

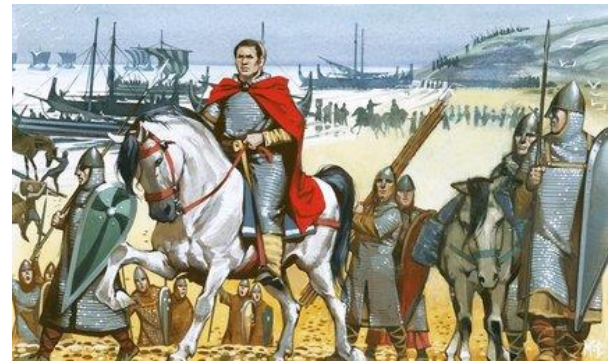
Norman England 1066-c1100

THE NORMAN CONQUEST AND CONTROL

Before 1066 England was a Christian country. The Church was important because owned land and provided rules for living. **Earls** ran different areas of the country for the king. England had hardly any castles for defence. England was very wealthy which made it a target for invaders. However, there was 3000 **Housecarls**, who were professional, well-trained warriors! The most powerful family in England at this time was the **Godwin's** who were unhappy with King Edward the Confessor's favouritism towards his Norman friends.

Who were the Normans?

King **Edward the Confessor** had Norman relatives via his mother Emma. During his time as king he brought over many of his Norman friends to be his advisors which upset the Anglo Saxon Earls including the Godwin's. Normandy was a rich area in northern France which had a strong ruler in **William the Conqueror** and a strong army. William was a cousin of Edward the Confessor.



The rivals for the throne?

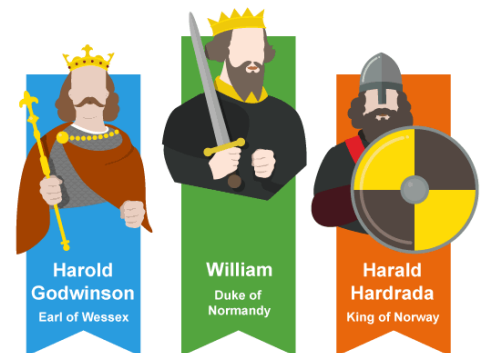
Edward the Confessor died on the 3rd of January 1066 without an **heir** (successor). There were different ways the throne could be inherited. **Novissima verba** was the king nominating a man on his death bed. The **Witan** (nobles) could suggest an heir or a man could use force! However, it is unclear who was actually promised what.

HARALD HARDRADA was the king of Norway and related to the previous king of England, Cnut.

HAROLD GODWINSON was an important earl and claimed that Edward the confessor had promised the throne on his deathbed.

WILLIAM DUKE OF NORMANDY was a distant cousin of Edward and claimed that Edward had promised him the throne earlier in his reign. William also said that Harold had promised to support his claim to the throne.

EDGAR THE OUTLAW (Aethling) was the nephew of Edward and had the closest blood tie to him. He was an Anglo-Saxon and had the support of many Earls. He took part in a number of rebellions against the Normans.

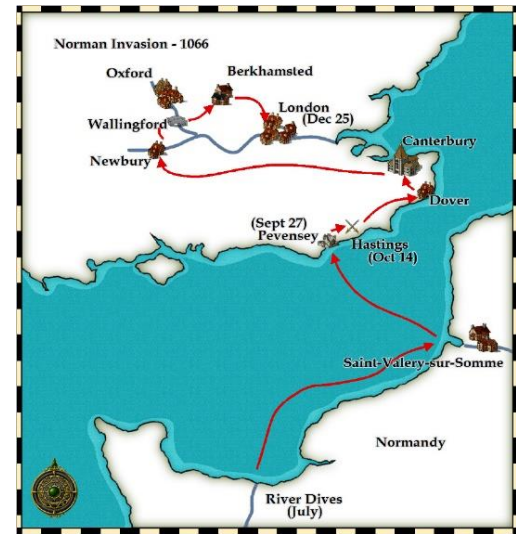


William prepares to invade England!

