

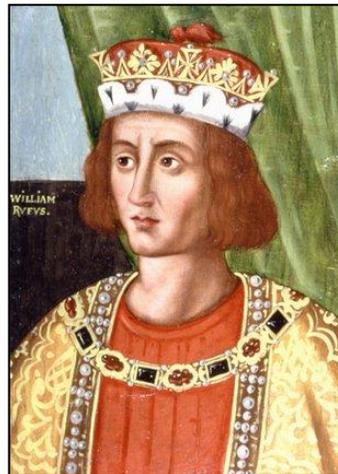
# Norman England, 1066 – c.1100

## British Depth Studies

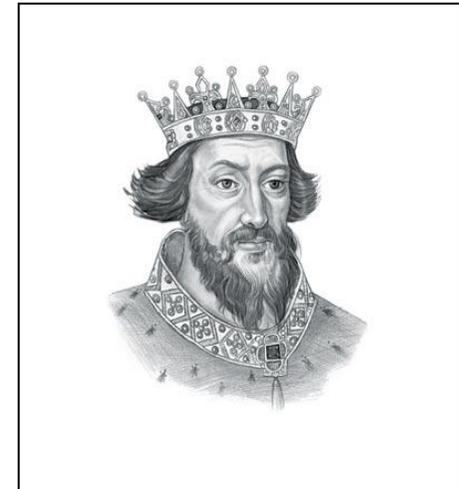
### Paper 2 Section B



**William I**  
1066 – 1087



**William II (Rufus)**  
1087 – 1100



**Henry I**  
1100 – 1135

## Claimants to the throne of England, 1066

In 1066 Edward was seriously ill. A succession crisis was about to happen. There were four men who believed that they had the right to be the next King of England.

### Edgar Aetheling: The Nearest relative



- He was the dying king's nearest blood relative.
- Edgar's father, Edmund had been named by Edward as his successor but had died in suspicious circumstances.
- Edgar and his sister had lived with Edward and was treated as an adopted son.
- Edgar was an Anglo-Saxon and had the support of many earls.
- In 1066, Edgar was 14 years old, had no money, no soldiers or military expertise.

### Harald Hardrada: The Viking



- Harald was from Norway
- Hardrada claimed that King Harthacanute had promised his father Magnus, King of Norway the English throne. However, when Harthacanute died, Magnus was defending his lands from attack and was unable to come to England. As a result, Edward took the throne instead. Harald Hardrada believed that this made him the rightful King of England.
- Tostig, Harold Godwinson's brother supported Harald Hardrada. He promised him support from northern England. Many people in the north of England had Scandinavian roots and so might have supported him.

### William, Duke of Normandy



- He was a cousin of Edward
- William claimed that Edward had promised him the throne in 1051. In this year the Godwin family had rebelled against Edward. William had given his support to Edward and as a result was promised the throne.
- William also claimed that Harold Godwinson had promised, under oath, to help him become King of England in 1064.

### Naming a successor

A king could name his successor before he died in a written will. (*post obitum*). A successor could also be named on the death bed of the king in the presence of witnesses (*Novissima verba*).

However, the English and Normans had different viewpoints about the naming of a successor.

### English custom

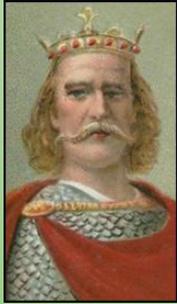
The English regarded the King's 'last words' as more important than promises made earlier in the reign. Unless the named successor had been crowned.

### Norman custom

In Normandy the earlier promises were seen as final and could not be undone later, even on the king's death bed.

This difference in custom is important in the crisis that followed Edward's death in 1066.

## Harold Godwinson



- Harold was the most important earl in England as Earl of Wessex and Edward's brother-in-law.
- He was **sub-regulus**, a deputy king who ran England for Edward and represented him in battle from 1060 onwards.
- Harold said that Edward had promised him the throne on his deathbed. He was supported in his claim by all the English nobles (except for his brother Tostig, as they had fallen out).
- He also had support of the Witan – the leading earls and churchmen who acted as advisors to the King.
- Harold did not deny making an oath to William but claimed it was one of loyalty not a promise to help him become king. Harold also claimed that the promise had been made under force as he was William's prisoner. Therefore, the promise was not binding.

### **Possible exam questions**

- Write an account of the problems caused by the death of Edward the Confessor in 1066. (8 marks)
- Explain what was important about Edward the Confessor's lack of an heir in 1066. (8 marks)
- Explain what was important about William, Duke of Normandy's claim to the English throne. (8 marks)
- Explain who had the most convincing claim as King of England, Harold Godwinson and William, Duke of Normandy. (8 marks)
- Explain what was important about Harald Hardrada's claim to the English throne. (8 marks)
- Why was Edgar Aetheling not chosen by the Witan to succeed Edward the Confessor as King of England in 1066? (8 marks)

### Who should be king?

Harold had the strongest claim for the throne. He was the most powerful earl in the country. As Earl of Wessex he also had the richest earldom. Harold was also Edward's brother-in-law. Although the Godwin family and Edward had fallen out towards the end of his reign the argument had been resolved. Edward made Harold his sub-regulus, deputy king. This showed how important Edward viewed Harold as in this role he was virtually running the country. Therefore, Harold becoming King was the obvious choice particularly as he had the support of the other Anglo-Saxon earls and Witan. However, it is unclear as to who promised what and to who in the years running up to Edward's death. Did Edward promise the throne to William during the fall-out with the Godwin's? It is this lack of clarity that caused the crisis. William also put great store on his argument that Harold had promised to help him become king. He even depicted Harold taking this oath in the Bayeux Tapestry, showing him to be an oath breaker. This was because without this William's claim lacked legitimacy. Therefore, Harold was the man the country wanted as king.

### **Topic summary – the succession crisis in 1066**

- England had a troubled history in the years leading up to the death of Edward.
- There were no clear rules in place for succession to the English throne.
- Edward was a weak ruler. He increased the Norman influence at court and allowed the Godwin's to increase their power.
- Of the four claimants Harold's was in the strongest position as sub-regulus. In this position he was virtually in charge of the country.
- Harold's greatest rival for the throne was from William, Duke of Normandy.
- Harold was hurriedly crowned the day after Edward's death. The speed of his coronation showed how insecure he felt about his position as he knew that he would face challenges from the other claimants.

## Battle of Fulford Gate and the Battle of Stamford Bridge

From the moment that he was crowned King of England Harold Godwinson knew that he faced a number of challenges to his throne. He headed south in order to prepare for an invasion by William, Duke of Normandy. He also left an army in the north of England under the command of Earls Edwin and Morcar in order to protect the country should an invasion come from Harald Hardrada.

### The early exchanges

Harold spends the summer waiting for an invasion from either Hardrada in the north or from William in the south.

The fyrd (the ordinary peasant soldiers) are allowed to go home as they need to harvest crops

As soon as the fyrd had left Hardrada arrived in 300 ships. They sailed up the river Humber and landed 10km from York.

Battle of Fulford Gate  
The northern army attempted to stop Hardrada from reaching York at the Battle of Fulford Gate.



Harald Hardrada was the first to invade. Harold Godwinson had to let his northern army deal with this threat while he waited for William in the south.

### OUTCOME

- Hardrada and the Vikings won because more soldiers from Norway arrived so they outnumbered the Anglo-Saxons. Vikings had 7,000 men compared to the 3,500 Anglo-Saxons.
- Both sides suffered heavy losses
- The northern army was disorganised and scattered. Earls Edwin and Morcar fled the area.
- The defeat here means that Harold Godwinson has to act quickly in order to deal with the Viking threat.

### Battle of Stamford Bridge

- Harold was in a very difficult situation because he had allowed his army to return home to harvest their crops.
- Harold has to head north to face the Vikings with his private army. On the march north he recruited extra men.
- Four days later he reached the outskirts of York and the Viking soldiers who were camped on the other side of the river Derwent.
- The Vikings had not defended the bridge over the river, so Harold used this to get to his enemy.
- The battle was long and bloody – Hardrada and Tostig were both killed.
- The Vikings came in 300 ships but only needed 24 ships to take the survivors home.
- The threat had been successfully dealt with.

Could be true?



Some suggest that there was a giant Viking on the bridge with an axe preventing the Anglo-Saxons from crossing. He was eventually killed by a cunning Anglo-Saxon who floated under the bridge in a barrel and stabbed the Viking between the legs.

## Battle of Hastings, 14<sup>th</sup> October 1066

Harold's victory at Stamford Bridge was short lived. This was because three days later William, Duke of Normandy landed on the south coast of England.

