

GCSE History - Knowledge Organiser - Anglo-Saxon and Norman England c1060-1087 - Topic 1 - Anglo Saxon England and Norman Invasion

Key dates	
1064	Harold's Embassy to Normandy
1065	Tostig Rising
Jan 1065	Edward the Confessor dies
Sept 1066	Battle of Gate Fulford
Sept 1066	Battle of Stamford Bridge
Oct 1066	Battle of Hastings

Key people	
Edward the Confessor	King of England till 1066
Harold Godwinson	Earl of Wessex and the last Anglo-Saxon King
Tostig Godwinson	Brother of Harold - Earl of Northumbria
Harald Hardrada	Viking claimant to the throne
Edgar Aethling	Blood relative to Edward
William Duke of Normandy	Eventual king of England Edward had promised him the throne
Earls Morcar and Edwin	Earls of Northumbria and Mercia

Key Terms/Concepts	
Ceorl	Peasant Farmers
Thegn	Loyal to the Earl
Slaves	Bottom of the status ladder bought and sold
Burh	Fortified town
Earldom	A large area of land controlled by an Earl
Writ	Orders from the King
Housecarl	Professional soldiers
Fyrd	Peasants called up to fight part time soldiers
Shield Wall	Tactic used by Anglo-Saxons
Feigned retreat	Tactic used by the Normans
Shire	Earldom was divided up into shires
Shire Reeve (Sheriff)	Responsible for kings orders locally
Hide	Measurement of land
Embassy	Diplomatic mission to meet with another ruler
Oath	A promise to do something
Witan	Kings council

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The first key topic is focused on the final years of Anglo-Saxon England, covering its political, social and economic make-up, as well as the dramatic events of 1066. While the popular view is often of a barbarous Dark-Ages kingdom, students should recognise that in reality Anglo-Saxon England was prosperous and well governed. They should understand that society was characterised by a hierarchical system of government and they should appreciate the influence of the Church. They should also be aware that while Edward the Confessor was pious and respected, real power in the 1060s lay with the Godwin family and in particular Earl Harold of Wessex. Students should understand events leading up to the death of Edward the Confessor in 1066: Harold Godwinson's succession as Earl of Wessex on his father's death in 1053 inheriting the richest earldom in England; his embassy to Normandy and the claims of disputed Norman sources that he pledged allegiance to Duke William; his exiling of his brother Tostig, removing a rival to the throne. Harold's powerful rival claimants - William of Normandy, Harald Hardrada and Edgar - and their motives should also be covered. Students should understand the range of causes of Harold's eventual defeat, including the superior generalship of his opponent, Duke William of Normandy, the respective quality of the two armies and Harold's own mistakes.

Exam Questions

'Describe' 4 mark

1. Describe two features of the social system in Anglo-Saxon England.
2. Describe two features of the Witan.
3. Describe two features of towns in Anglo Saxon England.
4. Describe two features of villages in Anglo Saxon England.
5. Describe two features of earldoms in Anglo-Saxon England.
6. Describe two features of the Battle of Gate Fulford.
7. Describe two features of the Battle of Stamford Bridge
8. Describe two features of William's troops at the Battle of Hastings.
9. Describe two features of the Battle of Hastings.
10. Describe two features of Harold's troops at the Battle of Hastings.

'Explain' 12 mark

1. Explain why there was a rising against Earl Tostig in 1065. You may use the following in your answer: Danelaw and Taxation.
2. Explain why there was a disputed succession to the English throne when Edward the Confessor died. You may use the following in your answer: Edwards lack of heir and the embassy to Normandy.
3. Explain why William won the Battle of Hastings. You may use the following in your answer: knights and tactics.
4. Explain why Harold lost the Battle of Hastings. You may use the following in your answer: leadership and tactics.

'How far?' 16 mark

1. 'The house of Godwin were more powerful than the King by 1065'. How far do you agree? You may use the following in your answer: Tostig and Land.
2. 'The main reason for the English defeat at the Battle of Hastings was superior Norman tactics.' How far do you agree? You may use the following in your answer: the feigned retreat and the shield wall.
3. 'The main reason for William's success at the Battle of Hastings was Harold's mistakes'. How far do you agree? You may use the following in your answer: tactics and Harold's decision making.

