from their family and given to the Normans who had supported William in the invasion. After rebellions William took the English nobles off their land and gave it to the Normans. Additionally, sometimes the Normans confiscated the land themselves.
82. What were the murdrum laws? If a Norman was murdered and his killer was not caught the whole village would have to pay a large fine.
83. What were the forest laws? Punishments if ordinary people used the Royal forests for resources or to hunt.
84. What did the Norman landowners demand from the English people? They hugely increased the geld (Anglo Saxon taxes)
85. How did religion change after the Norman invasion? Initially they stole precious objects and land from the church. Later they gave gifts of land to the church and founded new monasteries like Shrewsbury Abbey. They also rebuilt almost all the churches in England.
86. How did language change after the conquest?
- Old English was still spoken by the majority but the Normans changed old English to include French words. The main language of the government documents changed from English to Latin. By 1070 all government documents were written in Latin only