

NORMAN CONQUEST

REVISION GUIDE

NAME:

CLASS:

EXAM DATE:

Exam Question Help

Key Info:

- ✓ You will have an hour and 45 minutes to complete the paper. This means about a minute and a half per mark.
- ✓ The paper will cover both Crime and the Norman Conquest Unit.
- ✓ For the Norman Conquest section, you will get a choice from TWO 20 mark questions.

This will be what the Norman Conquest section will look like...

6. (a) In Interpretation A the historian Robert Bartlett argues that the 'Harrying of the North' had a powerful impact on northern England. Identify and explain one way in which he does this. [3]

Interpretation A – An extract from the script of *The Normans*, a BBC television series, 2010.

In 1069, William marched on York and crushed the rebellion. The Normans devastated the North of England. They sacked every village and farmstead as they went. Then William divided his troops into smaller bands who destroyed any crops and livestock they could find ...

A huge area across northern and central England was laid waste by this 'scorched earth' on the northern rebels. Plotting the settlements destroyed by the Normans shows the scar that was carved across the country by William's army. Sixteen years later, these areas were still desolate wasteland.

- (b) If you were asked to do further research on one aspect of Interpretation A, what would you choose to investigate? Explain how this would help us to analyse and understand the Harrying of the North.

[5]

7. Interpretations B and C are both illustrations of Norman motte-and-bailey castles. How far do they differ and what might explain any differences?

[12]

Interpretation B – An illustration of the Norman castle at Pickering in Yorkshire by the reconstruction artist Simon Hayfield. The illustration is in the book *Picturing the Past*. The book was published in 1997 and was aimed at adults.



Interpretation C – An illustration of a typical Norman castle in *Living in the Past: The Middle Ages* a history textbook written for primary school children in 1983.



Answer **either** question 8 **or** question 9.

8.* In an article for the *BBC History Magazine* in 2012, the historian Ryan Lavelle argued that late Anglo–Saxon England was “by no means a ‘golden age’”. How far do you agree with this view?

[20]

9.* According to a children’s history website, *www.MedievalEurope.MrDonn.org*, following his victory at Hastings, William ‘soon had conquered all of England’. How far do you agree with this view?

[20]

8 Mark Question

- ✓ You will get one of these.
- ✓ It will have TWO parts: 6a (worth 3 marks), and 6b (worth 5 marks).
- ✓ Pay close attention to the interpretation it provides. Spend time going over the interpretation, highlighting key words and phrasing, or labelling key features if it is an image (which it shouldn't be).
- ✓ The mark scheme is as follows...

Question 6a One mark for identifying one way the historian gives that impression. One mark for explaining how this is displayed – quote. One mark for explaining why he uses this technique.
Question 6b: Level 3 (5 marks) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shows knowledge and understanding of the topic.• Shows a strong understanding of types of research to explain clearly how the chosen aspect would improve our understanding.
Question 6b: Level 2 (3-4 marks) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shows knowledge and understanding of the topic.• Shows a general understanding of types of research to explain how further research would improve our understanding.
Question 6b: Level 1 (1-2 marks) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shows knowledge of the topic, but not completely focused and relevant.• Basic understanding of how historians research, and attempts to link these to an explanation of how looking at one aspect could improve understanding.

12 Mark Question

- ✓ This question will always be about two interpretations, and about comparing them.
- ✓ FIRST: Label the interpretations – what is different or similar about them? Pick out key details and key features. How far do they differ?

- ✓ **SECOND:** Look at the attributions – where they come from, author, date, audience. How are these different? Why might these explain some of the differences?

For example, the question above shows two impressions of a castle – they are different because of their audience (primary school and adults). They are also different because one is of a specific castle, whilst the other is an impression of a 'typical castle'.

- ✓ Have two sections for your answer based on the two sections above – how do they differ, and why do they differ.
- ✓ The mark scheme is as follows...

<p>Level 4: 10-12 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed analysis of the two interpretations - similarities and differences. • Gives a convincing and valid explanation of reasons why they may differ. • Convincing and well supported judgement of how far they differ.
<p>Level 3: 7-9 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed analysis of similarities and differences. • Gives a valid explanation of reasons why they may differ. • Generally valid and clear judgement on how far they differ.
<p>Level 2: 4-6 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some valid analysis on similarities and differences. • Reasonable explanation of one reason why they may differ. • Basic judgement about how far they differ.
<p>Level 1: 1-3 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies some differences and similarities between the interpretations. • Limited attempt to explain why they may differ. • Either no attempt to assess how far they differ, or there is an answer but it is completely unsupported.
<p>0 marks. No response, or no response worthy of credit.</p>

20 Mark Question

- ✓ This is where you will get a choice between two questions (see above for examples).
- ✓ You **MUST** use the PACE structure for this question...

<p>Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you agree or disagree? • A*: How <u>far</u>? 	
<p>Argument</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do you think this way? • Why might this interpretation have been formed? • What evidence is it based on? 	
<p>Counterargument</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why might another interpretation have been formed? • Why might people support this view? • What evidence is it based on? 	
<p>Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall, which interpretation of William do you agree with? • Why is your interpretation better than the opposite? 	

- ✓ You must consider why people might form these interpretations. The exam board suggests that there are **THREE** main reasons that might apply...

- Problems with the evidence: evidence at the time is based on little research, who wrote the evidence, the access to evidence, etc.
- The context they work in: when the interpretation was formed, was there anything that could have been affecting the writer?
- Drama and storytelling: what has it been made for? Could it exaggerate?
- ✓ This is where you can earn SPAG marks, so make sure you read through your answer when you have finished.
- ✓ The mark scheme is as follows...

20 Mark Question: Mark Scheme	
AO1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key features. 5 marks
AO2	Explain and analyse historical events and periods studied using second-order historical concepts. 5 marks
AO4	Analyse, evaluate and substantiate judgements about interpretations in context of historical events. 10 marks
Level 5 (17-20 marks)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong knowledge displayed. Shows a sophisticated understanding of the issues in the period, and provides a focused and convincing explanation. • Addresses the key interpretation, and understands how this is shown in the sources – picks out techniques. Fully evaluates the interpretation, giving a balanced and detailed judgement. 	
Level 4 (13-16 marks)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows accurate and good knowledge of the period. • Strong understanding of the key issues in the period, and provides a reasonably convincing argument. • Addresses the interpretation, and evaluates using the sources, and provides a decent evaluation of it, reaching a clear judgement. 	
Level 3 (9-12 marks)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurate knowledge used. Shows accurate understanding of the key issues in the period and provides a judgement which is explained. • Address the interpretation, and uses details from the sources to discuss it. Gives a partial evaluation, but not developed. Makes a generally convincing judgement. 	
Level 2 (5-8 marks)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some knowledge shown in answer. Shows basic understanding of the key issues in the period. • Addresses the issue in the question and can link the sources to it by considering key words, etc. • Basic evaluation, with limited explanation of ideas, and a judgement is reached but not explained or supported properly. 	
Level 1 (1-4 marks)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some knowledge shown, but very little or not quite accurate. Basic understanding of some elements of the period. • Addresses the issue in the question and picks out key words, etc. Either no attempt to evaluate or reach a judgement, or there is a point made, but not explained or supported at all. 	

Content of Unit

How is this unit organised?

You have FIVE areas to study – and they go in time order. Each area could be a 20 mark question, so you must consider the interpretations of each area.

1. Life in 1065.
2. William as Conqueror ('Lucky Bastard', 1066).
3. Resistance and Rebellion (first years in power).
4. Castles.
5. Impact of the Norman Conquest (including Domesday Book)

You could summarise each area into an overarching table, such as the one below for area number 2...

Evidence that William was a 'lucky bastard'.	Evidence that William earned and deserved the throne.