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Consolidation Questions for Anglo Saxon England and Norman Invasion

1. What is the role of a slave?	16. Describe the claim to the throne of each of the claimants.
2. What is the role of a ceorl?	17. When was the Battle of Gate Fulford?
3. What is the role of a thegn?	18. Who was involved in the Battle of Gate Fulford?
4. What is the role of an earl?	19. Who won the Battle of Gate Fulford?
5. What is a shire reeve?	20. When was the Battle of Stamford Bridge?
6. Explain Weirgild	21. Who was involved in the Battle of Stamford Bridge?
7. Explain geld tax	22. Who won the Battle of Stamford Bridge?
8. Explain a burh	23. When was the Battle of Hastings?
9. Explain the Fyrd	24. Who was involved in the Battle of Hastings?
10. When did Harold become the Earl of Wessex?	25. Name a tactic that was used by William in the Battle of Hastings.
11. Explain why Totsig got exiled	26. Name a tactic that was used by Harold in the Battle of Hastings?
12. Why were the Godwin family so powerful?	27. Who won the Battle of Hastings?
13. Who was the King of England before Harold?	28. What is the most important reason why they won the Battle of Hastings?
14. Who were the four claimants to the throne?	29. Outline the different stages of the Battle of Hastings?
15. Where was Harald Hardrada king of?	30. What was the key consequence of the Battle of Hastings?

GCSE History - Knowledge Organiser - Anglo-Saxon and Norman England c1060-1087 - Topic 2 - William in Power - securing the kingdom 1066-87

Key dates	
1066	Submission of the Earls
1068	Earls Morcar and Edwin rebel
Jan 1069	Robert Cumin is killed as Earl of Northumbria
Feb 1069	Edgar Aethling joins the rebellion in York but fails flees to Scotland
Sept 1069	Sweyn attacks with his fleet
Oct 1069-70	The Harrying of the North
1075	Revolt of the Earls

Key people	
King Sweyn of Denmark	Viking who supported rebellion against William
Robert Cumin	Earl of Northumbria under William
Hereward the Wake	Rebelle in 106-71 in Ely
Roger de Montgomery, William FitzOsbern, Hugh d'Avranches	Earls of the new Marcher Earldoms - Hereford, Shrewsbury and Chester
Edgar Aethling	Blood relative to Edward also rebelled
Earls Morcar and Edwin	Former Earls involved in rebellions in 1069-71
Roger De Breteuil, Ralph de Gael, Waltheof	Earls of Hereford, East Anglia and Northumbria who rebelled in 1075

Key Terms/Concepts	
Forfeiture	The loss of lands to others
Harrying	To completely destroy or attack
Motte	Large mound of earth 5-7 metres high
Bailey	Enclosure below the Motte
Palisade	Strong fence around the bailey
Keep	Strong wooden tower
Gatehouse	Entrance to the bailey
Garrison	Group of soldiers
Marcher earldom	New earldoms on the border with Wales
Submission	To give in and agree to follow your new leader
Castles	Symbol of control - Motte and Bailey design
Shire Reeve (Sheriff)	Responsible for kings orders locally
Writ	Orders from the King
Coinage	Coins were used by William to reinforce his role as king
Oath-Taking	To promise to do something

GCSE History – Knowledge Organiser – Anglo-Saxon and Norman England c1060-1087 – Topic 2 – William in Power – securing the kingdom 1066-87

The second key topic is focused on the period after the Battle of Hastings when William faced the immense task of translating his victory into meaningful control over a hostile Anglo-Saxon population. Students should understand how control was established, including the submission of the earls, but how by 1068 rebellion had broken out in the North of England, helped by the leadership of the surviving Anglo-Saxon earls, Edwin and Morcar. Students should also cover the renewed uprising in the North in 1069, which escalated out of control as a result of the leadership of Edgar Atheling and aid from Denmark and Scotland, and in 1070-71, the gathering of English rebels in the marshes of Ely to make what turned out to be a last stand. Students should appreciate how and why William defeated the uprisings: he militarised England with a programme of castle building; power was delegated to trusted men and a group of compact earldoms along the Welsh border; he was prepared to unleash total violence, as the population of Yorkshire discovered in the Harrying of the North; and he took steps to ensure that very few Anglo-Saxons continued to enjoy positions of wealth or power. Students should consider why, while the will of the English had been broken by the close of 1071, in 1075 a trio of William's own earls attempted, unsuccessfully, to oust him from power. This was the last challenge William would face in England.