<p>1. William landed at Pevensey while Harold was still fighting at Stamford Bridge. William wanted to provoke Harold and so he made his way along the coast towards London, attacking and burning villages as he went. At Hastings William decided to make his stand, placing his troops at the bottom of Senlac Hill.</p>	<p>2. The battle started at 9am when Norman archers fired on the Anglo-Saxons who were positioned at the top of the hill. However, the archers were too close and their arrows flew over the heads of the Anglo-Saxons. The Anglo-Saxons had formed a shield wall, overlapping their circular shields. This was a very effective way to defend their position.</p>	<p>3. The Norman infantry attacked but the shield wall held firm. However, a section of the Norman army ran away and were chased by members of the fyrd. The fyrd got stuck in the marshy land at the bottom of the hill. The Normans turned and slaughtered them. This tactic became known as the feigned retreat. The Normans used it again and slowly reduced the men in the shield wall.</p>
<p>4. At midday there was a break in the fighting allowing both sides to tend the wounded. William moved his archers further back so their arrows would now hit the Anglo-Saxons positioned on the hill.</p>	<p>5. William sent in his cavalry which led to heavy casualties on both sides. The Anglo-Saxons maintained their position and so the Normans once again used the feigned retreat tactic. William then used his archers and ordered his infantry and knights to attack on foot.</p>	<p>6. By 4pm the Anglo-Saxon shield wall started to disintegrate and the Normans broke through. The Anglo-Saxons formed a defensive position around Harold. He was then hit by an arrow and then set upon by the Normans. Seeing Harold killed the fyrd broke ranks and fled the battle.</p>

### Why did William win the Battle of Hastings?

<p><u>William's superior tactics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• William prepared thoroughly before he invaded. Bringing with him a range of well-trained soldiers, including archers, knights and infantry,</li> <li>• William gained the support of the Pope so the Normans believed that they had God on their side and if they died, they would go straight to heaven.</li> <li>• William had time to rest his army and train them on the battlefield. He also brought all of the equipment he needed to build castles and feed his army and horses.</li> <li>• William's army was highly organized with a good system of communication.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Harold's mistakes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harold hurried to face William instead of waiting for an extra 20,000 soldiers to join his army. These soldiers were in London with Earls Edwin and Morcar.</li> <li>• Harold knew the tactics that the Normans would use. However, he still used the old Anglo-Saxon shield wall technique.</li> <li>• Harold chose to fight on foot – this made it difficult for him to communicate with his troops or give orders.</li> <li>• In the spring of 1066, Harold had split his army. When the northern army was defeated at Fulford it had to march south to Hastings</li> </ul>	<p><u>Luck</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both Hardrada and William invaded England at the same time.</li> <li>• The weather delayed William's invasion so Harold had already fought Hardrada. This led to losses and tiredness within the Anglo-Saxon army.</li> <li>• The double invasion occurred during harvest season, which led to desertions in the Anglo-Saxon army.</li> </ul>
--	---	---

## Conclusions

Hastings was a close battle. William won because he had better tactics and was a more effective commander of his army. The Norman army was also more flexible. They were more experienced and were better disciplined.

The Anglo-Saxon shield wall worked well for a long time. During the battle William was prepared to take more risks. He fought on horseback so he was a visible target. It is said that the three horses William used were killed so he was also lucky not to have died too.

When Harold was killed and the Anglo-Saxons defeated William had overcome the first obstacle in his attempt to conquer England.



**INTERPRETATION A: *The lone Norseman, painted in 1970***

How convincing is **Interpretation A** about the Battle of Stamford Bridge?  
Explain your answer using **Interpretation A** and your contextual knowledge (8 marks)

### Topic summary – why did William win the Battle of Hastings?

- Harold Godwinson became king when Edward died, but he knew that he was likely to face challenges.
- Godwinson faced threats from both Hardrada and William of Normandy.
- Both William and Harold made extensive preparations for war and both assembled large armies and navies.
- The Battle of Stamford Bridge was a convincing victory for Harold but the Anglo-Saxons arrived at Hastings exhausted.
- The Battle of Hastings was very close.
- The Normans used archers and cavalry, while the English relied on foot soldiers and had-to-hand fighting.
- William won the Battle of Hastings due to a combination of superior tactics, better leadership, the flexibility and discipline of his troops as well as a little luck.
- By winning the battle, William cleaned the path to become king, but he had much more work to do to fully secure the English kingdom as his own.

### Possible questions (Historic Environment 2019)

- “William won the Battle of Hastings as a result of his superior tactics”. How far does a study of the key events of the Battle support this statement?  
Explain your answer. You should refer to the Battle of Hastings and your contextual knowledge. (16 marks)

### Possible questions

- Explain why Hardrada won the Battle of Fulford Gate but not the Battle of Stamford Bridge. (8 marks)
- Describe and explain the importance of William’s preparations for the invasion of England (8 marks)
- Write an account of how William won the Battle of Hastings. (8 marks)

## Establishing and maintaining control of England – dealing with revolts and the Harrying of the North (1067-1075)

After the Battle of Hastings, William buried Harold Godwinson. He left the bodies of the Anglo-Saxon army where they had died. Although William had won it did not mean that he would automatically become the King of England. William only controlled a small area of the country. He now needed to gradually impose his control over the rest of the country.

### Step 1: Hastings to London

- After the Battle William waited at Hastings but the main English earls did not go and surrender to him. They wanted Prince Edgar to become King.
- William left some soldiers at Hastings and went to Romney. Here he punished the town for killing Normans. The town was burnt and key people killed.
- Dover was next, but the town quickly surrendered knowing what had happened at Romney. At Canterbury the town promised loyalty to William as they were scared of what he might do.
- As a result of William's terrorising the Kent towns the Anglo-Saxons were scared. Edgar was too young despite the support that he had. Therefore, in order to keep their positions and power the Anglo-Saxon earls, including Edgar, went to William and swore an oath of loyalty. William was then crowned King on Christmas Day, 1066.

### Step 2: Dealing with the powerful English (Anglo Saxon) lords

- William claimed that he was the rightful King because Edward had promised him the throne. This was his proof that he was the LEGITIMATE heir.
- Anglo-Saxon earls and lords pledged loyalty to William. In return they kept their titles and lands. William tried to win them over by giving Prince Edgar land. Earl Waltheof also married William's niece. Earl Edwin married William's daughter. Other Earls were allowed to buy land from William.
- Those that had fought and died at Hastings lost their lands. The land was given to Normans as a reward for supporting William.
- In March 1067, William felt that his position in England was strong enough so he could return to Normandy. England was left in the control of his half-brother Bishop Odo. However, William took with him Earls Edwin and Morcar and Edgar so they could not cause trouble in his absence.

### Step 3: the early revolts

- Despite William's attempts to win over the Anglo-Saxon earls most still opposed Norman rule. This was because they were seen as foreign rulers.
- Unrest was inevitable because:
  - They cleared land from Anglo-Saxons to build castles
  - Took land from those who fought against them at Hastings
  - Taxes were collected to pay for the building of castles
- There were many local revolts, but over the next few years they got more serious. Normans were murdered and attacks were made against them.

#### Wales

Welsh kings started to plunder towns on the border with England. Normans lost many men when they fought to regain control of the border.

#### South West

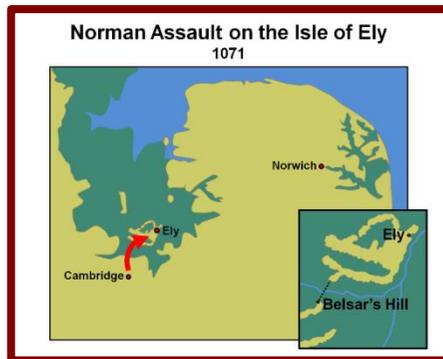
City of Exeter refused to swear loyalty to William. He returned from France and laid siege to the city for 18 days. The English lords gave in. William built a castle in the city but reduced the taxes. Godwinson's sons who'd fled to Ireland attempted to invade but were defeated as the city of Exeter would not support them.

### Step 4: Harrying the North

- The north had always been a difficult area to control even for the Anglo-Saxon kings.
- William's appointment of Copsig was unpopular because he had previously worked for Tostig (Harold's brother). The Northumbrian's killed him.
- A new earl was appointed, Earl Robert Cumin. He marched to north allowing his men to loot and kill as they went. The Northumbrian's fought back.
- This uprising encouraged Edgar to join with the locals to attack York.
- William acted promptly to put down the rebellion. However, the King of Denmark sent a fleet of 240 ships to support Edgar. Together they captured York.
- William was in a perilous position. He was facing rebellions around the country and the situation in the north was worrying.
- William offered the Danes money to leave – they agreed.
- William dealt with the northern rebels with mass killings, burning of villages, animals, crops and plundering. This became known as the **Harrying of the North**.

### Step 5: East Anglia

- The Danes did not leave but joined **Hereward the Wake**.
- They plundered the surrounding area, along with Earl Morcar.
- The Normans found it difficult to access Hereward's base at Ely as they did not have the local knowledge to cross safely through the surrounding marshland.
- Eventually Hereward was betrayed by monks and William was able to defeat these rebels.
- Hereward disappeared and Earl Morcar was imprisoned for the rest of his life.
- Later Hereward was given back his lands. William viewed Hereward as a nuisance rather than a serious threat.
- King Malcolm of Scotland recognised William as his superior. He also expelled Edgar from his court.



### Step 6: the revolt of the earls

- The final threat came from a Norman.
- Roger, Earl of Hereford was unhappy as he no longer had the same amount of power and influence that his father had enjoyed.
- Roger joined with the Earl of East Anglia who was also dissatisfied with his position. Neither men had fought at the Battle of Hastings. Therefore, they did not have the same amount of loyalty to William as their fathers had. Earl Waltheof (an Anglo-Saxon) also joined these Normans.
- The revolt had the potential of being very serious for William. The leaders were Normans; they could get support from Ralph of Brittany, the Anglo-Saxons and other disgruntled Normans. The Danes also sent 200 ships in support of this rebellion.
- The rebellion failed. Earl Waltheof did not get involved and fled to Normandy. The forces of Bishop Wulfstun of Worcester stopped Roger from leaving Hereford. Ralph was cornered in Brittany. By the time the Danes arrived the revolt was over so they returned back to Denmark.
- William dealt with the leaders decisively. Roger and Ralph lost all their lands. Waltheof was beheaded. There no more revolts.