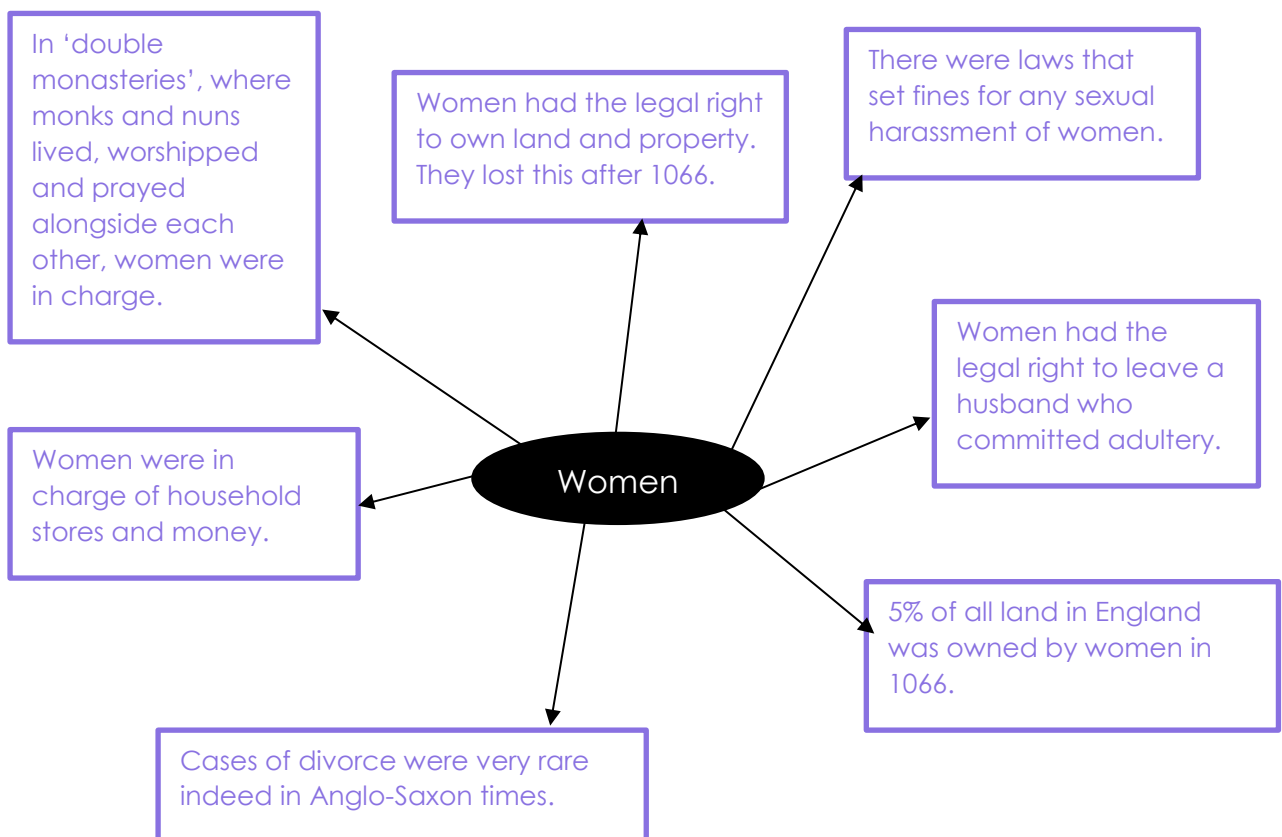
You may also find that you would like to make revision cards for each area, or overall summary sheets.

Section 1: Life in 1065

ANGLO-SAXON SOCIETY

The Kingdom of England

- Scotland was an independent country. The border region between Scotland and England was unsafe and unsettled.
- The people of the North and East of England were a mix of Anglo-Saxons and Vikings.
- Wales had its own kings and was independent from England until the 1200s. The word 'Wales' is from an Anglo-Saxon word for a foreigner, outsider or slave.
- By 1000, English kings had strong central control over England after a period of uncertainty. The land was divided into shires, and shires were divided into several royal 'burhs'. These were fortified towns that kept the community safe and protected.
- In most of England, burhs developed, markets grew and trade prospered.
- From 1003, the Viking invaders returned and defeated the English. Between 1014 and 1042, the Kings of England were Danes, but they kept the systems of burhs, shires and trade.
- England was one of the wealthiest and most efficient states in eleventh century Europe.



King

- Owned more land than anybody else.
- Raised taxes to pay for the nation's defences and for the burhs, roads and bridges.
- Was responsible for the work of the Church.
- Was responsible for justice.
- Edward the Confessor (king in 1065), was a poor warrior, and dedicated most of his time to the Church.

Earls

- These were the King's chief advisors.
- These earls and leading bishops formed the Witan, which were a group of advisors that even helped decide who should take the throne when a King died.
- Earls led the king's 'fyrd' (army) in times of war.
- In 1065, there were six earls, who came from just three families. One was Harold Godwinson.

Thegns

- There were roughly 5,000 thegns in England in 1065.
- They owned land and were relatively rich - in order to be a thegn you had to hold about 250 hectares of land.
- They ran the local courts and collected taxes.

Ceorls

- These made up the vast majority of the kingdom.
- Some had special skills like carpenters or blacksmiths but most worked on the land.
- They had to serve in the King's 'fyrd' in times of war and were also expected to repair roads and bridges.

Thralls/Slaves

- In most of Europe, slavery had died out by 1000, but it continued in England.
- They formed about 10% of the population, and were treated as property.
- They were not allowed to leave their area, and could be branded and physically punished.
- Some thralls were captured in war or were criminals

ANGLO-SAXON RELIGION

Character of the Church

- The Church had spread from Vatican City in Rome, and this Roman Catholic Church was brought to England in 597.
- In the south of England, people quickly took on the beliefs and rituals of the Church.
- In the North of England, a different Christian tradition was spreading from Ireland which had its own traditions and beliefs.
- In 1012, a Church manuscript was produced that showed that these religions might have been starting to merge.
- The Church was also different in England because parts of the Bible were written in English, not Latin. This was technically banned by the Roman Catholic Church.

Religion of the People

- Very few people could read in England in 1065, so the main way people would worship would be attending services and listening to gospels spread by Church figures like priests, monks and nuns.
- The English Church was more rural than in the rest of Europe, and people would meet in quite remote areas, and even in simple shelters when there was no permanent church building. It wasn't until after 1066 when each village had its own stone church.
- The Pope in Rome complained that the English Church had too many saints, so it shows that people had local traditions.
- Behaviour did not necessarily meet the Church's expectations - sermons from the time criticise binge-drinking, over-eating and indulging in sex on Holy days (Sundays).
- Sermons also criticise the English beliefs in magic and witchcraft.

Missed Opportunities

- In the tenth century, some excellent English church leaders were not allowed to make as many changes and improvements as they could of done.
- For example, St Dunstan who was Archbishop of Canterbury in 960 wanted to improve the English Church and set high standards.
- He worked to end corruption, improve the education of Church figures, insisted priests should not marry, and organised the rebuilding of religious structures.
- Edward the Confessor tried to continue the work from St Dunstan but due to resistance from even within the Church itself, this was unsuccessful.

Stigand

- By 1065, the Archbishop of Canterbury was a man called Stigand, and he was also the Bishop of Winchester.
- Holding two church positions was a sin in 1065 but Stigand refused to give up either post, as he was being paid for both. He was also accused of selling Church positions to the highest bidder, and was accused of being corrupt.
- This deeply angered the Pope, but Stigand chose to ignore his communications and continued.
- Under Stigand's leadership, most priests were poorly educated and were also allowed to marry.

ANGLO-SAXON CULTURE

Art

- Anglo-Saxon England was famous for its metalwork and engraving skills, with examples such as the Fuller brooch.
- One Norman chronicler describes English men as 'outstandingly skillful in all the arts', and that women were highly skilled at weaving with gold thread and embroidery.
- Precious metalwork and books were decorated with gold and jewels, and art like this was often stolen from England, or people would come from around Europe to buy these goods as they were such high quality.

Literature

- Around the year 1000, the Anglo-Saxons were starting to create alendars with maps of the world, information about astronomy and descriptions of far off lands.
- The most famous Anglo-Saxon work of fiction is the poem 'Beowulf' which is over 3,000 lines long. This poem was extremely popular then, and the story is still read today, and has even been made into a TV series.
- At the end of the 9th century, people began collecting records and a history of England, kept together in the 'Anglo-Saxon Chronicle'. It can be one sided but is also incredibly valuable.
- Many works mix sermons, poems, biographies, medical treatments and advice on grammar. The largest collection of these is the 'Exeter Book'.