Harold Godwinson crowned himself king of England in 1066. William prepared to invade by **1)** ensuring that his authority and Normandy was secure from other French kingdoms. **2)**

getting the **Papal Banner** which meant his campaign was a **Holy War** with the Pope's support. **3)** Building a navy that could carry horses, weapons and 'flat pack' castles. **4)** Moving his fleet up the French coast so the journey across the channel was shorter. **5)** Recruiting men from all over France with the promise of land and riches in England. William eventually landed at **Pevensey Bay** on the 28th September 1066 and starts to build a castle.

Before William invaded Hardrada landed in northern England and defeated a local English force at the battle of **Fulford Gate**. However, Harold quickly marched his soldiers north and totally surprised the Viking army at **Stamford Bridge**. The Vikings were not wearing their protective armour, not defending the bridge over the river Derwent properly, they were outnumbered and were therefore destroyed. However, Harold had to quickly march his army back down south to face William!



WHO WAS MORE PREPARED?

- The English army was now exhausted.....
- Harold was an experienced general and had the support of the Witan
- Norman knights were trained from the age of 3
- Normans had knights on horseback as well as archers to wear down the enemy
- The Normans had several days to rest and prepare for the battle

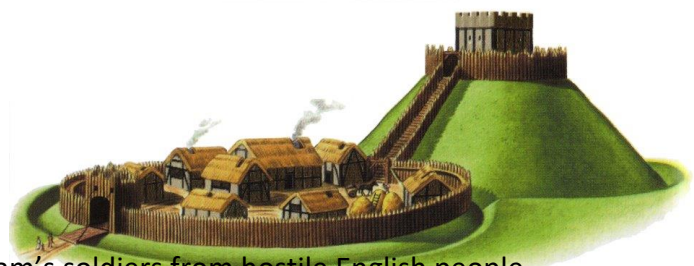
When the **battle of Hastings** began at first the English defence held firm behind its strong shield wall. William then used the tactic of the **feigned retreat** which resulted in English soldiers chasing after them but then being slaughtered in marshy ground at the bottom of Senlac Hill. Gradually the English wall broke and Harold was killed by an arrow in his eye.

WHY WILLIAM WON?

- Harold did not wait to build a larger army
- The Papal Banner meant William's soldiers believed they would go to heaven if killed
- William was on horseback so he had more control of his troops
- William had time to rest his army
- The death of Harold left the English without their leader

Some historians think William's victory was down to his brilliant military leadership but others think he was also lucky. THE BAYEUX TAPESTRY is Norman propaganda by William's brother and **apologist**, Bishop Odo, which seeks to blame Harold for breaking his oath of **fealty** to William. This was so William would be more acceptable to the English population.