Exam Questions

'Describe' 4 mark

1. Describe two features of the submission of the Earls.
2. Describe two features of castles.
3. Describe two features of the revolt of Edwin and Morcar 1068.
4. Describe two features of the rebellion in the North 1069.
5. Describe two features of the rebellion at Ely 1070-71.
6. Describe two features of the Harrying of the North 1069-70.
7. Describe two features of the Revolt of the Earls in 1075.

'Explain' 12 mark

1. Explain why William created the Marcher Earldoms. You may use the following in your answer: protecting the borders and rewarding followers.
2. Explain why castles were important in securing William's power. You may use the following in your answer: strategic locations and marcher earldoms.
3. Explain why there was a revolt against William in 1068. You may use the following in your answer: resentment and taxes.
4. Explain why changes in landownership made resistance to Norman control less likely after 1071. You may use the following in your answer: tenants in chief and thegns.

'How far?' 16 mark

1. 'The main reason for the Harrying of the North was to prevent another Danish invasion.' How far do you agree? You may use the following in your answer: Robert Cumin and Danelaw.
2. 'William's strategy for ruling England had failed by 1070.' How far do you agree? You may use the following in your answer: the submission of the earls and the Harrying of the North.
3. 'It was changes in landholding that did the most to secure Norman control of England.' How far do you agree? You may use the following in your answer: tenants-in chief- and forfeiture.
4. 'The main consequence of Anglo Saxon resistance 1068-70 was an increase in Norman control of England'. How far do you agree? You may use the following in your answer: the Harrying of the North and Hereward the Wake.

Consolidation Questions for William securing the Kingdom

1. When, where and why did the earls submit to William?	16. What was the Harrying of the North?
2. How did William reward his Norman followers?	17. When and why did it happen?
3. How did William reward loyal Anglo Saxons?	18. What was the impact (long term and short term) of the Harrying of the North?
4. What type of castles did William build?	19. Why did William change landownership?
5. How were they different to burhs?	20. How did Anglo Saxons lose their land?
6. Why were castles effective against unrest?	21. How did landownership under William differ to land ownership in Anglo Saxon England?
7. When was the revolt of Edwin and Morcar?	22. What were Marcher Earldoms and where were they?
8. Why did they revolt?	23. What differences did the Marcher Earldoms have to other Earldoms?
9. What were the outcomes of the revolt?	24. How did William maintain his royal power?
10. When was the rebellion by Edgar Aethling in the North?	25. What changes did William make to royal power?
11. Why was there a rebellion? What happened?	26. What elements of royal power stayed the same?
12. What were the outcomes of the rebellion?	27. Who were the earls that revolted against William in 1075?
13. When was the rebellion of Hereward the Wake and Ely?	28. Why did they revolt? What happened?
14. Why was there a rebellion? What happened?	29. What were the outcomes of the revolt?
15. What were the outcomes of the rebellion?	30. What is the most important reason why they won the Battle of Hastings?

GCSE History - Knowledge Organiser - Anglo-Saxon and Norman England c1060-1087 - Topic 3 - Norman England - 1066-88

Key dates

1066	Feudal System established
1070	Lanfranc replaces Stigand as head of the church
Dec 1085	William orders the Domesday survey
Sept 1087	William dies
Oct 1087	William Rufus becomes king of England
1088	Bishop Odo's revolt

Key people

Bishop Lanfranc	Norman Archbishop of Canterbury
Bishop Stigand	Former Anglo-Saxon Archbishop
Bishop Wulfstan	Only remaining Anglo-Saxon bishop
Robert Curthose	William's eldest son became duke of Normandy
Bishop Odo	William's half-brother
William Rufus	William's favourite son given the throne of England
Robert of Mortain	Odo's brother support in 1088 rebellion