Buildings

- The Anglo-Saxons built almost entirely out of wood, clay and straw.
- Most Anglo-Saxons lived in rectangular, single-storey houses with thatched roofs, but thegns lived in larger houses with two floors.
- Even though they were made from wood, some Anglo-Saxon buildings were remarkably fine. We know this from written descriptions.
- There were only castles in 1065 England, and all of these were recent buildings. Far more common were the 'burhs' that were built all over England, a few of these were made from stone and were built to protect local communities.
- The only stone building that most Anglo-Saxons would ever enter would have been a church. Even though some still gathered for worship around a stone cross, many villages had built in wood and then a stone shelter for worship.
- Edward the Confessor, towards the end of his reign, had built a palace in Westminster (known now as Westminster Abbey). It was longer and taller than any other church and was made with carefully cut stone and rounded arches. The official opening of the Abbey was on the 28th December 1065.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. WHAT DOES ANGLO-SAXON LITERATURE SUGGEST ABOUT THE INTERESTS OF ANGLO-SAXON PEOPLE?
2. WHAT DOES THE STORY OF STIGAND TELL YOU ABOUT THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH BY 1065?
3. FROM THE INFORMATION ON ANGLO-SAXON SOCIETY, WHAT WERE THE WEAKNESSES IN ENGLAND IN 1065?
4. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE LIVES OF ANGLO-SAXON WOMEN?
5. HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE WITH LIFE IN 1065 WAS A 'GOLDEN AGE'? COMPLETE THE TABLE BELOW TO GATHER YOUR IDEAS AND CONSIDER WHY TWO INTERPRETATIONS OF LIFE IN 1065 MAY HAVE BEEN FORMED.

'Golden Age'	Not a 'Golden Age'
Why might two interpretations have been formed?	

Section 2: 'Lucky Bastard'?

THE SUCCESSION CRISIS

In January 1066, Edward the Confessor lay on his deathbed. As Edward had no children, it was uncertain who would rule England after him. The events of 1066 were shaped by what the King may have said in his last moments.

There are three accounts of this...

From www.historyinanehour.com 'History for busy people', 2016

Edward offered his hand to his brother-in-law Harold, and placed the kingdom of England into his protection. After these important announcements, Edward fell back into a coma and died during the night of 5 January 1066.

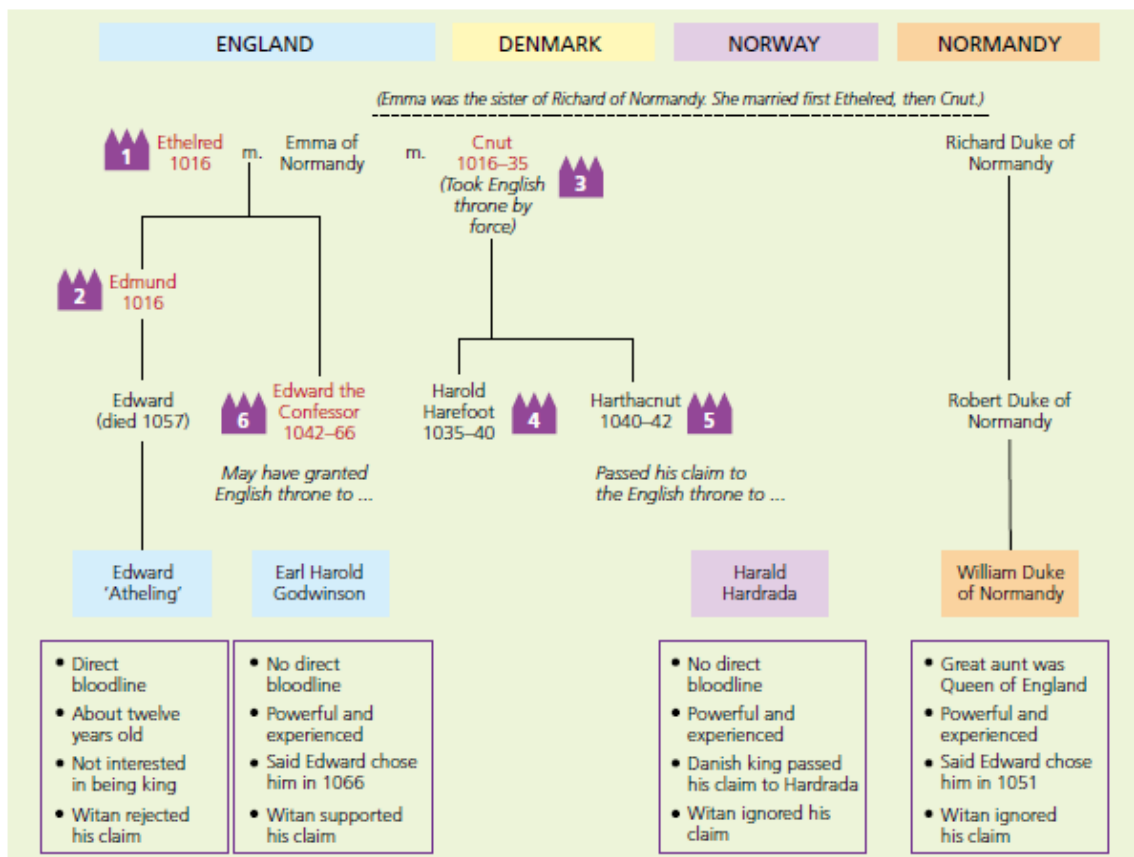
From *Edward the Confessor* by professional historian Frank Barlow, 1984

Even if Edward did recover consciousness just before the end, speak with a loud voice and make some sensible remarks, it is extremely doubtful that his mind was in a fit state to make a bequest. Moreover, we must admit that pressure could have been put on the dying man to say what was required, or words uttered indistinctly could have been interpreted by the archbishop in the sense he wanted.

From a novel, *The Last English King*, by fiction writer Julian Rathbone, 1997

Queen Edith knelt and put her ear close to the lips of the King. His throat rumbled like dry wattle in the wind, a bubble of spittle formed between his lips and burst. The King farted. The king died. Queen Edith stood up tall, looked down into the hall, spoke clear and loud like a trumpet, her voice filling all the spaces. 'My lord the King is dead'. She took a breath. 'These were his last words. "I do prophesy the Witan will choose Harold Godwinson to rule England in my place. He has my dying voice."'

The debates over this led to FOUR possible claimants for the throne initially. Quickly, Edward (Edgar) 'Atheling' was ruled out, leaving just three.



Earl Harold Godwinson was quickly named as King after he persuaded the Witan to name him, and on 6 January 1066, just hours after Edward the Confessor was buried, Harold was formally crowned King.

Reactions to Harold's Coronation	
Edward/Edgar	Accepted the situation. He was young, and had very little power.
Harald Hardrada, King of Norway	Was in the middle of a war with Denmark, so took no immediate action.
William, Duke of Normandy	Was furious and took immediate action by planning an invasion of England. He was certain that he should have had the throne, as he claimed that years before, Harold had even pledged him support. He gained the support of the Pope and spent spring building ships and training his men.

WILLIAM'S NORMAN BACKGROUND

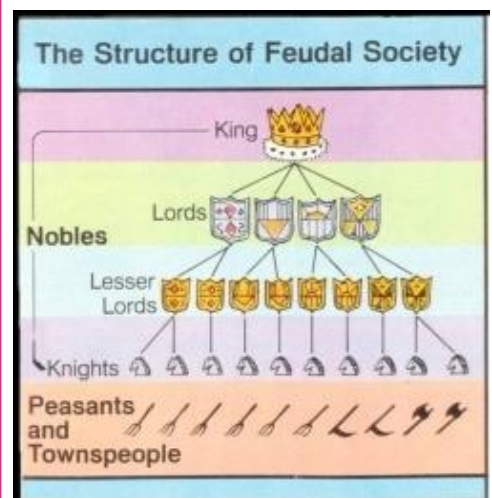
It is important to consider William's background and how this may have helped him on the path to becoming King...

Feature 1: The Feudal System

This was a system where there was a clear system of responsibility – the King controlled the dukes and counts, who ran areas of the country on his behalf. They then used the land and power from the King to rule those below them.

Strengths: Helps the King keep control of the whole country, and was a successful system for William – it showed he could rule effectively. This system was somewhat similar to the one in England, which helped him understand what England required of a King.

Weaknesses: This system relied on the good work of the dukes and counts, and relied on their loyalty to the King. Some has considerable independence and ruled their lands like private kingdoms.



Feature 2: The Strength of Normandy

Normandy was one of the strongest kingdoms in France. It had become independent in the early 10th century, and since then had doubled its territory by conquest and marriage alliances. They were able to use brutal force to crush any rebellions, and was very stable.

Strengths: Shows William can rule effectively. Strong army and tactics put him in a good position to conquer England.