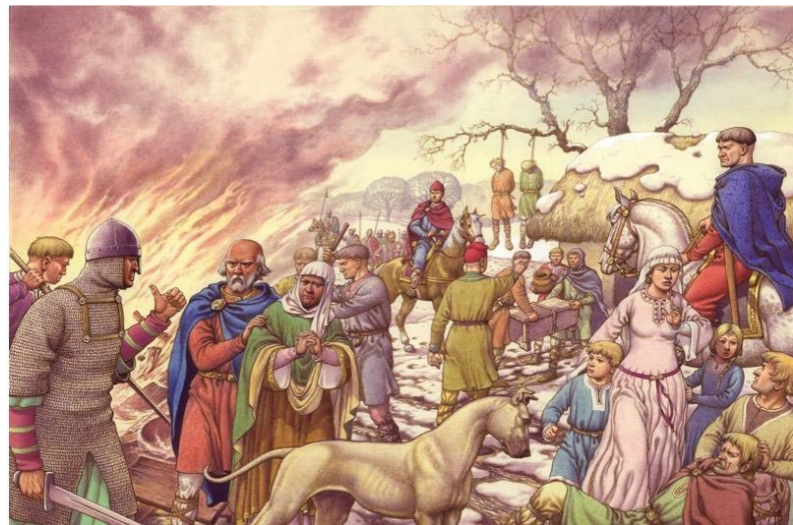
Norman Castles



The purpose of Norman castles was to protect William's soldiers from hostile English people and to intimidate the local populace! **Motte and Bailey** castles were quickly built, made out of wood but were vulnerable to fire and rotting. Eventually the Normans made stone castles and built them near strategically important areas, such as the Welsh **Marchlands** where there were lots of rebellions. They were built on high ground to see the enemy coming and near water so moats (ditches with water) could be created. High outer Bailey walls could be protected by archers and the Keep was well protected by a steep motte (hill), high straight walls and steep, spiral, narrow staircases.

P32-33 William ***dealt with his opponent's*** in several ways.... He gained control of the **Treasury** in Winchester. He burned the land near London to scare the English. He distributed land to his loyal barons and put them in areas of potential trouble! However, there were **several rebellions** against William. The Welsh borders were wild areas and William had to personally lead a force to defeat them. The town of Exeter rebelled so William had to besiege it and force its surrender. William also faced a rebellion from his own Norman Earls! Roger De Breteuil rebelled because he was unhappy that he did not have as much power as his father once had.

The Harrying of the North; happened due to English Earls, Edwin and Morcar rebelling with the support of Malcolm, King of Scotland! The rebels murdered a Norman Earl and attacked the city of York. Danish Vikings had also invaded in the summer of 1069! William was under pressure! William mastered the danger though by paying the Vikings to leave. He then brutally laid waste to northern England. Thousands were murdered, homes burnt down and the fields were salted so no crops could be grown! The North became a wasteland..... There were no more rebellions again!



Why did Hereward the Wake rebel? H had lost his father's land to the Normans and his brother had been killed. H launched a series of **guerrilla** style attacks on the Normans and then set up a base on the Isle of Ely in the marshes. It was a difficult campaign for William to defeat Hereward..... A rampart he built to cross the marshes collapsed as his men crossed it! Hereward set fire to the area and burnt William's siege tower! Hereward was eventually betrayed by Monks who showed him a secret route to Ely. However, Hereward disappeared!

How did William use land to help him control the country? William gave land to those who had helped him conquer England. These men then loyally ran the **administration** of the country for him and kept law and order. The Church owned a lot of land. The **feudal system** was based on a system of give and take. For example, the Nobility (Barons) provided military service, money and loyal protection to the King in return for land. This system was known as **fiscal feudalism**. The peasants worked in the fields and gave their military service in return for protection from the Knights. Everyone knew their position in the **social hierarchy** and what was expected of them.

The Barons, Tenants-in-chief, could reward their own followers, knights, with smaller grants of land. This was called **subinfeudation**. Knights could avoid military service to the King by paying **scutage** which was a form of taxation. William controlled the lawless Welsh borders by appointing tough Norman 'Marcher Lords' like William FitzOsbern who built castles and garrisons (strong buildings) across Wales from which to launch attacks.

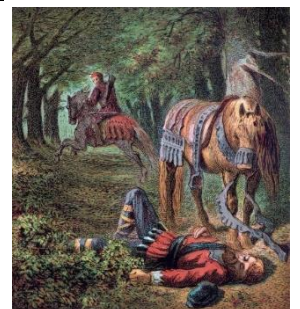
In 1085 with the threat of invasion William needed tax money to pay for his army so he ordered a list of what everyone owned to be written down in what was known as the **Domesday Book** (because people felt they were being judged!). It allowed William to get as much money as possible from taxes. He also did this to ensure his Feudal Lords (Nobles) were not withholding money which could have made them a threat to his power! William owned 20% of English land and the Church around 25%. Most of the land was owned by Norman Earls. It showed that the population of England was around 2 million people.



Who killed William II??

Evidence that William Rufus was murdered!

