



Knowledge Organiser: GCSE History

Paper 2, Section B - Anglo-Saxon and Norman England

Life in Anglo-Saxon England

1

Life in 1060: What was the structure of Anglo-Saxon society?

- **Hierarchical** structure; not fixed – a person could change status if they had enough money, e.g. a slave could buy freedom and become a peasant.
- **King** at the top. Main roles = defend country from attack, pass and enforce laws.
- **Earls** (6 of them), owned large amounts of land. Main roles = advise the king, ensure laws were enforced on their lands, raise men for king's army.
- **Thegns** (less than 1% of population) – warriors who defended the king. Main roles = guarding tax collectors, organising repairs of roads and bridges.
- **Ceorls** (10% of population) – owned their own small area of land. Males had to serve in the army if needed.
- **Peasants** (70% of the population). Worked for their lord at least 3 days a week – other days they grew their own food.
- **Slaves** (10% of population) – were not free; work food and marriage controlled by master.



2

How was the Anglo-Saxon government organised?

- King made all important decisions.
- The **Witan** were the king's advisors.
- The Witan only met when the king summoned them.
- The Witan included earls, thegns and senior members of the church (bishops and archbishops).
- The country was divided into 40 shires/counties where a thegn acted as sheriff for the king.
- Hundreds were sub-divisions of shires (containing about 12 villages) - each hundred had a reeve who held a court each month for less serious crimes.



12 x

3

The Church, power and government

The influence of the Church



The Church and everyday life

- Organisation – 2 archbishops (Canterbury & York);
- 15 bishops each in charge of a **diocese** – they made sure local priests obeyed church laws.
- Archbishops/Bishops could be part of the Witan.
- **Monasteries** were very wealthy (owned land and sold crops) – Church owned 25% of land in England.
- Anglo-Saxons believed in Heaven and Hell
- People prayed regularly and they believed that God sent disease or healed the sick; sent good harvests or bad harvests.



4

Villages

Life in towns and villages

Towns

- 90% of population lived in villages.
- Many villages contained just 12-15 houses (made of **wattle and daub**).
- Church one of the most important buildings; made of wood.
- Houses were just one large room with a fire in the centre
- Animals would come inside to protect them if it was too cold.
- **Agricultural** economy – peasants mainly farmers, but some were craftspeople; **subsistence** economy.
- 10% of population lived in towns where there was a defensive wall, a **mint** and a marketplace.
- Looked similar to villages – houses made the same way.
- People had more money and status.
- Quite small – biggest was London (10,000 people).
- **Exchange economy** but coins also used; craftsmen and traders sold goods at market; coastal towns exported wool, iron and cheese and imported wine, spices and glass.



5

Anglo-Saxon legal system

- **Blood-feud**: in some parts of England, men would take revenge through violence if a relative was killed/injured, rather than taking the criminal to court.
- **Wergild**: a fine paid to victims of crime or their families as compensation. The higher the status of the victim, the higher the fine.
- Capital and physical punishment: betraying your lord or king (treason) got the death penalty; criminals who were repeat offenders had hands, ears or noses cut off.
- No police force but people lived in tiny communities so there was a **tithing** system = group of 10 men held responsible for the others' behaviour; if one broke the law the others had to bring him to court or pay a fine.



Key words:

Hierarchical: arranged in order of rank/importance.

Witan: group of powerful men who were called to advise the king.

Wattle and daub: Sticks and mud.

Diocese: a region under control of a bishop.

Monasteries: places that housed monks and nuns.

Mint: where coins were made.

Exchange economy: where you swap extra items you have to get things you need.

Agricultural: farm-based.

Subsistence economy: when you produce just enough food, clothing and goods for your own family to use.

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Knowledge Organiser: GCSE History

Paper 2, Section B - Anglo-Saxon and Norman England

The Succession Crisis and Rebellion against Tostig

Who was Harold Godwinson?

- Harold Godwinson was the Earl of Wessex (the richest earldom in England). This huge wealth and power made him a strong candidate to be king.
- Between 1055 and 1063, Harold and his brother Tostig led a series of military campaigns against Wales.
- Harold had strong links to influential bishops.
- In 1064, he had gone on an **embassy** to Normandy – Norman sources claim that on this visit Harold promised to help William of Normandy become king when Edward the Confessor died.



Rebellion against Tostig:

- The people of Northumbria rebelled because:
 - Tostig taxed Northumbria too heavily. Danelaw areas were not used to heavy taxation.
 - He abused his power - falsely accusing people of crimes to take money and land from them and ordering the assassination of high-born Northumbrian rivals while they were his guests.
 - Tostig was seen as an outsider (from the South). Northumbria had previously always been ruled by northerners – Tostig did not fit in nor could he even understand their language.
- Edward sent Harold to speak to the rebels to stop the rebellion.
- Realising Tostig was not able to control Northumbria, Harold recommended that Edward accept the rebels' demands – Morcar was made Earl of Northumbria and Tostig went into exile.