Weaknesses: This led to some fear of the Normans, and what they were willing to do to gain lands.

Feature 3: Knights

As dukes and counts tried to build up the strength of their armies, they built up a number of loyal supporters with armour and weapons and kept them as full-time soldiers. With their chain mail, swords and shields, these professional soldiers were a strong force, and they were also able to fight on horseback. They became known as 'knights'.

Strengths: The Anglo-Saxons had never really developed this new way of fighting, making William's men must stronger and more well trained. Each knight had rigorous training that took years. William used the feudal system to reward these knights for their work, which made them incredibly loyal.

Weaknesses: It took time to build up this force and cost quite a bit of money.



Feature 4: Castles

The knights and dukes kept control by building strong defensive castles to keep themselves and their forces safe. There were two main types of castle: 'motte and bailey' castles, and 'ringworks'.

Strengths: Both types of castle could be built extremely quickly. They were excellent at defence as well as attacking.

Feature 5: Church

While England was drifting from its earlier high standards, Normandy was moving to the forefront of the Roman Catholic Church, gaining huge support from the Pope.

Strengths: Support from the Pope, and high morals.

Weaknesses: None!

Feature 6: William's Early Experiences

William became the Duke of Normandy at 8 years old when his father died. Almost immediately, Norman knights turned against each other and grabbed land and power for themselves. They built castles and challenged authority. Senior lords ruling on behalf of William were killed in battle or murdered. William had very few people to trust. BY 1047, another large-scale revolt took place and William took command and crushed the rebels. Over time, William proved to be good at tactics and a fearless soldier.

Strengths: Had successfully squashed rebellions previously, so William could take control of England if needed. He was good at military tactics. He had learnt to control and use those around him effectively. He was a strong soldier.

Weaknesses: William was a 'bastard', in that he was born illegitimately (parents weren't married). Technically, he should not have inherited Normandy, let alone England.

THE THREE BATTLES

Battle of Fulford

Harold was preparing for an invasion from Normandy, and by June 1066, he had thousands of Englishmen based along the south coast of England.

On 8th September, Harold gave up and disbanded his soldiers. Almost immediately, Harald Hardrada invaded from the North, landing near York.

Hardrada had Harold's brother Tostig with him, providing him with information on England.

When Harold heard the news he gathered his army and travelled north.

On the 20th September, the Northern earls were forced into battle against Hardrada at Fulford, south of York.

Hardrada won and took the city of York. The invaders rested there, waiting to take control of the rest of England



Battle of Stamford Bridge

On the 25th September, Hardrada and Tostig moved their army south to a nearby river crossing called Stamford Bridge.

They waited there, probably waiting to see if the surrounding Anglo-Saxons willingly surrendered.

King Harold had managed to march the 200 miles in barely a week and increased his army by gathering soldiers along the way. He surprised Hardrada and Tostig at Stamford Bridge.

Hardrada's forces were unprepared and were not even wearing full armour when they were attacked.

Despite King Harold's advantages, the two armies fought for hours and thousands died on each side, including Hardrada and Tostig.

Hardrada had brought 300 ships of soldiers from Norway, but only 24 returned.

The Battle of Hastings

William's army had been on the French coast for about 6 weeks before sailing to England, due to wind direction. The wait had been difficult to handle for William's 7,000 men, including 2-3,000 knights.

William's men raided the area around Hastings whilst waiting for Harold, when William heard on the 13th October that Harold was marching south to Hastings.

William's army set sail on the 27th September, and landed the day after at Pevensey, near Hastings. When he arrived, Harold was in the North having won the Battle of Stamford Bridge.

Harold still failed to attack the Normans with surprise. At dawn on the 14th October, William marched out to meet Harold's army.

Harold's army at Hastings was much smaller than it should have been. Many soldiers had died at Stamford Bridge, some were still in the North and others were still travelling. None of Harold's soldiers were on horseback.

Harold rode from York to London in less than 5 days, but his troops on foot could not manage this pace. This meant Harold had to find and gather new soldiers on his way to Hastings. He was advised to head for London and wait for his army, but he continued quickly to Hastings.

At 9am, the trumpets sounded and the battle was underway. The Normans tried to break the front line Shield Wall with arrows, and knights. Even after hours of this, the shield wall did not break.

Harold had found a battle ground that gave him an advantage – he positioned himself on the top of Senlac Hill, which meant he could line his front soldiers to make a Shield Wall.

Late in the day, the English were still holding against the Normans, and it was the death of Harold that gave William a victory. The well-known story is that Harold was killed with a lucky shot to the eye. The Bayeux Tapestry supports this. However, some describe Harold's death as more brutal and that he was cut to pieces by William's knights.

After hours of trying to break the shield wall, a group of Norman knights turned away from the battle line and rode away from the Anglo-Saxons. Harold's army followed, and the Normans were able to turn back around and kill them. Several Norman records say that William ordered his knights to do this twice more to break the shield wall, which it did.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. WAS KING HAROLD LUCKY TO DEFEAT HARDRADA AND TOSTIG?
2. LOOK AT THE THREE VERSIONS OF WHAT HAPPENED ON EDWARD'S DEATHBED. HOW DO THESE THREE DIFFER? WHY DO YOU THINK THEY SUMMARISE THE KING'S DEATH SO DIFFERENTLY?
3. CONSIDER WILLIAM'S NORMAN BACKGROUND – WHAT WAS HIS BIGGEST STRENGTH? WHAT WAS HIS BIGGEST WEAKNESS?
4. TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU THINK WILLIAM'S KNIGHTS WERE THE MOST CRUCIAL FACTOR IN HIS VICTORY?
5. COLOUR CODE THE INFORMATION BOXES FOR THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS, ACCORDING TO THE CATEGORIES BELOW...
 - A. LUCK
 - B. WILLIAM'S STRENGTHS
 - C. HAROLD'S WEAKNESSES
 - D. HAROLD'S STRENGTHS
6. HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE WITH THE IDEA THAT WILLIAM WAS JUST A 'LUCKY BASTARD'? COMPLETE THE TABLE BELOW TO GATHER YOUR IDEAS AND CONSIDER WHY TWO INTERPRETATIONS OF WILLIAM'S VICTORY MAY HAVE BEEN FORMED.

'Lucky Bastard'	Deserved and earned the throne
Why might two interpretations have been formed? <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; margin-top: 5px;"></div>	

Section 3: Rebellion & Resistance

THE FIRST UPRISINGS: 1066-68

Initial Steps as King

- Leading English lords formally submitted to William, including Edgar, and Edwin and Morcar, who led the Battle of Fulford against Hardrada.
- William claimed all English lands as his own, but allowed the English to buy it back from him. He gave the lands of those who died at Hastings to those who fought for him, or funded his army.
- He led an armed force through East Anglia (around Cambridge) where the Danes lived to establish his power. He built castles around the country.
- He put his half-brother, Odo, Bishop in France, in charge of the south-east in a castle at Dover.

William Returns To Normandy

- At the end of March 1067, William decided that England had settled enough for him to return to Normandy. He took some of the leading English nobles with him, being treated well, but ultimately hostages to ensure the English continued to follow William's rules.
- By the spring of 1067, ceorls and thralls were being forced to build motte and bailey castles for their new masters, the Normans. The Normans in England worked hard to be just and build up good relationships with the English.
- However, there are some records that show that the Normans were being brutal to the English whilst the English nobles were away.
- William stayed in Normandy and received news of nothing serious enough for him to get involved.



Mercia

- This was the first main uprising in England, taking place in August 1067.
- It happened around Hereford, near the border with Wales.
- It's leader was a powerful English thegn, called Edric the Wild, who had lost most of his land after 1066.
- He joined forces with the Welsh princes and raided Norman lands, causing devastation.
- This rising never really threatened William, and so he did not return from Normandy.