- William's 3 sons (William, Robert and Henry) were unhappy with the land they inherited
- William raised heavy taxes on The English people and Norman Nobles. He was a harsh, greedy and fearsome!
- Walter Tirl who fired the arrow at William fled to France
- Henry immediately crowned himself King of England!
- Henry gave land to killer Tirl's wife's family when he became King



Keeping law and order was important for William to keep the peace in England. He changed the nature of the law in several ways:

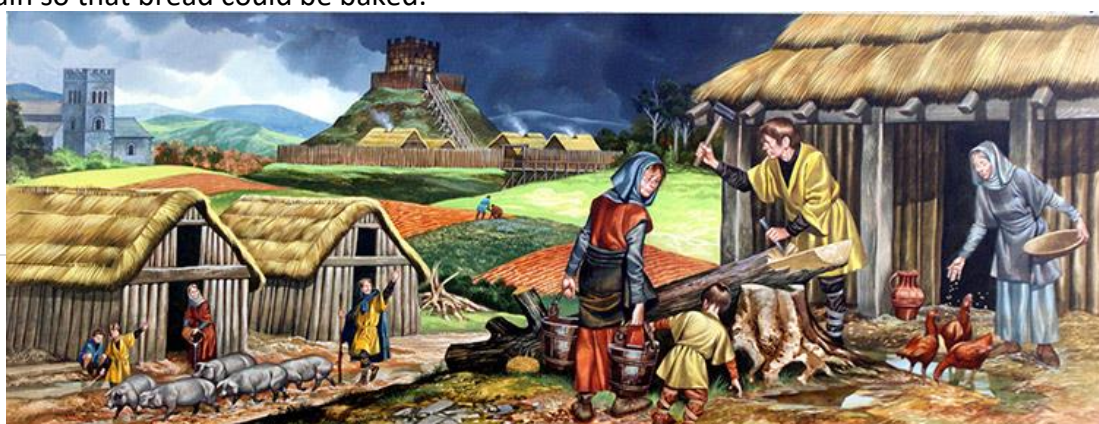
- 1) Importance of shire courts declined as more **honorial** courts in castles were created for tenants to have their cases heard. Some **juries** were introduced.
- 2) Inheritance of land went to the eldest son instead of all the family, a process known as **primogeniture**.
- 3) People still made oaths to the community to not commit crimes but William also brought in **murdrum fines**, where the entire area was fined if a Norman Earl was hurt or murdered!
- 4) Latin was used for writing laws down, including Church Laws.
- 5) **Ordeal by combat** was introduced by the Normans where the accused could fight his accuser. Ordeal by fire and water was kept from Saxon times.
- 6) **Forest laws** showed William did not tolerate the general population hunting on his lands and people could be mutilated or executed as punishment!



What did a Norman village look like?

90% of people lived in the countryside. For the majority of peasants the conquest had little impact on their lives. Fields were ploughed in strips, houses were organised around roads and the Lord of the manor collected rent in the form of money or crops such as vegetables, wheat, oats and herbs. Villagers made enough to feed themselves and would leave a field **fallow** (empty) for a year so the soil could recover. The centre of the village was the church which rang a bell to tell people when to start and finish work. The church stored food, acted as a prison and also fortress. Sunday was feast and holy day. Historians know about the structure of Norman villages because archaeologists have studied the village of **Wharram Percy**.

A peasant could not leave the area without the permission of the Lord. Their homes were dark with mud floors and people lived in a single room. Farm animals were brought in at night to save them from predators and thieves! This led to a lot of disease though! **Manors** were the most important areas of the village with the manor house (made from stone), church, mills and barns. Land owned by the Lord was called the **desmesne**. As well as the Lord other key people were responsible for the smooth running of the village: **Reeve** – a magistrate who ensured everyone did their job in the manor. **Bailiff** – collected taxes and ensured crops were gathered. **Priest** – ran the church and ensured marriages were legal. **Miller** – Produced grain so that bread could be baked.