William used a number of methods in order to establish control of England:

**Terror** – used violence to end rebellions

**Military presence** – built castles across the country, which were occupied by Norman soldiers

**Patronage** – William granted land and positions of authority to people in order to gain their loyalty

**Legality** – William tried to show that he was the legal and rightful King of England

### Possible questions

- Write an account of how William defeated the rebellion in East Anglia (8 marks)
- Explain what was important about the actions taken by William to deal with rebellions in establishing Norman control. (8 marks)
- Explain how serious a threat to William were the revolts in the north of England. (8 marks)

### Topic summary – William establishes control

- William took over two months to secure the throne before being crowned king.
- William ruled both England and Normandy and had to rely on loyal followers to rule on his behalf.
- Taking over England was a gradual process.
- William was able to overcome all the rebellions against him but it was not easy and he had to use a variety of tactics such as, intimidation, patronage and granting concessions.
- The use of terror in the north was to try and prevent future rebellions in the area.
- Castles were built throughout the country to intimidate and maintain a military presence.
- William was able to secure his control of England so that he could pass on the crown to his sons.

## Establishing control – Castles

Before 1066 very few castles had been built in England. However, under the Normans around 500 castles were built. **These castles were part of William's long term strategy to secure his position on the throne of England.** As soon as William had landed at Pevensey he built a castle as a base from which he could move along the southern coast towards London. Although William had won the battle of Hastings it did not mean that he had conquered England. Defeated Anglo Saxons did not want him as ruler and so building castles was a key way to control their anger and possible retaliation.

### The purpose of castles

Castles had Two FUNCTIONS:

#### 1. STRATEGIC

They housed soldiers who would put down any attempted rebellion in the area. William did not have a great amount of troops and so they could be moved to where they were most needed. This was enough to deter anyone considering mounting a challenge to Norman rule.

#### 2. SYMBOLIC

Castles were built as a reminder to the Anglo-Saxons that the Normans were now ruling the country. To add to this impact, the Normans would often destroy towns in order to make space for the castle. They also got the Anglo-Saxons to help build them and charged them taxes to maintain them.

### How were castles built?

The early Norman castles were built **MOTTE AND BAILEY** castles. These were built of wood.

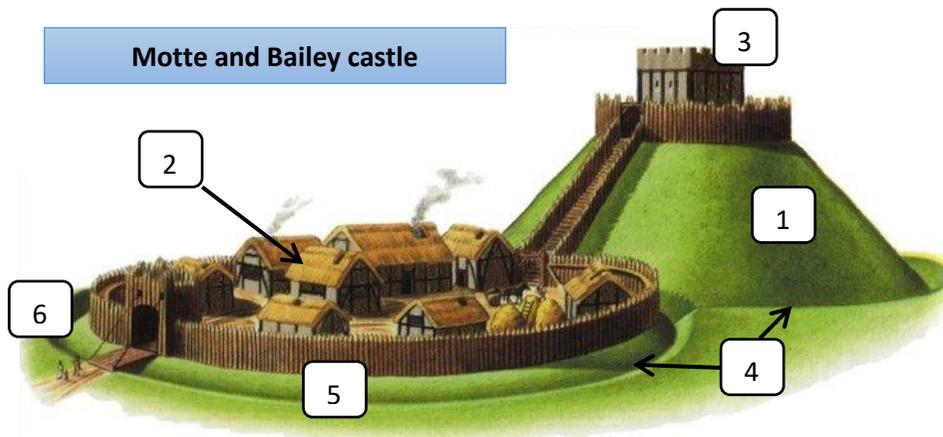
The **MOTTE** was a mound made of earth with a ditch surrounding it. There was also a wooden fence. On top of the motte was a wooden tower called a **KEEP**.

The ditches made it harder for attackers to reach the keep. The outer area of the castle which was also surrounded by a ditch and fence was called the **BAILEY**.

Soldiers were stationed in the bailey, as were houses and buildings for storing food and keeping animals.

The tower was the safest place and was also used as a look-out – it also served as a reminder to the Anglo-Saxons that they were under constant surveillance.

A motte and bailey castle could be built in a matter of days. However, they did have obvious weaknesses. The wooden structure could be easily burnt and would rot over time. When the Normans were more secure in England they replaced motte and bailey castles with stone built castles.



#### Key

- 1 = Motte – the mound made of earth
- 2 = Bailey – the area containing living space for soldiers and storage buildings
- 3 = Keep – the wooden tower and the strongest part of the castle
- 4 = ditches for protection
- 5 = palisade fence – wooden fence surrounding the castle
- 6 = gatehouse and drawbridge

## William II (Rufus) and his inheritance



William II - Rufus means red and he was probably given this name due to his red hair and red complexion

The earls' Revolt (1075) was the last major rebellion William faced. He was relatively secure in England, but his position in Normandy had declined as a result of his absence. This meant that he had to return in order to keep order. In 1086 William was injured at the Battle of Mantes. He fell against the pommel of his saddle (a raised area at the front of a saddle). This caused him to damage his intestines – although he may already have been ill. William was taken to Rouen but his health declined and after six weeks he died on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1087, aged 59.

### Who would succeed William the Conqueror?

It was going to be one of his two sons. Relations between William and his eldest son, Robert Curthose, were poor. Therefore, William granted Robert the position of Duke of Normandy. He gave the crown of England to his second son, **William Rufus**.

This created tensions between the two brothers as Robert had expected to have been granted both the Dukedom of Normandy and the crown of England.

William gave his third son, **Henry**, money but no land.

### King William II (Rufus)- King of England 1087 to 1100

- Early September 1087 was sent to England with a letter for Archbishop Lanfranc. The letter ordered Lanfranc to help Rufus.
- 26<sup>th</sup> September 1087 – Lanfranc crowned Rufus King of England.

William II (Rufus) now faced a number of challenges:

- His brother, Robert Curthose was unhappy with him being crowned King
- Bishop Odo – began to plot a rebellion. This was serious as 6 out of the 10 leading Norman barons supported Odo. A reason for this was these men held lands in both Normandy and England. They did not want to swear loyalty to two different men.

Bishop of Durham (William St. Calais) informs William II of the plot by Odo

### Bishop Odo's rebellion

- William II dealt with this first as it was the most serious
- He divided the rebel barons by
  - reminding them of their loyalty
  - promising them hunting rights and new laws
- This was enough and Odo surrendered as he no longer had the support of the barons.

### Robert Curthose

- William II went to Normandy in order to challenge Robert.
- They agreed to get on with one another, though they did often fall out.
- Robert's involvement in the First Crusade from 1096 kept him well away from England for the duration of William II's reign.

## Death of William II (Rufus)



Medieval picture of William II's death

In 1100 William II went hunting in the New Forest in Hampshire. Whilst hunting William II was shot through the heart by an arrow fired by his friend Walter Tirel.

It was suspected that William II's younger brother, Henry had plotted to murder him. Henry's quick claim for the throne added strength to these suspicions.

However, hunting accidents were common and so William II's death may have just been an unfortunate accident. There was also very little evidence to prove his death had been planned.



## Henry I (1100 to 1135)



Henry I also had the problem of his eldest brother, Robert Curthose being unhappy about him taking the throne of England.

In order to resolve the tension Henry went to Normandy where both agreed to stay out of each other's territory.

Henry I went against this agreement in 1105 and invaded Normandy. Robert was defeated and captured. Henry I now ruled Normandy and England just as his father, William had done. The Norman Conquest remained intact.

Robert was imprisoned in Wales, where he remained until his death.

### Possible questions

1. Write an account to show the problems faced by William II (Rufus) when he inherited the throne in 1087. (8 marks)
2. Explain how castles were used to help establish control of England following the Battle of Hastings. (8 marks)

### **Historical Environment style question**

'The main change that Norman castles brought was that they allowed Normans to defend their new lands.'

How far does a study of Pevensey Castle support this statement?

You should refer to Pevensey Castle and your contextual knowledge (16 marks)

## Life under the Normans: feudalism and government

Once William had established control of England he spent a lot of time back in Normandy. This meant that he needed:

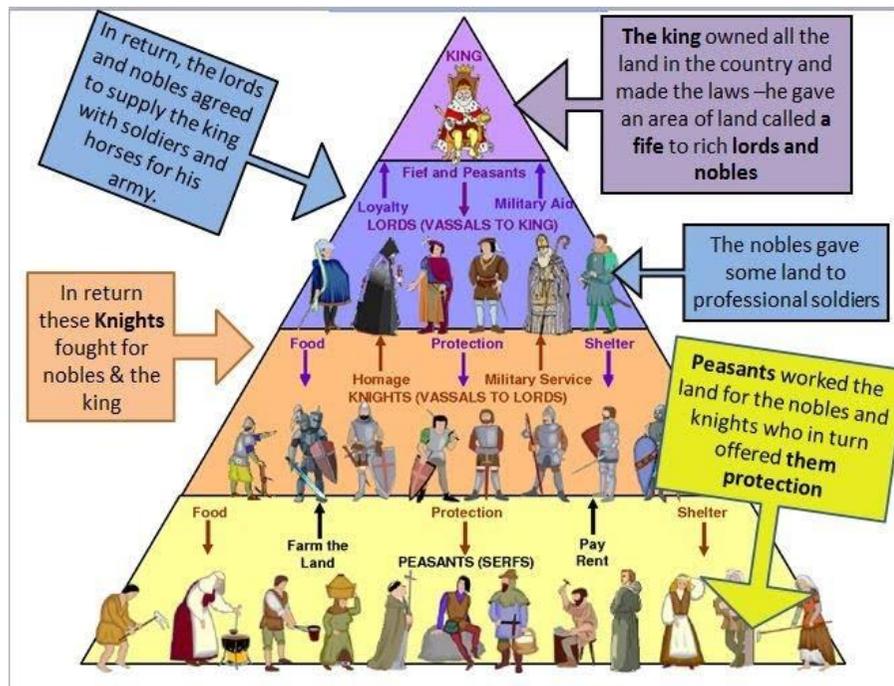
- A strong system of government that would work while he was away
- A lot of money to allow him to control both Normandy and England – funding castle building

### The Feudal System

This was not a new system of control. It was a development of a hierarchy that already existed in both Normandy and England.