Exeter

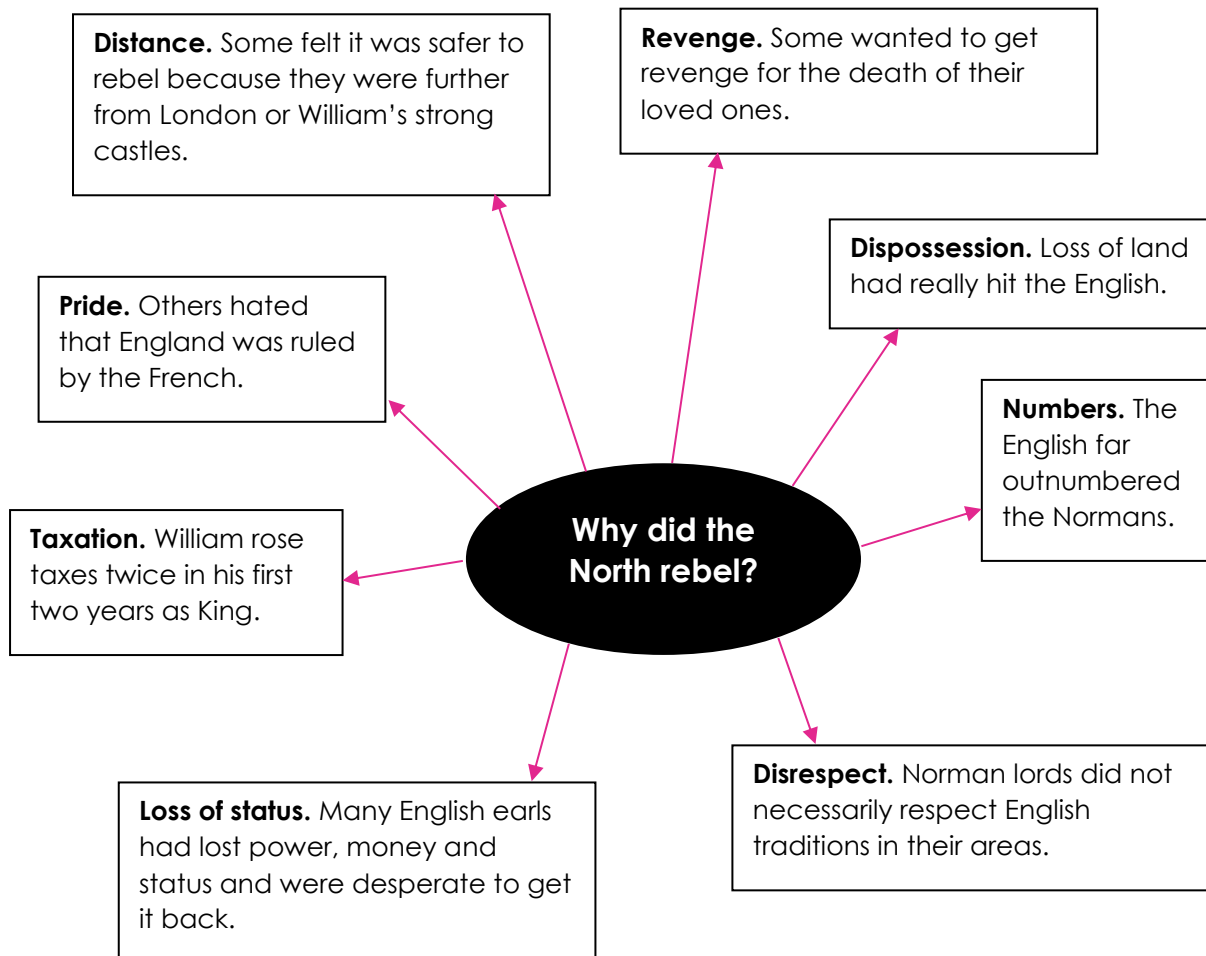
- In December 1067, William got word that a stronger rebellion may be forming, and so he returned from Normandy.
- He knew that the leader of the rebellion was a woman named Gytha, who was the mother of King Harold.
- Gytha had fled to Exeter after William's victory at Hastings.
- In early 1068, Gytha and the population of Exeter, who were loyal to her, began rebuilding the city's defences.
- Gytha also started plotting with Irish lords, who were protecting Harold's three sons.
- This posed a real threat to William, so he started by trying to win Gytha over, and negotiating about terms, which William refused to meet - such as never setting foot in Exeter and promising not to raise taxes.
- William then gathered his army and travelled to Exeter in February 1068.
- When William arrived at Exeter, several leading citizens came out to meet him and promised him that they would not stand against him. They left some of their men as hostages to prove their point.
- When their spokesman returned to Exeter, the other citizens were furious and refused to open the city gates to William.
- Seeing that Exeter had failed to keep the promise, William took one of the hostages and gouged his eyes out in front of the city gates.
- Exeter didn't give in and just got angrier - one man even stood on the castle wall and bared his bottom at William.
- William set siege to the city, surrounding it and waiting for them to starve.
- After 18 days, the hungry and thirsty people of Exeter surrendered.
- They went to William with gifts and asked for mercy, which William agreed to.
- He promised not to destroy the city, punish its people, or demand extra tax. He swore on the Bible.
- William immediately went into Exeter and built a large motte castle.

THE NORTHERN REBELLIONS: 1068-1070

Background

William seemed to be settling in England, and did several things to show the country that he felt secure...

1. William brought his wife Matilda over from Normandy, showing that he thought England was safe.
2. Matilda had her coronation on 11th May 1068, and she was crowned by the Archbishop of York. He showed that he did not agree with Stigand, but left him alone, showing he was willing to be peaceful.
3. At the coronation, both Norman and English lords attended, showing that William was trying to merge the two peacefully.
4. The document that recorded the coronation was written in both English and Latin, showing that William respected English traditions.



Summer 1068

- In the summer of 1068, William received a strange message from the North that said they would stand fight him if he ever came to the North.
- All the Northern Earls, including Edgar, Edwin and Morcar agreed to this.
- William marched to Earl Edwin's lands in the North, and began building a motte and bailey castle., tearing houses down in the process.
- The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle says that William 'allowed his men to harry (raid) wherever they came', attacking those who defied them.
- William then marched on Nottingham, then built yet another castle. By then, word had spread of William's presence and actions and some of the earls chose to surrender to him. William showed them mercy.
- William continued onto York, the capital of the North of England. By the time he arrived, the rebels had fled.
- In June or July, Harold's sons arrived from Ireland, and the people of the north fought for William and drove the sons away, showing their support.

Spring 1069

- After the rising of 1068, William made Robert of Comines the new Earl of northern Northumbria.
- At the end of January 1069, Robert led a heavy-handed attack on rebels at Durham. He and his army forced their way into the city and began looting and killing.
- The North reacted badly to this, and rebelled against Robert and William, attacking York.
- William went straight up to York with his army, and did not stop to build castles along the way. He caught the rebels by surprise and regained the city in a bloody battle.
- William left York in the hands of his most trusted friend and fight, William FitzOsbert.
- William then had problems in Devon, where Harold's sons had tried to invade again. William's forces in the area stopped the rebellion.
- In September 1069, Gytha tried to invade the North with help from Denmark, heading straight for York.

Winter 1069

- Gytha and the Danish invaded York on the 20th September 1069 but found it in flames - the citizens had set villages on fire and hidden within the castle walls.
- The rebels took what they could and hid in the marshes of Lincolnshire.
- In the west, others began to rebel once they heard the news. This also happened in Cornwall and Devon and men attacked William's castle in Exeter. Dorset and Somerset also had rebellions.
- William came up with a three-part plan to stop these rebellions once and for all...
 - Pay the Danish huge sums of money to leave.
 - Send for his crown to show people he was King.
 - Destroy the land, bringing destruction and fear.
- The Danish left, and William stop the rebellions in what is now known as the 'Harrying of the North'.

THE EASTERN REBELLIONS: 1070-1071

William and the Church

William began using the Church to help stabilise the country, and make important improvements. Some of the main changes were...

1. Stigand replaced as Archbishop of Canterbury, getting rid of leftover corruption. William put a Norman priest in this position instead.
2. Other senior church leaders were replaced by Norman priests and monks. Most of those who lost their post had showed support for the rebels. The King even imprisoned some for life.
3. William ordered all monasteries to provide men (or money) to serve the King as knights. This was common in Normandy but never done in England.

What happened in Ely?


In the eleventh century, Ely was an island that stood just a few metres above marshland. In June 1070, a group of Danish people stormed Ely and took control. These were the same men who took money from William and promised to go back to Denmark.

Their leader, the Danish King's brother, was in charge, but in May 1070, the Danish King himself arrived was cheered entering the city.

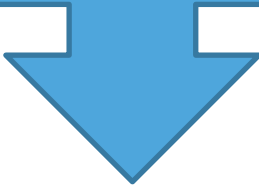
On 2 June 1070, just after the Danes took Ely, an English thegn called Hereward rebelled and raided an abbey in Peterborough, 30 miles away. Hereward led a large group of armed men into the town, burned most of its houses and stole valuables.