A peasant's year was unpleasant. Most children died before they were six months old. They worked in the fields and poor harvests meant peasants might starve to death! They sowed (planted) crops and reaped (cut down) the harvest with **scythes and sickles**. Not all peasants were farmers, some were millers or brewers. Work only finished when the sun went down and evening meal would consist mostly of vegetables and beer. Meat, fruit and honey was rarely eaten as it was expensive. Peasants worked 6 days a week. Holy Day on Sunday had some entertainment such as wrestling or music. Life was difficult because peasants had to harvest their Lords crops as well as their own! They also paid a **tithe** (a tax) where they gave 10% of their earnings to the Lord in money. Peasants also had to work for free on Church lands! Sometimes they did not have enough money to buy seeds to start the crops for next year!

How much did towns grow under the Normans?

Many towns developed around new cathedrals. New houses were built around the new castles as well. A new group of town people emerged called **burgesses**, who bought and sold property. They had legal and administrative responsibilities. *Growing trade and business with France helped towns grow.* **The salt trade** grew as it was important for cooking and preserving food. **Metalwork** developed due to the importance of iron in making weapons and building houses. **The wool trade** was in great demand because Europe wanted clothes made in England, so English coastal towns grew as centres of international trade. New traders such as weavers, butchers and bakers formed specialist associations called **guilds** to protect their interests. **Markets and fairs** allowed traders a place to buy and sell their products. They were sponsored by the Church if the king them a **grant** (money) to organise them and therefore they enabled the church was able to raise money.

Did the Norman Conquest change everyday life?

Land – William took possession of all the land and divided it amongst his Earls and the Church. A new social class was introduced in the form of Knights.

New Laws – They introduced Ordeal by combat and trial by jury. Peasants could no longer supplement their food by hunting on the Kings land. Murdrum fines made it less likely that peasants would support rebellions.

Castles – Earls built them to protect themselves but over time they also became centres for trade and commerce. They intimidated the local population but some like blacksmiths and carpenters lived and worked within the walls of the Bailey.

Language – Norman French became the language used at court, in law and government. Eventually French and Anglo-Saxon started to merge together.

For the peasants at the bottom of the social scale there was little change to their lives.



How religious were people in Norman times?

Religion was very important, people wanted to get to heaven! The Church was led by the Pope but still subject to the Kings laws. People learned about heaven and hell from paintings and stained glass windows in churches.



However, The Church was a major landowner and collected tithes off the people. The Church was important for Law because it heard cases for crimes carried out on its land. Leading members of the Church were politically significant and advised the King on important national matters. It was important in Education as it was the only institution that produced books by copying texts such as medical knowledge for doctors. It was important for health because people believed the priest could cure them of disease by praying for them. The priest played a central role in the community as they gave advice, heard confessions, married people and baptised children.

Pilgrims journeyed to holy places such as **abbeys and monasteries** (where Monks lived) in order to feel closer to God. Some went to Jerusalem and the **Holy Land** (to see where Jesus was crucified).

How did the Normans influence religion in England?

William built many new churches and cathedrals in England to show how grateful he was for victory at Hastings! William agreed to Pope Leo IX desire to reform the church. He was advised by Archbishop Lanfranc advised William on religious matters and enacted the Church reforms. William also believed the church was **corrupt** (acting dishonestly for financial gain) and therefore made a number of changes to the way it was run so that it helped him and the country:

- Anglo-Saxon bishops were removed and replaced with Normans
- Normans rebuilt churches and cathedrals in a **Romanesque** style which was more architecturally impressive.
- The Church was better organised in to **Dioceses** (more land was served by more churches and cathedrals).
- Legally only the Church could put those that worked for it on trial!
- The local parish priests kept their jobs and were still mainly English



Although William had the support of The Pope he was ordered to do **penance** (paying for sin) for all the killing and destruction done to the English people. William also argued with Archbishop Anselm over which men to promote in the Church.

The Normans also stole from English churches to enrich Norman ones. William II did not replace Archbishop Lanfranc as Archbishop of Canterbury for a time after his death and simply took his money! However, Archbishop Anselm was eventually appointed after William II worried about his lack of **piety!** (respect for God). Anselm also argued with William over his military campaigns and eventually fled to Rome! This was an example of the struggle between the Popes and the monarchies of Europe. Pope Gregory in particular wanted the Church to be independent of the Kings and run its own affairs. He tried to ban kings from appointing bishops and archbishops.