William made some changes from the system used before 1066.

- Under the Anglo-Saxon system six earls were granted lands to rule on behalf of the king. As a result, these earls became very powerful and sometimes threatened the power of the king. William reduced the power of the earls by granting smaller amounts of land but to more earls.
- To remove possible threats those Anglo-Saxons who had fought against him at Hastings lost their lands, which were granted to Normans who had supported him in the conquest of England.
- Anglo-Saxons who swore loyalty to William were allowed to keep their lands. However, over time these Anglo-Saxon earls were replaced with Norman ones.



### Military control

The feudal system was used to ensure William had a reliable supply of soldiers. In return for land each tenant-in-chief (barons, earls and bishops) offered loyalty and provided a certain number of knights – the number required was individually arranged with William.

This was a binding obligation for the tenant-in-chief. As a result, some would pay knights to be a permanent part of the household. Others granted knights land in return for military service.

The king could call on these knights at any time in order to put down rebellions, take part in military campaigns or to garrison castles.

There were some differences between the arrangements the Anglo-Saxon had:

- Under the Norman system the knights swore oaths of loyalty to the tenant-in-chief. The Anglo-Saxon knights did not make any oaths.
- Under the Normans the knights were compelled to perform military service. The Anglo-Saxon knights did not have to do this.

The most powerful of William's tenants-in-chief were the Marcher Lords (Earls of Chester, Shrewsbury and Hereford). This was because Wales was an independent country that William had not conquered. The Marcher Lords were therefore required to protect England from attacks from Wales. They had extra powers such as making laws, keeping their own armies and building castles without permission from the king. This was similar to the power of the Prince Bishops in Durham who protected the border from attacks by Scotland.

## National Government

### The role of the king

- A good warrior, just and religious
- He alone made laws for the whole kingdom
- He raised taxes
- Would make legal judgements on serious court cases

To remind people how important he was the king used 'ritual crown-wearings'. For example, William wore his crown when the Great Council met. His coins also showed him wearing a crown.

### Patronage

To encourage loyalty, the king would offer land and positions. Those who did not show loyalty would have their land and/or position taken from them. Therefore, those who wanted to enjoy positions of power and wealth needed to demonstrate loyalty to the king.

William also changed the **laws of inheritance**. Under the Anglo-Saxons property was divided between all the sons in the family. However, under the Normans property passed to the eldest son only. If there were no sons then the lands returned to the king or lord who had granted the land initially.

### Government by writ

In Anglo-Saxon times the government issued orders in writing called **a writ**. This was a short document in which the orders or instructions were sent around the country.

The Normans continued with this system, but they issued more writs. The Anglo-Saxon lords had more power to control their areas than under the Normans. William wanted to centralise power so the Lords did not become too powerful and threaten his position as done had done to the Anglo-Saxon kings. For example, the Godwinson family had become very powerful which led to Edward the Confessor asking William to help him maintain his position.

As the Normans were centralising power they had to make sure that there was an efficient **legal system** to ensure the writs issued were applied.

### Possible questions

1. Explain what was important about land holding and lordship in Norman England. (8 marks)
2. Write an account of the ways in which the feudal system changed under the Normans. (8 marks)

*Remember the key factor in this question is 'how things changed under the Normans'. Things you could write about include:*

- Replacing Anglo-Saxons with Normans
- Little change for peasants
- William taking control of the land
- Knights swearing oaths of loyalty
- military service was compulsory
- William introduced a more centralised system of government

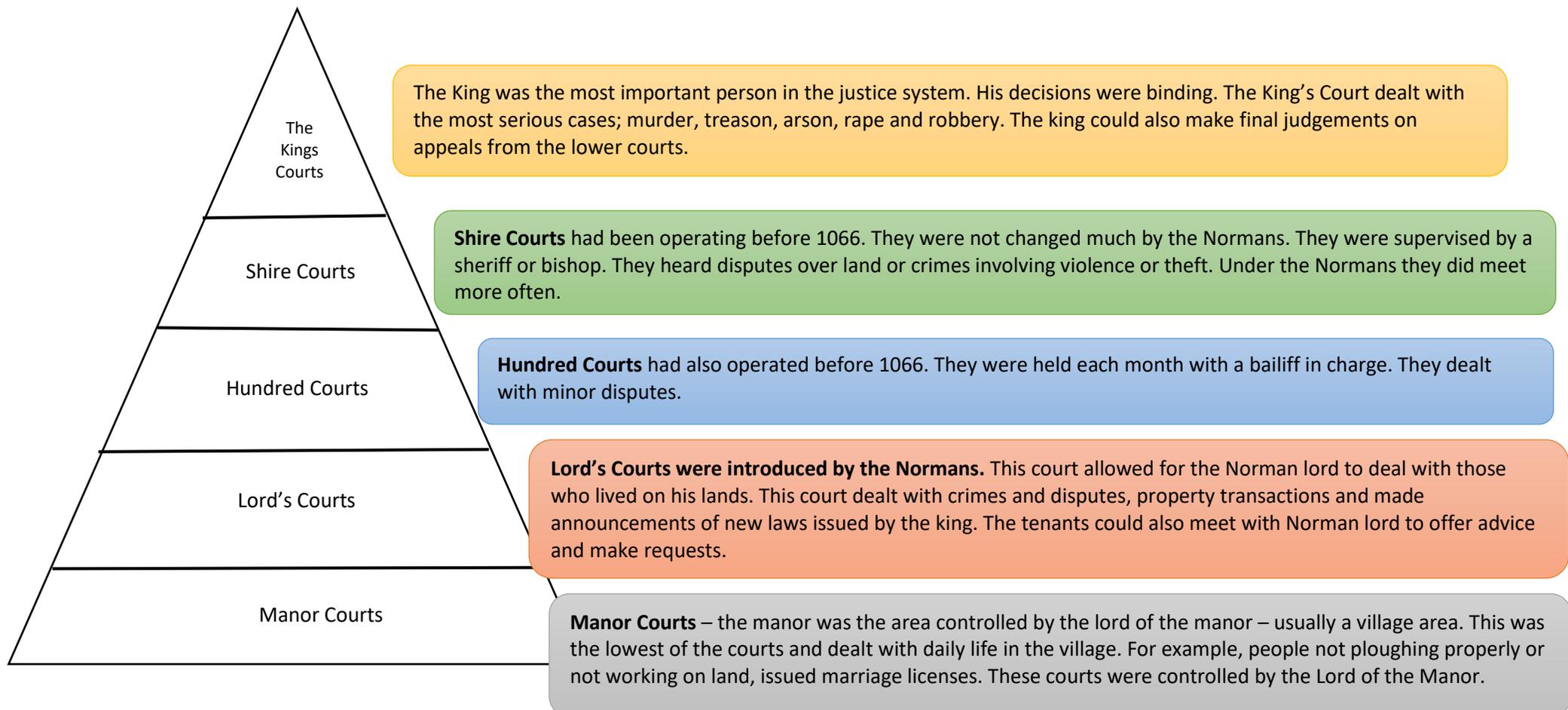
## Local government

Under the Anglo-Saxons, England was divided into 134 shires. A shire-reeve (the origin of the word sheriff) was in charge of each shire. It was a very effective system.

Each shire had its own capital town where justice and the payment of taxes was administered from. Shires were split into smaller areas called **hundreds**.

The Normans kept this system. The sheriff acted for the Baron. He collected taxes, presided in shire courts and raised armies when required. To begin with Normans used Anglo-Saxon sheriffs but over time these were replaced with Norman ones. This was because the loyalty of the sheriffs was very important in maintaining control of England.

## The legal system



## Enforcing the law

### Constables

- Had the power to arrest people, break up fights and prevent fires
- They could place people in stocks – a punishment for minor offences
- They were not paid much and so had other jobs as well

### Watchmen

- Worked in towns to ensure people obeyed the CURFEW.
- They were there to prevent crime and catch criminals.
- Watchmen were either volunteers.
- They did not take the role seriously.

### Hue and Cry

- This was a system for catching criminals after an offence had occurred.
- Everybody had the responsibility of raising the alarm if they saw a crime taking place.
- If the alarm was raised – the hue and cry – everyone had the duty to help catch the suspect.
- Should somebody ignore the hue and cry they could be fined.

### Tithing

- This was a group of 10 to 12 men.
- They promised to prevent each other from committing a crime.
- If one did break the law, they had to reveal the guilt one or risk the whole group being punished.

### Murdrum

- **This was introduced by the Normans in order to protect themselves from the hostility of the Anglo-Saxons.**
- If a Norman was killed and their murderer was not found within five days, the hundred where the incident happened would be fined.
- The Murdrum Fine was put in place to reduce the acts of violence against the Normans. When attacks did occur they also served to provide valuable income for the king.