Having taken the treasures, Hereward presented them to the Danes to thank them for fighting the Normans. He joined forces with the Danes and they created a strong, well-protected based on the island of Ely.

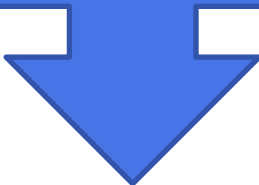
On hearing that the Danes had taken Ely, William acted quickly and arranged to meet the Danish King and agreed terms that caused them to sail back to Denmark. Hereward was left to fight the Normans on his own.



William was happy to let his local forces deal Hereward and sailed back to Normandy. When he returned, Hereward was stronger than before. He had gotten the support of the Abbot of Ely, an English bishop also joined his force, Edwin and Morcar left William and joined with Hereward and warriors from around England had travelled to join him. William decided that the rising in Ely was too serious to be left to the locals and gathered an army and travelled to Ely.



William sent ships to block supplies and to cut off access to the city. William's army started to build a causeway (type of bridge) across to the island. Hereward and his men managed to defend Ely for a while, but eventually William's army reached the island. They either marched across the causeway, or according to some sources monks betrayed the rebels and showed them a secret pathway.



The English surrendered, the powerful lords were imprisoned, and Hereward escaped. He continued to defy William, but there are no records of what actually happened to him.

Other rebels had their hands cut off or eyes gouged out.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. WHAT POSED THE BIGGEST THREAT TO WILLIAM FROM 1066 TO 1071? EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWER.
2. WAS WILLIAM'S THREE PART PLAN IN THE NORTH A GOOD ONE? WHY/WHY NOT?
3. WHO ARE EDWIN AND MORCAR AND WHAT DID THEY DO TO DEFY WILLIAM?
4. SUMMARISE THE REASONS FOR REBELLIONS AGAINST WILLIAM.
5. TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU THINK WILLIAM'S TACTICS WERE THE MOST CRUCIAL FACTOR IN HIS VICTORY IN THE EAST?
6. HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE WITH THE IDEA THAT WILLIAM'S FIRST FEW YEARS AS KING SHOULD BE DESCRIBED AS 'BRUTAL SLAUGHTER'? COMPLETE THE TABLE BELOW TO GATHER YOUR IDEAS AND CONSIDER WHY TWO INTERPRETATIONS OF WILLIAM'S REIGN MAY HAVE BEEN FORMED.

'Brutal Slaughter'	Alternative Interpretation
Why might two interpretations have been formed?	

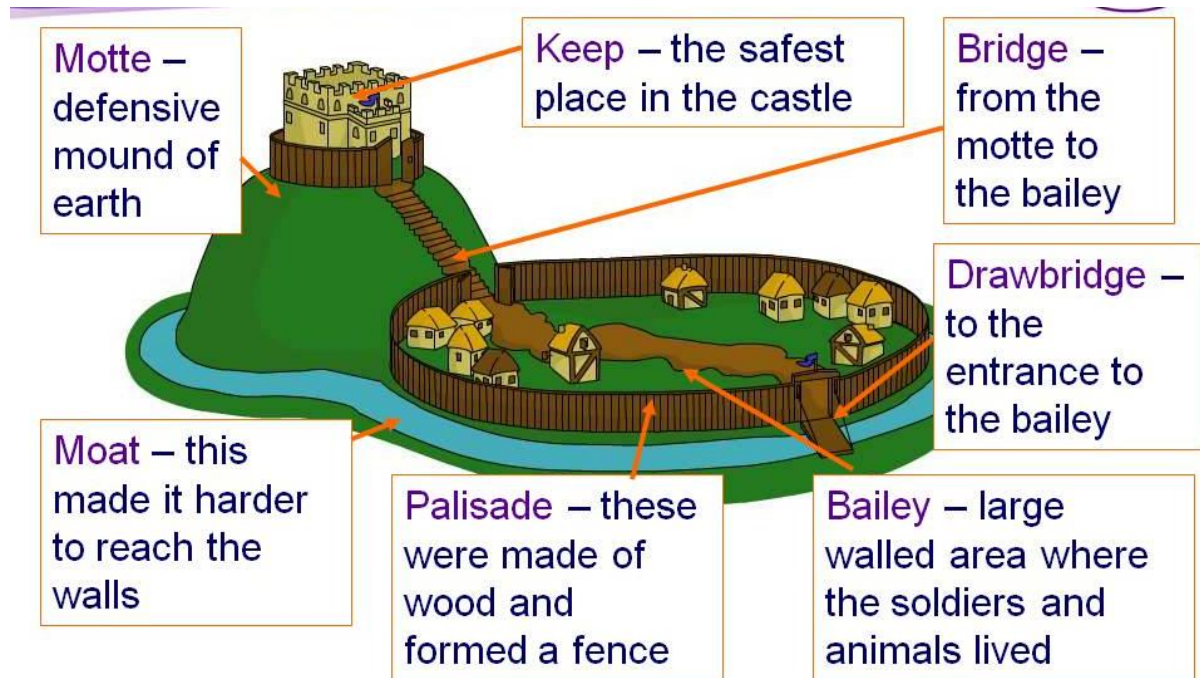
Section 4: Castles

WHAT WAS NEW ABOUT NORMAN CASTLES IN ENGLAND?

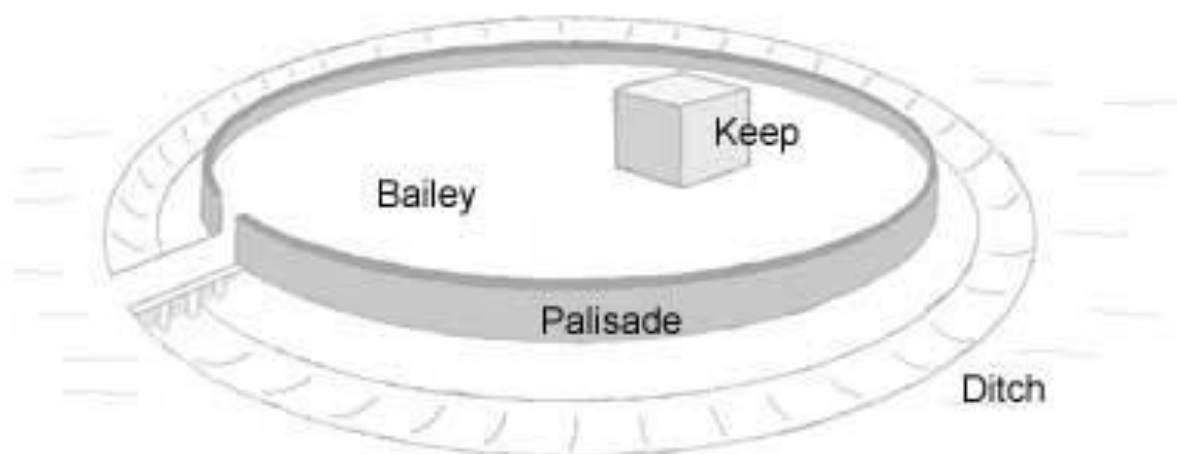
Continuity	Change
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the two centuries before the Norman Conquest, the Anglo-Saxons had built huge numbers of fortified sites.• Both Norman and Anglo-Saxons used palisade walls as part of the protection.• Archaeologists have shown that both favoured gatehouses.• The first three motte and bailey castles in England were built in Herefordshire in the 1050s – well before the Norman Conquest.• The first English records of motte and bailey castles were recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle in 1051 by a monk who had visited Normandy. This shows that the key features of motte and bailey castles was already known in England – wasn't new.• When William landed in Pevensey, he used the existing castle ruins from which to build his first castle.• The Normans are quoted as building 'whatever was easiest and most effective', so they weren't concerned with change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The type of castles built by the Anglo-Saxons were known as 'burhs', which were heavily walled towns.• The word 'castle' was first used to describe Norman motte and bailey castles.• William built his second castle at Hastings and created a motte there.• During William's marches to capture London in the autumn of 1066, he built several new castles, particularly one at Dover.• Castles played a vital role at the start of William's reign and enough type of castle that he built was a 'ringwork'.