Historic Environment – Norman cathedrals - DURHAM

These buildings were very large, grand and an expression of devotion to God in a Romanesque style. *Norman cathedrals were used as a form of intimidation in the same way that castles were!* They were built on a hill to make them stand out! Durham cathedral occupies a strategic position on high ground above the river so its massive structure dominated the landscape and reminded the locals who was in charge! A castle was built next to it to give it extra protection. It was a good location to build a cathedral because it was also the site of St Cuthbert's grave, perhaps the most famous Anglo-Saxon saint which would attract many pilgrims!



The beauty of the cathedral was designed to show the strength of the Norman religious faith..... Cathedrals were also powerful political bases as Bishops played an important role in running the country. Cathedrals also attracted pilgrims because they contained **shrines** to holy saints or holy relics (items that had religious significance). It was important to have a Cathedral at Durham because of its strategic importance. Durham was within the main **buffer zone** along the border with Scotland who often raided northern England. It was a difficult area for a Norman Earl to control. Norman kings often gave the Bishop of Durham extra powers, such as the ability to raise an army, impose taxes and mint coins in order to raise revenue. The kings knew that people were likely to obey the authority of the church!

Bishop Ranulf Flambard was responsible for the start of the construction of Durham cathedral. Eventually in 1093 building work started on Durham to make it a monastic Cathedral for Benedictine monks.

The life of a monk – life in a Holy Order

Monks followed the example of St Benedict who wrote a set of rules for monks to live by who dedicated their lives to the worship of God. Their way of life is known as **monasticism**. Monks would train agree to four vows – poverty (give up all wealth), chastity (abstaining from physical pleasure), obedience (obey God and their **abbot** – leader) and stability (not

leave the monastery). Many also take a vow of silence!

Monks would live in isolation away from distractions.

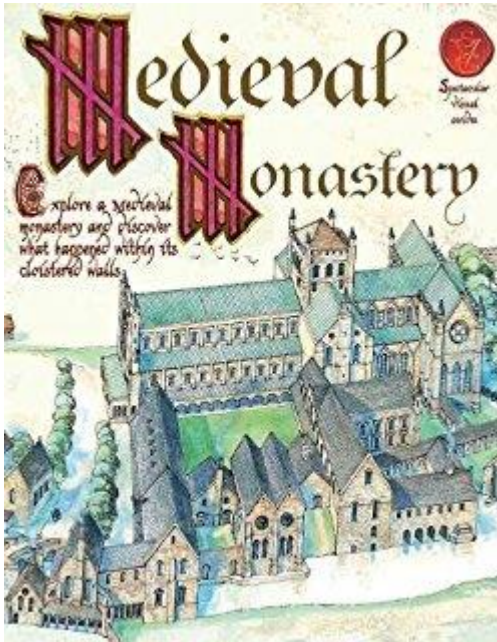
Monasteries (also called **priory's**) were **self-sufficient** and produced their own food. They believed in suffering to be closer to God! Some people joined Holy Orders to escape the harsh realities of poverty. Ordinary people could pay monasteries to pray for them. Monks copied books by hand in a room called the **scriptorium**. Monks would also tend to the sick and give charity to the poor.

William funded the founding of more monasteries led by monks from the *Clunian* order who reinforced the Rules of St Benedict more strictly. Monks were brought from Normandy to run the

new Abbeys and monasteries. William gave money to the monks in order to show penance for the destruction their invasion had inflicted.

Educating England

Education was promoted and changed by the Normans as the size and number of towns increased and people needed better literacy and numeracy skills in order to conduct trade. Schools moved out of monasteries in to their own buildings. Latin and French was used in speaking and writing. Education developed as Archbishops Lanfranc and Anselm promoted education and built libraries in order to produce more clergy. A number of **grammar schools** were built for the purpose of making lay people more literate. Peasant students did not work in summer so that they could still bring in the harvest. Students stayed at grammar school for four years and learned Latin. If students were successful at school they moved on to university. Some could become merchants, parish clergy or secretaries.