Why was there a succession crisis?

- **English customs about the succession:** no rules, although the following helped someone be an acceptable candidate: blood relative to the previous king, being named as successor by previous king, being accepted by the English nobles.
- **Edward died without a strong blood heir:** King Edward and Edith had no children – no direct male heir to the throne. The closest blood heir was the 14 year old Edgar Aetheling.
- **Multiple promises:** Edward made multiple promises to people; Edward promised William in 1051 and sent Harold to reaffirm this promise in 1064; Edward promised the throne to Harold on his death-bed.
- **Nature of Harold Godwinson's succession:** Harold was crowned very quickly after Edward's death, before Hardrada and William heard the news of his death.
- **Multiple claimants:** William of Normandy, Harald Hardrada, Harold Godwinson and Edgar Aetheling all had a claim to the throne.

Other claimants to the English throne

Edgar Aetheling:

- a member of the Saxon royal family, Edgar was the closest male relative to Edward the Confessor (he was his great-nephew).
- Was not chosen by the Witan as he was only 14 when Edward died and had no support (the earls supported Harold).

William of Normandy:

- An experienced soldier and ruler who had made successful conquests in France.
- He based his claim on a promise made by Edward in 1051 (which he said Harold had confirmed during his embassy – Harold broke his promise to William and so deserved to die).
- He said Harold was not the lawful king because his **coronation** was performed by Archbishop Stigand, who the Pope had said was corrupt and should not be archbishop.

Harald Hardrada, King of Norway:

- An experienced and successful soldier before becoming King of Norway.
- Wanted to conquer more land and gain more power.
- Supported by Tostig (Harold Godwinson's exiled brother).
- Had a weak claim to the throne based on an agreement between King Harthcanut of England and King Magnus of Norway – that if one died childless the other would take his throne. Harthcanut did die childless but the throne was inherited by his half-brother Edward the Confessor. When Edward died childless, Hardrada used this past agreement between kings as his claim.



William
Duke of Normandy



Harald
Hardrada
King of Norway

Why was Harold chosen?

- The Witan may have been scared of foreign invasion because this would make them lose their land and titles.
- Harold was the richest man in England
- Harold was an experienced fighter.
- Harold had helped Edward the Confessor rule the country.
- He may have forced the Witan to vote for him

Key words:

Embassy: when a ruler sends someone on a mission to another ruler to make allies with them or to discuss important issues.

Exile: when you are forced to leave the place you're from and are banned from returning, normally for political reasons.

Unprecedented: never happened before.

Coronation: the ceremony where someone is officially crowned king.

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Paper 2, Section B - Anglo-Saxon and Norman England

Harold Godwinson as King of England, 1066

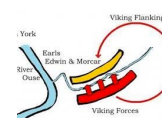
Harold's actions on becoming king

- To strengthen support in the north, Harold married Edith, sister of Earls Edwin of Mercia and Morcar of Northumbria.
- Harold raised an army and positioned himself on the Isle of Wight from where he hoped to sail to meet William wherever his invasion fleet landed.
- In May, Tostig raided the south-east coast. Harold's army forced him to retreat but he then sailed north and raided Norfolk and Lincolnshire before being defeated by Edwin and Morcar, Tostig then joined Harald Hardrada.
- By September, Harold sent the majority of his army home to harvest their crops, Harold felt safe in doing so because it was the end of the sailing season meaning William would be unlikely to cross the channel.



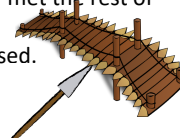
Battle of Gate Fulford, 20th September 1066

- Mid-September: Harald Hardrada and Tostig land near York, while Harold was still in the south and the bulk of his army had been sent home to harvest the crops.
- Edwin and Morcar rallied an army of 4500-6000 men
- Hardrada's army = 6000-7500 men.
- Edwin and Morcar blocked the road to York, forming a **shield wall** on high ground on the north side of a **ford**. Their **flanks** were protected by a **marsh** to the east and a river to the west.
- 20th September - the fight began. The English initially had the advantage, pushing many Norwegian troops into the **marsh**. But the Norwegians attacked hard and crossed the **ford** - driving the English back.
- Hardrada ordered troops to **outflank** the English using a road that crossed the marsh defeating the English.
- Edwin and Morcar survived but their armies were virtually destroyed and so they surrendered to Hardrada.