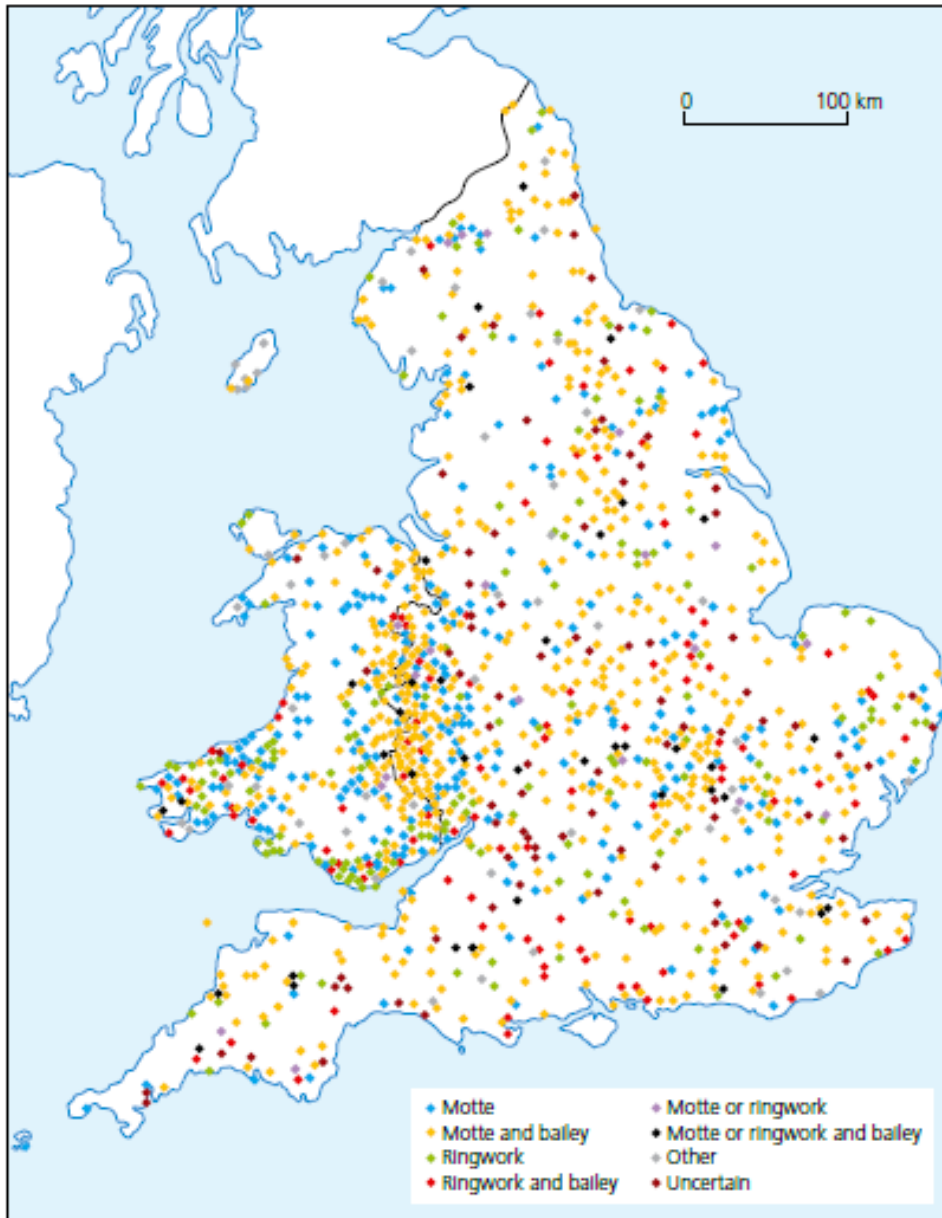
WHERE WERE NORMAN CASTLES BUILT AND WHAT DID THEY LOOK LIKE?

Motte & Baileys...



Ringworks...





A map showing the distribution of different types of Norman castles built by 1150.

1068-1071	1071-1087
<p><i>Key Info:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William built royal fortresses at Exeter, Warwick, Nottingham and York in this period. • The castle at York was crucial to William's reign and so the huge motte was over 60 metres wide at the base. • The King protected the road to the North by building royal castles at Lincoln, Cambridge and Huntingdon. 	<p><i>Key Info:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is impossible to say how many castles were built in this period, but the number was huge. The Domesday Book doesn't even provide helpful records – it only mentions 50. • Historians have estimated that there were around 1,000 castles in England and Wales by 1150. • Either way, there was a huge increase in castle-building in this period.
<p><i>Castle Builders:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William relied on trusted noblemen to establish Norman castles in different parts of England. • William divided Sussex into 6 lordships, who each built a castle. • William's half-brother, Robert built several fortresses. • William's trusted following William FitzOsbern built several castles along the Welsh border. 	<p><i>Castle Builders:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some continued to be built on William's ordered like the one in Newcastle. • However most of the Norman castles belonged to William's barons and knights. • Nearly all of the castles in this period were built in the countryside so were arguably built by lords to manage their lands and for status, rather than for defence.
<p><i>What the castles looked like:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most castles were timber motte and bailey castles, like the one at York. • There was some variation between castles. • A small number of castles, like the one in London, were built in stone. • Up to 25% of the castles in this period were ringworks. 	<p><i>What the castles looked like:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of what remains of these castles are ruins that don't offer much insight into what they looked like. • This suggests they were mostly made of timber.

WHAT WERE NORMAN CASTLES USED FOR?

There are disagreements between historians, archaeologists and others about the purpose of Norman castles. There have been three clear interpretations over time...

Traditional Interpretations

Many people initially thought that Motte and Bailey castles were built by the Romans and Saxons. Ella Armitage used maps and documents to show it was the Normans. Ella and other historians have argued that castles were militarily key to the Normans. However, they lived at the time of the two world wars, so not surprising they focused on the military.

Revisionist Interpretations

In the 1960s, people began to question the military interpretations of castles. They found that many castles were similar to Saxon castles and not particularly new. They found castles were actually quite weak, and suggested castles must have been more about showing off the status of the owner than serious defence.

Recent Interpretations

In recent years, some historians have argued that the revisionist interpretation has gone too far. They suggest castles were more than just expressions of status and power. Castles were military fortresses which played a crucial role in the brutal Norman occupation. Marc Morris has said "castles have to be regarded first and foremost as military installations".

There are FOUR ways that we can investigate the purpose of Norman castles...

Approach 1: Examining Structures

- Because so few Norman castles were built in stone, any surviving stone ruins are crucial in investigations.
- At Exeter, a very rare stone gatehouse survives.
- When archaeologists made a careful study of the Exeter castle gatehouse they found that the gatehouse was facing into the city, which would have been useless for defending the city.
- The entrance was extremely large, and had wooden doors - again, not brilliant for defence.
- Above the entrance, two large windows also display that this gatehouse was not necessarily built for defence.

Approach 2: Surveying Earthworks

- Most early Norman castles were built from timber and earth. These 'earthwork' defences can still be visible at some sites. Historic England have estimated that there are around 700 of these sites.
- Examination of these sites has found that ringwork castles were fairly simple and were not always completely surrounded by protective walls.
- It has also presented that motte and baileys were often built from moved soil if there wasn't a natural hill. Some mottes were steep and narrow, but others are low and wide.

Approach 3: Landscapes

- In the 1980s, researchers began considering the local areas to some Norman castles and found that more than 80% of Norman castles were built in the countryside. These were not well defended at times, and were mainly utilised as homes for the local lord.
- Castles were also found to have been built close to the location of Anglo-Saxon 'burhs', which were already defensive fortifications, showing no need for a castle.
- Some castles caused the local area to be changed to make the castle look more impressive. For example, in Castle Acre, a road had been moved in order to give better views of castle.

Approach 4: Digging Castle Sites

- These excavations are expensive and only a few sites have been investigated. One of those sites is Hen Domen on the Welsh border.
- At the top of the motte at Hen Domen, a large tower had been built which would have given excellent views of surrounding roads.
- They found a lack of luxury items which has led some to think that it was used for military purposes.
- The castle at Hen Domen had very strong defences, like double ramparts and deep ditches, making it difficult to attack.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. DESCRIBE A NORMAN RINGWORK CASTLE.
2. DESCRIBE A NORMAN MOTTE AND BAILEY CASTLE.
3. WHAT EVIDENCE IS THERE TO SUGGEST THAT NORMAN CASTLES WEREN'T COMPLETELY NEW TO ENGLAND?
4. WHAT CHANGES IN CASTLE BUILDING WERE THERE?
5. EXPLAIN THE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES IN CASTLES DURING 1068-71 COMPARED TO 1071-1087.
6. RESEARCH THE TOWER OF LONDON AND MAKE A FACT FILE.
7. HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE WITH THE IDEA THAT NORMAN CASTLES WERE MAINLY BUILT AS 'STATUS SYMBOLS'? COMPLETE THE TABLE BELOW TO GATHER YOUR IDEAS AND CONSIDER WHY TWO INTERPRETATIONS OF CASTLES MAY HAVE BEEN FORMED.