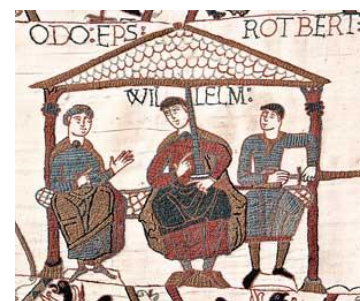


3.3.2 Section B: British depth studies **Norman England, c1066–**

c1100 This option allows students to study in depth the arrival of the Normans and the establishment of their rule. The depth study will focus on major aspects of Norman rule, considered from economic, religious, political, social and cultural standpoints of this period and arising contemporary and historical controversies.

Part one: **The Normans: conquest and control** • Causes of Norman Conquest, including the death of Edward the Confessor, the claimants and claims. • Military aspects: Battle of Stamford Bridge; Battle of Hastings; Anglo-Saxon and Norman tactics; military innovations, including cavalry and castles. • Establishing and maintaining control: the Harrying of the North; revolts, 1067–1075; King William's leadership and government; William II and his inheritance.

Part two: **Life under the Normans** • Feudalism and government: roles, rights, and responsibilities; landholding and lordship; land distribution; patronage; Anglo-Saxon and Norman government systems; the Anglo-Saxon and Norman aristocracies and societies; military service; justice and the legal system such as ordeals, 'murdrum'; inheritance; the Domesday Book. Economic and social changes and their consequences: Anglo-Saxon and Norman life, including towns, villages, buildings, work, food, roles and seasonal life; Forest law.



Part three: **The Norman Church and monasticism** • The Church: the Anglo-Saxon Church before 1066; Archbishop Lanfranc and reform of the English Church, including the building of churches and cathedrals; Church organisation and courts; Church/state relations; William II and the Church; the wealth of the Church; relations with the Papacy; the Investiture Controversy. • Monasticism: the Norman reforms, including the building of abbeys and monasteries; monastic life; learning; schools and education; Latin usage and the vernacular.

Part four: **The historic environment of Norman England** The historic environment is 10% of the overall course which equates to approximately 12 hours out of 120 guided learning hours. Students will be examined on a specific site in depth. This site will be as specified and will be changed annually. The site will relate to the content of the rest of this depth study. It is intended that study of different historic environments will enrich students' understanding of Norman England.

The study of the historic environment will focus on a particular site in its historical context and should examine the relationship between a specific place and associated historical events and developments. Students will be expected to answer a question that draws on second order concepts of change, continuity, causation and/or consequence, and to explore them in the context of the specified site and wider events and developments of the period studied.

Students should be able to identify key features of the specified site and understand their connection to the wider historical context of the specific historical period. Sites will also illuminate how people lived at that time, how they were governed and their beliefs and values. The following aspects of the site should be considered:

- location • function • the structure • people connected with the site e.g. the designer, originator and occupants • design • how the design reflects the culture, values, fashions of the people at the time • how important events/developments from the depth study are connected to the site.

Students will be expected to understand the ways in which key features and other aspects of the site are representative of the period studied. In order to do this, students will also need to be aware of how the key features and other aspects of the site have changed from earlier periods.

Students will also be expected to understand how key features and other aspects may have changed or stayed the same during the period. The numbers in the brackets below further relate to other parts of the depth study for which the historic environment is relevant.

The historic environment can be explored through the examination of Norman buildings such as the cathedrals (Part three), abbeys (Part three), castles (Part one) and wider historic environments such as towns and settlements (Part two). Equally, key historical developments and events such as trade (Part three), revolts, and battles (Part one) were shaped by the historic environment in which they took place.

For all series the specified site will be published three years in advance at aqa.org.uk/history Optional resource packs will accompany each site, which teachers may wish to use to form part of their teaching of the course. Other sources of information about the specified site may also be considered.