Key Terms/Concepts

Feudal System	Hierarchy of people from the most powerful to the least
Simony	Giving out jobs in the church in return for money
Feif	Land held by a vassal in return for service to the lord
Forest Laws	Laws that gave William power over the forests - for hunting
Domesday Book	Survey that found out how much more money and military service could be increased
Aristocracy	The ruling class of Normans
Homage	Public display of loyalty
Vassal	Someone who held their land from someone else
Baron	Another name for a tenant in chief major land owner
Tenant in Chief	Held their fiefs directly from the king
Knight service	Military service for 40 days a year
Pluralist	Bishop for more than one area
Penance	Praying or helping the church to atone for their sins
Regent	Someone who rules for the king in his absence
Chivalry	Knights code of conduct
Demesne	Set amount paid to manage the kings estates

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The final key topic is focused on the nature of Norman England and the implications of William's death. Students should consider changes to the nature of landownership as William laid claim to the whole of England, granting it out under strict conditions in a process historians have termed feudalism. In the Church, students should understand that Anglo-Saxon influence was squeezed out, while Lanfranc, William's carefully chosen Archbishop of Canterbury to replace Stigand, embarked on a process of modernisation and church building. In the realm of government, students should appreciate that Anglo-Saxon practices such as writs continued while others such as the use of earls and sheriffs were modified. The growth in royal power should be covered, demonstrated by the ambitious Domesday survey, the hated royal forests and the unrestrained greed of Bishop Odo of Bayeux, William's half-brother. They might note that in the economy, the single currency continued but slavery steadily declined.

Exam Questions

'Describe' 4 mark

1. Describe two features of the feudal system.
2. Describe two features of Norman government.
3. Describe two features of the Norman church.
4. Describe two features of Norman law and order.
5. Describe two features of the Domesday book.
6. Describe two features of Norman culture.
7. Describe two features of Bishop Odo's career.
8. Describe two features of a Norman sheriff.
9. Describe two features of William I's personality.
10. Describe two features of the succession to William I's throne.

'Explain' 12 mark

1. Explain why there was a rising against Earl Tostig in 1065. You may use the following in your answer: Danelaw and Taxation.
2. Explain why William Rufus was able to defeat the rebellion of 1088. You may use the following in your answer: Bishop Odo and the Church in England.
3. Explain why the Domesday book was significant in Norman England. You may use the following in your answer: Military and financial.
4. Explain why Bishop Odo lost power in 1082. You may use the following in your answer: tenant in chief and the Church.
5. Explain how William's personality helped him to win the Battle of Hastings. You may use the following in your answer: religion and determination.
6. Explain why there was dispute over succession to the English throne when William died in 1087. You may use the following in your answer: Williams instructions and Robert Curthose.

'How far?' 16 mark

1. 'The main consequence of the Normanisation of England was that the King became more powerful.' How far do you agree? You may use the following in your answer: the feudal system and Archbishop Lanfranc.
2. 'The main significance of the Domesday book was financial'. How far do you agree? You may use the following in your answer: invasion threat and the geld tax.
3. 'Of all the changes the Normans made in England the most important was the change to the church'. How far do you agree? You may use the following in your answer: Lanfranc and the feudal system.

Consolidation Questions for Norman England

1. Describe how the feudal system worked.	13. What was the military significance of the Domesday book?
2. Why did William create the feudal system?	14. What was the financial significance of the Domesday book?
3. How was the feudal system different to Anglo Saxon society?	12. Describe Norman culture of the Aristocracy
4. What changes did Lanfranc make to the church?	19. How did culture and Aristocracy change under William I?
5. Why did William and Lanfranc reform the church?	20. Why are these changes significant?
6. How did Archbishop Lanfranc compare to Archbishop Stigand?	21. Who was Bishop Odo? What did he do?
7. To what extent did society change under William I compared to under Edward the Confessor?	22. Why was Bishop Odo significant?
8. What changes did William make to the government? Why?	23. Why might the Revolt of the Earls in 1075 have influenced William to agree to an enquiry into Odo's activities?
9. What did William keep the same about government? Why?	24. Describe William's personality?
10. How did the role of the sheriff change under William?	25. What was William's relationship like with his son Robert?
11. What were the forest laws?	26. How did William die?
12. Why was 'the forest' significant?	27. Why was there a problem with succession after his death?
10. What was the Domesday book? When was it put together?	28. Who rebelled against William II becoming king and why?
11. Why was the Domesday book created?	29. How was William Rufus able to get Odo to surrender?
12. What was the legal significance of the Domesday book?	30. Reflect back on William I - was he a fair king?