Status Symbols	Military Fortresses
Why might two interpretations have been formed?	

Section 5: Impact of the Norman Conquest

THE DOMESDAY BOOK

Two things to remember...

1. It is not one book. Originally, it was two books – Little Domesday (just the counties of Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk), and Great Domesday (the rest of England).
2. It's official name was not the Domesday Book. It was known as the Book of Winchester, the King's Book, or the Book of the Treasury.

Why?

- The idea was formed during 1085, when William was faced by an invasion from the Danish.
- He came up with an unexpected plan - create a survey of the entire country.
- This would provide him with a list of every piece of land and property in his kingdom.
- Many historians believe William ordered this for taxation purposes. However, some believe it was a way for Norman lords to establish their legal right to English land.

How?

- William organised the 34 English shires into 7 main areas.
- He appointed 4 commissioners in each main area to collect the information. They asked the same questions.
- They asked about the resources of each manor, the amount of land, the type of land (marsh, woodland, etc), the type of people who lived on the manor, as well as value of property and land.
- They had to collect this information in 6 months. Some inquests were held to decide some issues surrounding ownership, land size and value.

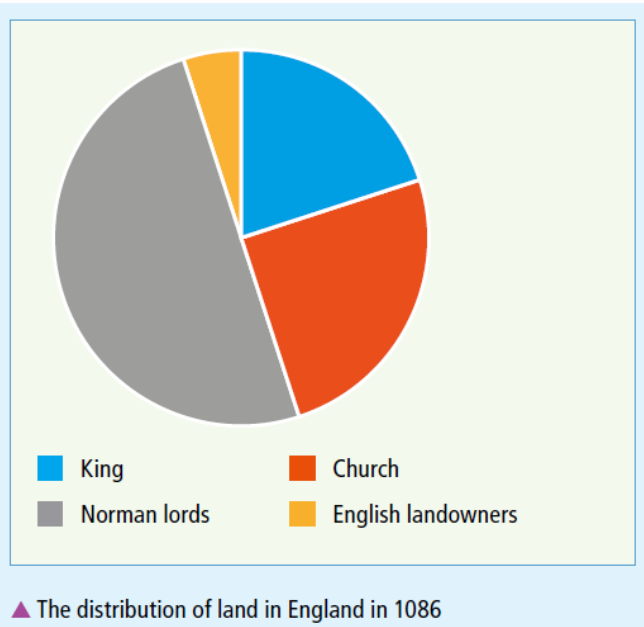
Result

- Once they had gathered the information, the commissioners had to write up their findings, which ended up being seven long documents presented to the King.
- The records contained around 2 million words, 832 parchment pages, which were made from the skins of 200 calves and sheep.
- When William died in September 1087, the write up still wasn't complete.

IMPACT ON LAND

New Lords

- The Domesday Book revealed that hardly any English thegns had held onto their land by 1086.
- Of the 180 tenants, only 4 were English.
- Historians estimate that by 1085, the King owned 20% of the land, leaving just 5% in English hands.
- Between 1066 and 1087, it is estimated that a lot of English people migrated to different countries like Scotland and Ireland.



Case Study: Alan Rufus

- Alan Rufus, second cousin to William, played a crucial role in the Battle of Hastings and in the months after the battle, Alan's forces headed north to Cambridge where they began to build a castle.
- In 1069, Alan helped put down the rebellion in the north and was rewarded with a large amount of land, all of which used to belong to English earls.
- By 1086, Domesday Book records that Alan owned lands in 12 different shires across England, which gave him the income of £1,100 a year, which would make him a billionaire today.
- He was the sixth richest Norman in England.

New Lordship

- New Norman lords like Rufus ruled their lands very differently to what the English were used to...
- Anglo-Saxon thegns usually had only one name, but the Normans often attached a place name to their first name to show ownership of land.
- Anglo-Saxon thegns had divided up their property when they died, but the Normans made sure it passed entirely to the eldest son.
- The Normans built castles at the centres of their estates and often rules their lands harshly.

IMPACT ON MONEY

Manor Life

- After 1066, England continued to be a rural society with 90% of the population working in agriculture.
- In many ways, farming continued as before.
- Despite the continuities, the Norman Conquest did bring big change for everyday life on the manor.
- For example, the number of Saxons who were free dropped dramatically. For example, in the village of Bourn in Cambridgeshire, a section of land was farmed by 20 free peasants in 1066. By 1086, more than half had become dependent workers who were forced to pay rent to a lord for the land.
- The Norman Conquest limited many people's freedoms and their ability to make a living.
- However, the number of thralls/slaves dropped dramatically - by 1086, the number of slaves in England had fallen by 25%.
- Some landowners increased their profits by rising rent prices, leading many English people into poverty.
- Many lords also forced Saxons to build castles as repayment for rent, and were prevented from fishing or hunting for food.

Towns & Taxes

- In 1086, 10% of English people earned their living in a town. In parts of southern England, some existing Saxon towns expanded and a small number of new towns were created.
- This was linked to an increase in trade between England and Normandy.
- In the early years of the Conquest, towns in rebellious areas were attacked and burned.
- Castle building in town often resulted in homes being teared down.
- Some large towns like York and Oxford suffered a big fall in population. For example, Stafford had only 179 house in 1086 and 40% of these were empty.
- The markets in these town were seen as a valuable source of income. After 1066, Norman lords seized control of nearly all market trading in England.
- Taxes increased, particularly in 1067 and 1068 to pay for the forces that kept England under William's control.

IMPACT ON LAWS, LANGUAGE AND THE CHURCH

Laws

- William introduced several laws after 1066 including trial by combat.
- He also introduced the 'Murdrum Fine' where if any Norman lord was murdered, the English in the area were forced to pay a crippling fine.
- Another law introduced was the 'Forest Law', which prevented the English from hunting in royal forests and included harsh penalties if they were caught.

Language

- Most of the books produced in England after 1066 were written in Latin, which was a big change because previously they had been written in English.
- The Norman Conquest brought a sudden end to the use of English as a written language.
- By 1070, most of the men in power could not understand English so stopped using it.
- Latin became the written language of the government and the Church.
- Spoken language also changes as England's new rulers spoke Norman French - the use of the two languages served as a reminder to the English that they were now foreigners in their own country.
- Over the years, English and French did begin to blend together, with introductions of French words leading to words like 'justice', 'court', 'music' and 'melody'.

Church

- In 1070, the Norman Conquest of England had been given the official approval of the Pope.
- New appointments of Norman bishops and abbots quickly followed. By 1080, only one of the 16 English bishops remained.
- The Norman Conquest also led to an almost total rebuilding of England's cathedrals, such as at Canterbury, York and Ely.
- In 1066, there were around 60 monasteries in England. The Norman Conquest led to a revival of these and more were formed. The Norman Conquest led to a huge transfer of wealth from English monasteries to Normandy.
- At the time of the Norman Conquest, England contained hundreds of parish churches in towns and villages. The Normans destroyed them and built new churches in their place, dedicating these new churches to their saints.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. DESCRIBE THE STORY OF ALAN RUFUS.
2. WHAT BENEFITS DID THE NORMAN LORDS RECEIVE AFTER 1066?
3. WHAT DO YOU THINK WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT CHANGE TO THE LIVES OF THE ENGLISH AFTER 1066?
4. EXPLAIN THE DOMESDAY BOOK AND IT'S IMPORTANCE.
5. EXPLAIN THE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES IN LAWS BEFORE AND AFTER 1066.
6. DESCRIBE THE CHANGES IN LANGUAGE.
7. HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE WITH THE IDEA THAT THE NORMAN CONQUEST WAS A 'TRUCK-LOAD OF TROUBLE'? COMPLETE THE TABLE BELOW TO GATHER YOUR IDEAS AND CONSIDER WHY TWO INTERPRETATIONS OF THE NORMAN CONQUEST MAY HAVE BEEN FORMED.

'Truck-load of trouble'	Alternative View
Why might two interpretations have been formed?	