### Possible questions

1. Explain what was important about the reforms of local and national government for Norman England. (8 marks)

*Remember you are not writing everything you know but selecting knowledge that shows how national and local government allowed the Normans to control England. Things you could write about include:*

- *The role of the king*
- *Government by writ*
- *patronage*
- *the legal system*
- *use of constables and watchmen*
- *hue and cry*
- *tithing*
- *murdrum fines*

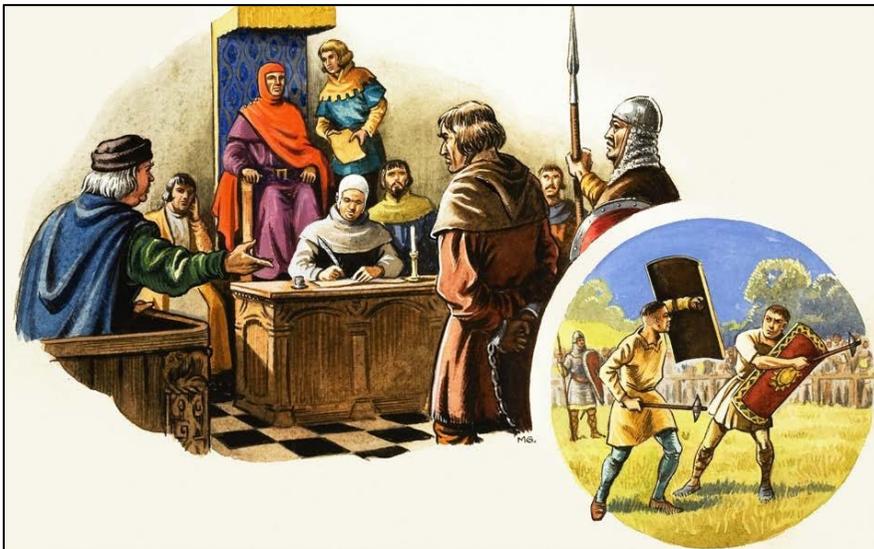
## How were suspects tried? – Courts and the trials by ordeal

In the courts, cases could be brought by the victim or his family. Evidence was presented where it existed, but often there was little. Therefore, proof had to be found in other ways.

The three main methods all had a religious element which reflected the strong beliefs of the time. These were:

- **Oaths** – people would swear on the Bible or holy relic that they were telling the truth
- **Trials by ordeal**
  - Water – involved the accused being thrown into water which had been blessed by a priest. If the accused was guilty they would float as the water was rejecting them. If they sank they were innocent as the water was accepting them.
  - Fire – involved the accused carrying a hot iron in their hand for three paces. Afterwards the hand would be bandaged. Three days later the hand would be examined. If the wound was infected they were guilty. If the wound was healing then they were innocent.
- **Trial by battle** – this was introduced by the Normans for serious offences. The battle took place between the accuser and the accused. A champion could be used to fight on their behalf. If the case was between rich people swords would be used. In criminal cases wooden sticks with pointed ends were used. A person could surrender but by doing so they were accepting that they were guilty. In criminal cases their punishment could be death, so trial by battle did sometimes end in the death of somebody. Trial by battle was not used very often as the threat of it was enough to lead to a confession or for the dispute to be settled 'out of court'. A confession also usually led to a more lenient punishment e.g. mutilation rather than execution.

### Possible questions



**Interpretation A:** This is an interpretation of the legal system in Norman times. It depicts a law court and trial by battle. The picture was drawn in 1963 for a children's story book.

How convincing is **Interpretation A** about the Norman legal system?

Explain your answer using **Interpretation A** and your contextual knowledge. (8 marks)

Explain what was important about the reforms to law and order under William I. (8 marks)

*You do not need to write about everything William did. However, you must consider how the changes affected the whole of English society. For example,*

- Anglo-Saxon earls
- Normans
- Peasants

*Conclude with how important the reforms were for the country*

## Punishments – how were offenders punished?

Compensation was the most common form of punishment.

A victim would receive payment from the accused. If the accused was found to be innocent then they would receive compensation for a false claim against them.

If the crime was of a serious nature e.g. murder compensation was made to the victim's family. Under Anglo-Saxon law this was known as "WERGILD" or 'man-price'.

The system of WERGILD slowly declined under Norman rule. It was replaced with the punishment of hanging or physical mutilation – the removal of a limb, being blinded or castrated.

## Domesday Survey – 1085

### Purpose

- In 1085 William faced the threat of invasion from Danish Vikings and the Count of Flanders.
- William needed more geld (a form of tax) in order to pay for increasing the size of his army. Although the invasion never happened William still wanted to know how much money he could raise from taxation.
- In order to find out how much people ought to be paying William ordered a survey so that he knew what people owned and could afford to pay. This survey was known as the Domesday Survey. It was called Domesday as in the Bible this means "day of judgement".

### How it was carried out

- England was divided into seven areas.
- Tenants-in-chief were ordered to send William information about their manor.
- Officials were then sent out to the seven areas and the manors in order to verify:
  - Who owned the land
  - Had ownership changed since 1066
  - How many people and animals lived on the land
  - Were there any mills, fishponds, meadows and ploughs
- The information gathered was checked by the tenants-in-chief and agreed in the shire courts.
- The findings were written up in two books which were to be known as Great Domesday and Little Domesday.
- The Domesday Surveys were completed by William II (Rufus)

### Findings

- It showed that land ownership had changed since 1066 with more Normans owning land than Anglo-Saxons.
- That the total population was between 1.5 and 2 million people.

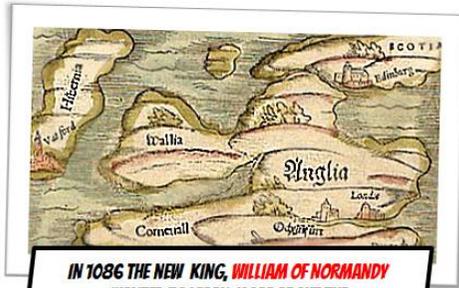
Not all areas were surveyed.

London was not looked at neither was Winchester. Some of the northern parts of England were also not looked at because they were not fully under Norman control e.g. Cumberland

Durham was also not surveyed because this area was controlled by the prince Bishop who had the right to raise taxes and an army.

## Possible Questions

1. Write an account of the ways in which law and order changed under the Normans. (8 marks)
2. Explain what was important about the Domesday Survey carried out by William in 1085. (8 marks)



IN 1086 THE NEW KING, **WILLIAM OF NORMANDY** WANTED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NEW LAND THAT HE HAD **CONQUERED**.



THE KING SENT HIS OFFICIALS OUT ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO **WRITE DOWN** A HUGE LIST OF **EVERY PERSON**, HOUSEHOLD AND EVEN LIVESTOCK (ANIMALS) THAT THEY FOUND



THE LIST EVENTUALLY BECAME A HUGE BOOK CALLED THE **DOMESDAY BOOK** (MEANING 'JUDGEMENT DAY')



THE 900 PAGES OF THE BOOK WERE MADE FROM **SHEEPSKINS**. THESE WERE WASHED AND SCRAPPED TO REMOVE THE ANIMAL HAIR AND THEN STRETCHED OUT TO MAKE A **PARCHMENT**. THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN IN **LATIN** USING A GOOSE FEATHER **QUILL**



EACH AREA VISITED WAS KNOWN AS '**HIDE**': THIS IS ROUGHLY THE AREA OF LAND NEEDED TO SUPPORT A FAMILY ON A SMALL FARM. AN AREA OF **100 HIDES** WAS KNOWN AS A '**HUNDRED**'.



THE FACTS OF THE DOMESDAY BOOK ARE **IN DOUBT** AS THE ENGLISH WERE **FEARFUL** OF HAVING TO PAY **MORE TAXES** ON WHAT LITTLE THEY HAD. ALSO THEY SPOKE '**OLD ENGLISH**' (ANGLO-SAXON) WHILST WILLIAM'S MEN SPOKE **NORMAN-FRENCH**.



THE BOOK WOULD ALLOW KING WILLIAM TO **COLLECT TAXES** FROM EVERYONE IN THE COUNTRY **MORE ACCURATELY**. IT ALSO HELPED HIM TO **UNDERSTAND MORE** ABOUT THE LAND HE HAD JUST CONQUERED AND LEARN WHERE BEST TO **BUILD CASTLES** TO KEEP THE POPULATION UNDER **CONTROL**.

## Topic Summary – Feudalism and government

- The feudal system gave the king more power and allowed him to rule the country with very few Normans.
- As the king owned all of the land it gave him great powers of patronage (granting of land).
- The use of oaths of loyalty and patronage helped the Normans to establish control of England.
- Most of the land and key positions (tenants-in-chief and sheriffs) were transferred from Anglo-Saxons to Normans.
- Many aspects of government and the legal system remained the same, or similar to that used in Anglo-Saxon times.
- The arrangements for military service became more formal.
- The Domesday Survey allowed the Normans to raise taxes efficiently.
- Domesday Survey also provided an authoritative account of who held the land after the Norman conquest of 1066.

## Economic and social changes and their consequences

Before 1066 most people lived in the countryside, working for an Anglo-Saxon baron or earl. Towns had started to develop in the south, growing up around important royal or church centres. Towns also developed as a result of trade, particularly ports.

Life in a town could be easier than in a village. However, disease was more common in the town due to the unsanitary conditions.

### Work

#### Poor

- Changed very little under the Normans – farming was the main occupation.
- The weather and the seasons had a greater impact on life than who ran the country.
- Harvest was the busiest time of the year.
- Peasants worked long hours in the fields as everything had to be done by hand.
- Each village was surrounded by fields. These were divided into strips and each villager had a few strips to farm.
- Villagers would agree what to grow on each strip e.g. wheat, rye and barley.
- Crops could be lost by drought and disease.
- Peasants also had their own plots on which to grow fruit and vegetables. They could also keep poultry and graze animals on the common land.
- Villages also had blacksmiths, carpenters and millers.

#### Rich

- Lords and bishops were the richest people after the king.
- Lords owned the land but did not farm it themselves. Their income came from the crops produced by the peasants who worked the land.
- Knights were also quite rich. They had to perform military service so spent their time practising – again the peasants would work on the land controlled by the knight.
- Sheriffs or reeves would administer the area, keep law and order by running shire courts, collecting taxes.

### Housing and health

#### Poor

- Houses were dark, damp and smoky.
- They were usually single rooms without windows.
- There would be an open fire in the centre for warmth and cooking.
- The floor was earth covered with straw.
- Animals would be brought into the house at night.
- Life expectancy was low – 40 was a good age.

#### Diet

- Bread, porridge and vegetable stew called pottage was eaten.
- They had to pay to bake bread in the lord's ovens.
- Meat was a special treat as animals were valuable. It could not be preserved except by smoking or salting (this was expensive)
- Water was not safe to drink so they drank weak beer and milk.

#### Rich

- Diet was more varied. They ate bread but this was made from wheat and not rye.
- Meat was also eaten, particularly poultry. They also ate fish.
- The rich did not eat much fruit or vegetables as this was seen as something the poor ate.
- Dairy products were also not eaten very often as these too were seen as something the poor ate.
- The rich would sometimes hold feasts where they would have several courses of food.

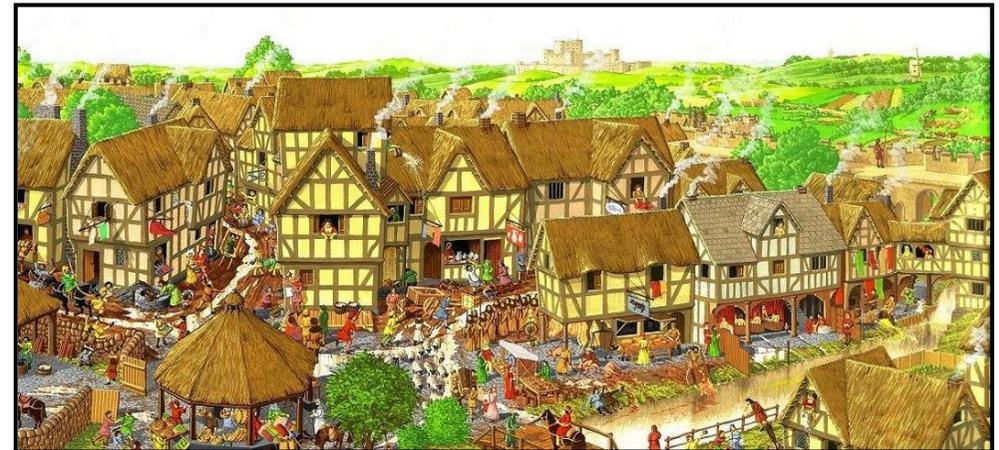
Due to their inactive lifestyle and unbalanced diet the rich were probably not as healthy as the poor, suffering from bad teeth, scurvy and rickets.

## How were towns affected by the Norman Conquest?

- Towns grew as trading centres. Livestock, fish, salt and wool.
- Coastal towns grew on the south coast as wool was the main export to France.
- Towns also grew up on important roads, river crossings and around important castles and cathedrals.
- People were attracted to towns in order to set up shops and businesses.
- Most towns were protected by high walls or fences, gates or moats. The gates would be guarded and locked at night. Traders would be charged to enter.
- People often moved to towns from the countryside in order to learn a trade or work as a servant.
- If a villein lived in a town for a year he was declared to be a freeman.
- Town dwellers (burgesses) had a number of responsibilities:
  - Serving as watchmen
  - Serving the town militia in times of trouble
  - Paying taxes
  - They had freedom of movement (unlike villeins)
- Once a town became large enough it could apply for a **CHARTER**. This would allow the town to govern itself by electing a council, have a mayor, and hold markets or fairs. It could also set its own taxes.

### Features of Norman towns

- They were a mixture of residential and commercial properties.
- Churches and religious buildings would be present.
- It had a market place and a castle.
- Towns were sometimes built on a grid structure – but they were not always planned.
- Houses (wooden) were built close together. The upper floors were larger than ground floor as land was expensive.
- A high street would have been the main road through the town.
- Merchants and craftsmen would operate their businesses from building on the high street. As most people were illiterate, signs used pictures and symbols instead of words to show what goods were being sold.
- Overcrowding led to overflowing waste and increased the risk of disease, house fires and theft.



## Jobs in Norman towns

Towns were centres of trade and so there were all sorts of jobs that were being done.

- Bakers
- Butchers
- Fishmongers
- Brewers
- Tailors
- Armourers
- Robe makers
- Washerwomen
- Goldsmiths
- Silversmiths
- Moneylenders
- Masons
- Shoemakers
- Apothecaries
- Potters

### Hierarchy within towns

TOP = merchants, lawyers, doctors and property owners

MIDDLE = craftsmen

BOTTOM = unskilled workers and servants

Sometimes streets were named after the trade or craft that was found on it.

The Normans also created **GUILDS**. These were created to ensure high standards of work and to protect themselves from competition. To be part of a guild you had to have followed a system of training and apprenticeship. An apprenticeship lasted seven years. Once they had completed this they became a journey man and could charge for the work they did. Eventually they could become a master craftsman. The quality of work was monitored by the guild in order to ensure standards were maintained.

### Possible questions

Write an account of the ways in which town life in England changed under the Normans. (8 marks)

### Topic summary – Town life

- Peasants had the hardest life of all and many lacked any real freedom. They farmed to survive and made little profit.
- Some peasants moved to towns to find better jobs. Others were trying to break free from the ties of the countryside.
- The rich had a far more varied diet than the poor, although it was less healthy. The poor ate healthy food but were vulnerable to food shortages.
- Many towns grew in size and importance under the Normans.

## The Norman Church and monasticism

Religion was very important during the medieval period. People believed that God would judge them at the end of their lives. As a result, religious leaders were both important and very powerful. The leader of the church was the Pope, based in Rome. He was probably the most powerful individual in Europe. As a result of this power and influence it was inevitable that kings and church leaders came into conflict.

### The wealth of the church

- Largest single landowner
- People left the church land and money after they died. They did this as they believed it would help them get to heaven.
- Everyone paid tax to the church called a TITHE. Villagers gave one tenth of what they produced. This included: crops, meat, wool, milk. Many villages had a tithe barn in which this produce was stored.
- People also paid additional taxes at certain times of the year e.g. Easter
- Taxes also had to be paid for ceremonies such as weddings, baptisms and funerals.

### Lanfranc v Thomas, Archbishop of York

- Thomas was Lanfranc's rival as he thought he should be head of the church in England. This was because Stigand as Archbishop of had damaged the reputation of Canterbury, allowing York to grow in power.
- Lanfranc had built his reputation in France, helping William secure the Pope's approval for his marriage. He also helped William gain the Pope's support for the invasion in 1066.
- Lanfranc was appointed the Canterbury before Thomas was made Archbishop of York. As a result, Thomas had to be made Archbishop by Lanfranc, who insisted Thomas swore an oath of loyalty first.
- The argument was finally settled by the king putting pressure on Thomas to submit to Lanfranc.

### William reforms the church

- William had promised the Pope that he would reform the church in England in return for his support of the Conquest.
- Lanfranc was made Archbishop of Canterbury and he would carry out the reforms.
- Lanfranc ended
  - PLURALISM – whereby an individual held more than one job
  - SIMONY – where positions in the church were sold
  - NEPOTISM – the practice of giving positions to relatives
  - The practice of clergy marrying, as this was against the vow of CELIBACY.
- Lanfranc also brought in a number of other changes:
  - Church councils (SYNODS) were established – these spread the reforms. Bishops were told to hold their own councils twice a year.
  - Cathedrals were moved to towns and cities with larger populations. After 1066, one third of bishops moved to more important towns and cities. E.g. Leofric moved from Crediton to Exeter.
  - A new church hierarchy was established.  
Pope – Archbishops – Bishops – Archdeacons – Deans – Priests  
This helped to centralise the power of the church.
  - Increased the number of parish churches.
  - Ended marriage amongst clergy – priests who were already married could remain so. No marriages were allowed in the future.
- Secular (non-religious) courts were not allowed to try the clergy. This had to take place in church courts. William supported this move even though it undermined his own courts. This shows how important the relationship between the two was.
- Lanfranc also wanted spiritual offences to be tried in church courts e.g. blasphemy, not attending church, adultery. The punishments of church courts were less severe than those from secular courts. E.g. a secular court would give the death penalty for murder, a church court would send the guilty on pilgrimage or to make a public confession of their crime.

## William and church buildings

Religious buildings such as monasteries, abbeys and cathedrals that the Normans built were often very large and grand. Norman cathedrals were built as an expression of the importance of God. They were designed to be magnificent buildings that could be seen from miles around, with high ceilings and symmetrical columns. The Normans thought that the Anglo-Saxon cathedrals were old fashioned and so were knocked down, with the exception of Westminster Abbey. These cathedrals were re-built in the ROMANESQUE style.

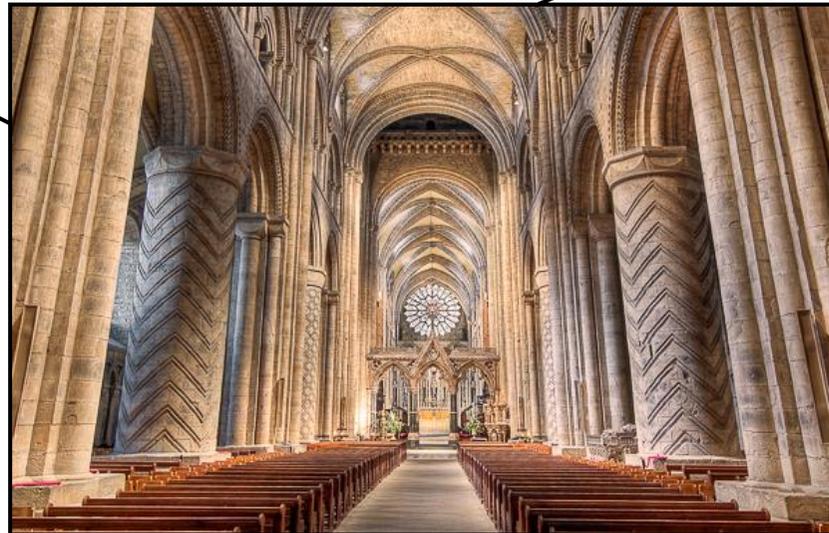


Had thick walls and large towers.

High vaulted ceilings

Large columns with symmetrical decorations

Round arches with geometrical patterns



- Cathedrals were used to intimidate the locals like castles did. They were often on top of hills. Its massive structure dominating the area. Reminding people that the Normans were now in charge.
- The size and beauty of them showed the strength of the Norman religious beliefs. They were built in the shape of a cross to symbolise the crucifixion of Jesus.
- Cathedrals were also powerful political bases as bishops played an important role in running the country.
- Cathedrals also attracted pilgrims as they often had shrines to important saints or holy relics (items of religious importance)

- Cathedrals also contained monks of the Benedictine order.
- This order of monks supported the reforms that Lanfranc and William were organising.

- Durham was a particularly important cathedral. It was the main English town near to the border with Scotland.
- As this area was important and difficult to control the Bishop of Durham was made a Prince Bishop. This gave him additional powers as one of his duties was to protect the northern border. So, he could: collect taxes, raise an army, and mint coins.

## William II (Rufus) and conflict with the church

### Conflict with William of St Calais

- 1088 there was a rebellion against William Rufus.
- The Bishop of St Calais had informed William of the plot and had agreed to bring reinforcements to help him.
- The Bishop changed his mind – William therefore put him on trial for treason.
- The Bishop argued that he ought to face trial in a religious court – Rufus refused arguing that he had broken an oath of loyalty to the King.
- William had the Bishop put on trial in a secular court. He was found guilty and lost his position and was sent into exile.
- He was later allowed to return and William made him Bishop of Durham

**Significance of this event** was that it showed Rufus' determination to control the church. It was clear that the church was not as important as the crown.

### The Council of Rockingham, 1095

- Rufus stopped Anselm from going to Rome to receive his PALLIUM. (This was a sash worn by an Archbishop that showed that he had the Pope's support). Rufus argued that it was showing Anselm supported the Pope.
- Rufus sent a messenger to Rome to collect the Pallium for Anselm.
- Rufus was forced to accept Urban as Pope, in return the Pope agreed to stay out of English affairs.
- Rufus continued to block Anselm's efforts to reform the church. In return Anselm was reluctant to pay extra taxes or provide knights.
- At Rockingham Rufus and Anselm met. Rufus wanted to establish that Anselm's first loyalty was to the crown and not the Pope. They did manage to reach a compromise.
- By 1097, Anselm had been exiled and fled to Rome. Rufus again profited from the Archbishops lands.

### Conflict between Anselm and William II (Rufus)

- Archbishop of Canterbury Lanfranc was not replaced after his death. This was because Rufus wanted the income from the land the Archbishop held.
- Rufus became ill and people believed that God was punishing him for not replacing Lanfranc.
- Rufus appointed his nephew, Anselm to the position of Archbishop. Anselm was respected throughout Europe and so was a good choice. However, Anselm did not want the position.
- Anselm set some conditions under which he would take the job:
  - All land taken by the King to be returned to the Archbishop of Canterbury.
  - He would be the King's spiritual advisor.
  - Rufus to continue to recognise Urban as Pope and not Clement III
- Rufus agreed to all of these conditions **with the exception of returning land**. This was because he would lose income.
- This led to difficult relations between the two men. This got worse as Anselm complained that Rufus deliberately did not appoint bishops so that he could take income from the lands of the church.

**Significance of this event** is that it shows Rufus believes the crown is more important than the church. Rufus believed that the crown controlled all of the church property and land.

### Simony

- Getting rid of simony (selling positions) had been a key reform of Lanfranc.
- Rufus re-introduced the practice.
- Ranulf Flambard, one of Rufus' allies, was very good at raising money from the church. This made him popular with Rufus but not the clergy.
- Rufus rewarded Flambard by making him Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Pope's authority had no geographical limits. Christians all over the world were supposed to obey the Pope. This created problems between the monarch of a country and the church. Kings believed that the people ought to be loyal and obey them, whereas the church believed that they were more important than the crown.

**William I**

The Pope and William I got on well. They both wanted to reform the corrupt English church and make it more like the church in Europe. As a result, Pope Alexander supported William's invasion in 1066, giving him the Papal banner. The Pope wanted to get rid of the corrupt English bishops and end simony. William was happy to do this, replacing the English bishops with Norman ones.

However, Pope Gregory did not get on as well with William. This was because Gregory wanted more control of the church. For example, he wanted the bishops to travel to Rome to meet with him on a regular basis. Gregory also demanded that William swear an oath of loyalty to him. William refused.

William did agree to bring back **Peter's Pence**. This was a 1p tax that every household paid to the church.

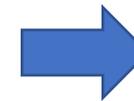


William demonstrated that he was happy to help Pope Alexander with his reforms of the English church because he too would benefit from the situation. He would not though, allow Pope Gregory to interfere with how he ran the country.

**William II (Rufus)**

The most important conflict between Rufus and Pope Gregory was over the appointment of church leaders. This was a continuation of the problems his father, William I had with Gregory.

Pope Gregory wanted to appoint his own leaders and this led him to argue with many of the kings of Europe. Gregory's successor, Pope Urban II agreed not to interfere - but relations were still not very good.

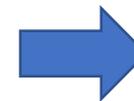


This showed that the king still wanted to control all aspects of his country and that the church should not interfere.

**Henry I – THE INVESTITURE CONTROVERSY**

The King gave an appointed bishop his coat of arms, a ring and staff. These were emblems of their position. However, they also showed that the bishop depended more on the king than the Pope. The church did not like the idea of clergymen paying homage to the king. This caused problems because bishops also held land that had been granted to them by the king. They held this land by swearing loyalty to the king.

Anselm refused to perform homage and so was exiled. Henry was threatened with **EXCOMMUNICATION** but eventually reached an agreement known as the Concordat of London. Henry agreed to give up the right to present bishops with their emblems of office. In return bishops would swear loyalty to him.



The Concordat of London was important as it ended the Investiture Controversy. It meant that Henry could still treat the bishops as tenants-in-chief and they would swear loyalty to him.

## Summary – relations between the Church and the King

- **There was a big cross-over between Church and state**

All three Norman kings appointed key posts during their reigns. The churchmen advised the kings on both political and religious issues. They also had armies which the king could use e.g. these armies helped to end the revolt of Earl Roger of Hereford.

Under William I churchmen helped carry out the Domesday Survey. Archbishop Lanfranc also briefly ruled England when William I returned to Normandy for a short period.

Under Henry I bishops swore loyalty to the crown but the Pope was trying to have a greater say in issues relating to the church.

- **William I and the church**

Relations between the church and William were good. He placed Norman clergy into important positions. William also reformed the church.

- **William II (Rufus)**

He was not religious and had no interest in reforming the church like his father. Rufus exploited the church by not appointing bishops and taking the associated lands for himself. As a result, this caused a decline in relations.

- **Henry I**

Promised to end Rufus' policy of exploiting the church. Despite the Investiture Controversy, Anselm supported Henry. In return Henry brought in more of Gregory's reforms: Banning the marriage of clergy and condemning simony (selling positions).

## Topic Summary – the English Church

- William I replaced Anglo-Saxon bishops with Norman clergy.
- The church became more centralised with the creation of archdeaconries and deaneries.
- A huge building programme took place. Anglo-Saxon cathedrals were replaced with new grander designed buildings that were Romanesque in style.
- New cathedrals were located in towns and cities.
- Significant reforms were made to the church. This included the attack on simony and marriage of clergy.
- Church law courts were established.
- There was conflict with the Pope., who wanted the Church to be more independent.
- Relations between the church and the king fluctuated depending upon who was king. During this period the church was more likely to challenge the crown than it had previously.
- William I had a good relationship with Archbishop Lanfranc.
- William II (Rufus) was unpopular with the clergy because of his morals and because he used the Church to raise money for himself.
- Henry I had a better relationship with the Church, but there were still tensions e.g. Investiture Controversy.

## Possible questions

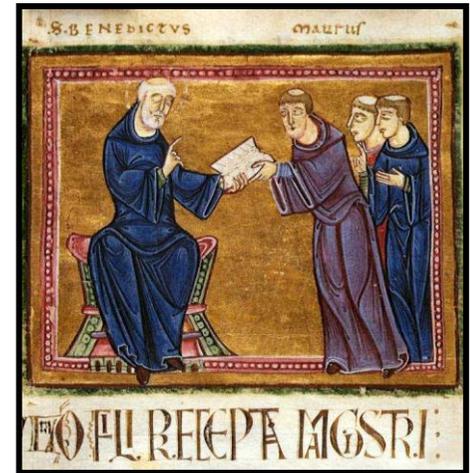
1. Write an account of Lanfranc's reforms to the Church in England. (8 marks)
2. Explain what was important about the Norman reforms of the Church. (8 marks)
3. Write an account of the ways in which the Church changed under the Normans. (8 marks)
4. Explain the importance of William II's conflict with the church. (8 marks)
5. Explain what was important about William II's relationship with the Church and how it affected his time in power. (8 marks)

## Monastic Life

- A monastery is a religious building where monks live and work.
- They were known as abbeys, priories and nunneries.
- Monks and nuns promised to devote their lives to God. Withdrawing from normal life so that they could concentrate on religion.
- In this period many of the monasteries belonged to the **Benedictine** order.
- Monks and nuns took vows (promises):
  - **Poverty** – they had to give up all their possessions.
  - **Chastity** – they had to promise not to get married and remain celibate.
  - **Obedience** – they had to obey the abbot/abbess or prior/prioress and the rules of the monastery.
- Many clergy were worried that kings were taking too much control of the monasteries. The monasteries needed land on which they could be built. They also need land on which to grow food. Therefore, they needed support from a local lord who would give them the land needed. However, the lord would want something in return. E.g. a say in who the Abbott would be, they would expect the monastery to pay them money.
- Reformers wanted
  - the king and local lords to have less control over the monasteries.
  - To bring back the traditional practices that orders of monks such as the Benedictines followed. This was because many monks were no longer vegetarian, they wore rich clothing and ignored the rules of fasting and celibacy.

When the Normans took over in 1066 they helped to revive monasticism.

- They embarked on a great building programme, constructing cathedrals and churches across England.
- There were more monks and nuns.
- More monasteries were attached to cathedrals.
- Battle Abbey was built to commemorate the victory at Hastings.
- The Normans also brought in reforms.
- The Benedictine and Cluniac order of monks increased in number.



St Benedict delivering his rules to the monks in his order

## Cluniac Monasteries



Duke William of Aquitaine established Cluny Abbey in 910.

It started as a Benedictine order but soon established its own identity when it was given independence by the Duke. This meant that it was free of any obligations to the Duke such as military service or taxes. The Abbey only answered to the Pope.

Where other monasteries did not enforce the strict rules of a monks life, at Cluny Abbey they were strictly enforced.

The Pope like this and believed that Cluny Abbey could be used to bring back monasticism – the strict rules that monks followed.

The abbots of Cluny were given the task of reforming other abbeys across Europe, which they did with success.

Most Benedictine monasteries operated independently from one another. However, Cluniac monasteries all answered to the Abbot of Cluny.

### Cluny's influence in England

Lewes in Sussex was the place where the first Cluniac priory was established.

By 1135 there were 35 Cluniac monasteries in England.

They were often built next to castles in order to demonstrate that the Norman domination of England had God's blessing.

### Change in leadership of the monasteries

The Normans gradually changed the leaders of the monasteries, replacing the Anglo-Saxon leaders with Norman ones.

### Lanfranc's reforms of the monasteries

- These reforms were introduced in Canterbury in 1077 and were to spread throughout the country.
- He changed the words used in services so that they were similar to those used in the church in Europe.
- He set up a clear church hierarchy and defined the role of the abbot.
- Lanfranc set strict rules for creating new saints.
- He set out a timetable for the day of a monk so they knew what they ought to be doing from getting up to going to bed. This meant monks' lives were more regulated.
- Benedictine monasteries would have seen little change but for others the changes were not popular and there were some protests. In some cases knights were sent to enforce these new rules. E.g. at Thurstan the use of knights resulted in 3 deaths and 18 injuries to the monks who were protesting.
- Lanfranc's reforms made the monasteries more like the ones in Europe.

## The other things monasteries did

Monasteries were self-sufficient communities.

They would grow their own food and repair buildings. Therefore, the monks were very skilled. Many monasteries became very rich due to farming and selling wool. They also made their own beer as the water was usually not safe to drink. Fountains Abbey and Rievaulx became very wealthy through the farming of sheep.

The monks also cared for the sick and poor.

Most monasteries had an infirmary (hospital) where the sick could be looked after. A monk was also responsible for looking after the poor. This monk was called an **almoner**. Poor people could go and see him in order to get food.

Monasteries also provided accommodation for pilgrims. They did not charge for this but often pilgrims would leave gifts for the monastery.

Monasteries were also centres of learning.

Monks were the most educated group of people in the country. Monasteries would have large libraries. Monks would write out texts by hand. It would take 18 months for a monk to copy out the text for a new Bible. In some monasteries the monks would decorate the books they were making with colourful drawings.

Monks were also historians.

They would record events that had happened in the country. Sometimes they were complimentary; William I was written about in a good way, as was Henry I. However, William II (Rufus) suffered as a result of his poor relationship with the church.

Some of our knowledge of this period in history comes from the records of the monks. These key writers were: Orderic Vitalis, William of Malmesbury and Eadmer of Canterbury.

### Possible questions – the Norman Church and Monasticism

**Explain what was important about the reform of the monasteries for Norman England. (8 marks)**

*Do not write everything you know. Select knowledge to show **how** monasteries were reformed and **why** it was important.*

What would you use from this list:

- How monasteries consolidated the power of the Normans.
- The increase in building of abbeys and cathedrals
- How cathedrals were used to show Normans had the support of God.
- The replacement of Anglo-Saxon bishops with Norman ones.
- Benedictine rule and Cluniac monasteries.
- Links between the Church and the kings.

**Write an account of relations between the Norman monarchs and the Papacy. (8 marks)**

Do not just tell a story. Your account needs to be linked to the question. Did relations improve or decline or a bit of both?

Use this list to help you:

- William I's close relationship with the Pope.
- William II (Rufus) and his relation with Anselm.
- Henry I and the Investiture Controversy.

## Schools and education

Monasteries and churches were the main providers of education.

Education had to be paid for so it was not available for the poor. However, some monasteries did provide education to local boys from poor families. In return the boys worked as servants in the monastery. Girls were excluded from education. Some girls from rich families were taught to read and write, but this was unusual. Archbishop Lanfranc wrote little about education. He did say that boys who were educated in monasteries should know the psalms and services by heart. Education was about training the pupils to become monks or priests.

### Church education

- By 1100 all cathedrals and many larger churches had schools.
- Some schools had been established before 1066 and were attached to monasteries.
- Church schools focussed on:
  - Latin – this was the language of the church, so it was essential that future monks and priests learned it.
  - Music and verse – were needed to help future monks and priests deliver services.
  - Astronomy and mathematics – were needed to help with the church calendar
  - Law - to help with the administration

### How did the Normans change education?

- As towns grew in size there was a need for a better education system.
- People who lived and worked in towns needed to better literacy and numeracy skills in order to conduct trade.
- The Norman barons who lived in England also wanted better education for their children.
- Monastic reforms excluded children from going to monasteries and convents.
- This led to more schools moving out of religious buildings and setting up in separate ones.
- These schools taught in the language of French – Latin was still used for writing as it was seen as the language of the church.

### Secular schooling

- 1382 was the year in which some schools became independent from the church.
- Grammar schools developed during the later middle ages.
- Pupils stayed in grammar schools for four years, depending upon the career path they intended to follow. They learnt Latin grammar and how to write and speak the language. Notes were made on boards made of stone that could be wiped clean – paper was not introduced until 1400.
- It was only when schools became independent of the church that there was a much wider level of subjects studied.
- The school year started in September and had three terms, ending in June. This allowed pupils from peasant families to help bring in the harvest in July/August.
- The school day started at sunrise and ended late afternoon, with a mid-morning break and lunch.
- During lessons the teacher sat in the middle and the children sat on benches around the outside, answering questions directed at them. If pupils were successful they moved on to university where all books and lessons were in Latin.

### University education

During the Norman period there was the introduction of university education. Oxford University started in 1096 and was the only university in England until Cambridge was founded in 1209.

## Norman Influence on language

The Normans changed many aspects of life in England including language.

**Latin** became the language of government and the church. It was used by merchants around Europe as a universal language. Latin was seen as the most important language to teach. **English** was no longer the language of government and became obsolete in written works.

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle had been continued in many areas of the country. However, during the Norman period only one continued and this was written in English. By 1154 it was no longer being updated.

The monk writing the history of Ramsey Abbey complained about having to translate all the abbey's Old English documents.

William I had struggled to learn English, probably because he did not think that it was necessary. He would have had Englishmen supporting him who could help with any language difficulties that he had.

The Domesday Survey was written in Latin, although the main writer was an Englishman from Durham.

## Everyday language

Latin was the official language; most people spoke either Norman-French or English in everyday life.

Norman-French became the most popular language for teaching as Anglo-Saxon teachers replaced Norman ones. It was also used by the upper class, clerks and middle class living in towns.

Norman-French developed into Anglo-Norman, with English retaining some influence. Anglo-Norman was the spoken language for the nobility in England. It also became the language used in law courts, schools and universities. The peasants still spoke English and they were the majority of the population.

Whilst English did eventually return as the language of the kingdom, the influence of the Normans was permanent. Around a quarter of modern English words have their root in the French language.

### Possible questions

1. Write an account of the ways in which education changed under the Normans.  
(8 marks)
2. Study **source A**. What does source A suggest about education in Norman times? Explain your answer using the source and your contextual knowledge.  
(8 marks)
3. How convincing is **interpretation B** about the role of the Norman Church? Explain your answer using **interpretation B** and your contextual knowledge.  
(8 marks)
4. How did the Normans change spoken and written language in England after 1066?  
(8 marks)



**Source A:** A cathedral school founded by the Normans

**Interpretation B:** From "The Feudal Kingdom of England 1042-1216" by Frank Barlow, 1999

Church laws were still under royal supervision, and although the church was allowed its own law and its own courts, the king was the judge of the limits of Church power.

### Topic summary – Monasticism and language

- The Normans helped to bring about a revival of monasticism by supporting Cluniac reform movement and Lanfranc's reforms.
- Many more monasteries were built after 1066.
- Normans replaced Anglo-Saxons in the most important positions within the monasteries.
- Most monks started to follow the Benedictine rule.
- Rules were more uniform across the country and were more strictly applied.
- Monks lives revolved around church services.
- Monasteries grew in importance and helped the poor, providing employment, shelter and hospitals. They were also important centres of learning.
- Schooling started to improve and the roots of Oxford University come from this time.
- Latin became the official language of government, church and trade.
- Anglo-Norman became the spoken language of the elite.
- Most people carried on speaking English but very little was written in English.