The Battle of Stamford Bridge, 25th September 1066

- Hardrada and his men went to Stamford Bridge to wait for hostages, soldiers and money from the people of York, leaving their armour behind (taking only their shields and weapons).
- Harold Godwinson's army had marched 190 miles north in only 5 days, surprising Hardrada as they did not expect the army to arrive so soon.
- Neither army was large - Hardrada had lost men at Gate Fulford and Godwinson had marched north too quickly to rally a large army. But Godwinson had the advantage of surprise.
- To give the Viking army time to prepare, Hardrada ordered a group of his men to guard Stamford Bridge from the bank of a river, to stop the English from crossing it. Godwinson's army cut through the men on the bank and were faced with a single Viking on the bridge.
- As the bridge was narrow, the Viking held his position until an English soldier got beneath the bridge and thrust his spear through it - killing the Viking and allowing the English to cross the bridge, where they met the rest of Hardrada's army.
- Tostig was offered Northumbria and a third of the English kingdom if he surrendered - he refused.
- The fight continued and Hardrada was killed by an arrow to the throat.
- So many Vikings died only 24 of the 300 ships that arrived in England left.



Impact of the Battle of Stamford Bridge

- Harold secured power in the north; Hardrada and Tostig dead - greatly weakened Viking force agree to never attack England again in return for Hardrada's son Olaf not being killed.
- Harold Godwinson was still in the north when William invaded the south and started pillaging land in Wessex.
- Harold and his men were exhausted from their march north and the battle; army weakened by wounds and death.



Key words:

Shield wall: a defensive tactic formed by soldiers standing shoulder to shoulder, holding their shields so that they overlap.

Ford: a shallow section of a river.

Marsh: low-lying land which is water-logged at all times.

Flanks: the outer sides of an army, to the left and right of the troops in the middle.

Outflank: move around the side of an enemy to attack them.

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Paper 2, Section B - Anglo-Saxon and Norman England

The Battle of Hastings, October 1066

How strong was each army at the Battle of Hastings?

Harold's Anglo-Saxon army (around 6000 in total)

- **Housecarls:** full-time, experienced soldiers who were heavily armoured and well-armed with axes and swords. Advantages = could make strong shield wall; axes could cut down horses. Disadvantages = relied on endurance and discipline; vulnerable to attack when shield wall broken.
- **Fyrd:** the majority of Harold's army were ceorls or peasants who were called up to fight. Used farm tools; they were not well-armoured.
- Harold did not have many archers.



William's Norman army (around 7500 in total)

- **Archers:** William had more highly-skilled archers than Harold; good for long-range attack.
- **Infantry (foot soldiers):** these made up the majority of William's army; armed with swords, they were a combination of Normans and **mercenaries** from across Europe (who would not be accustomed to Norman military tactics).
- **Cavalry:** elite, well-trained knights riding strong warhorses; knights were well-armoured, carried a kite shield and had weapons such as lances, javelins and swords. Advantages = could charge at enemy; height advantage on horses. Disadvantages = horses vulnerable to attack and slow uphill.



Why did William win the Battle of Hastings?

- **William's leadership:** William kept his army well-fed while they waited to sail (retaining their full support); removed his helmet to rally his troops when they thought he was dead; gave an encouraging speech to his men reminding them of their talents and saying they had God's support in this battle.
- **William's preparation and organisation:** William hired mercenaries to increase the size of his army; built ships to carry warhorses across the channel; builds a motte and bailey castle upon arrival which they could retreat to; his men arranged into three divisions – each with archers, infantry and cavalry.
- **William's army:** had more men than Harold; once shield wall was broken, cavalry could charge and pick off the units of English soldiers; archers could fire from further away.
- **William's tactics:** invaded when Harold was in the north; feigned retreat used to break English defences.



Timeline of the Battle

Early 1066: William secures backing of the Pope to invade England – gains him more supporters.

Spring/Summer: William has ships built to carry warhorses and men; assembles a large army and keeps them well-fed for 2 months while they wait to sail (held up by wind direction).



27th September: William finally sets sail, landing at Pevensey (south-east England) the next day. Harold still in the north, so William marches men inland and orders **motte and bailey castle** to be built; they plunder the local area to **provoke** Harold.



Meanwhile: Harold receives news of the invasion and quickly goes south to meet the invaders. When he arrives he forms his troops in a strong defensive Shield Wall on top of a **ridge**.



14th October: Battle begins.

- Firing uphill makes it hard for Norman archers to weaken English army and cavalry are slowed down by the hill. The shield wall remains unbroken.
- Rumours spread that William is dead – he removes his helmet to show he is not and to rally his troops.
- William then orders a **feigned retreat**: his soldiers pretend to run away and the English break their shield wall to chase them.
- The Normans kill those Anglo Saxons who broke the Shield Wall.
- Harold is killed and many of the surviving English flee – allowing the rest to be outflanked by the Normans.
- William wins.



Key words:

Motte and bailey castle: the type of castles used by the Normans; made of wood they could be built quickly, with a castle on a hill and the area around the bottom surrounded by a fence. (We will learn about these in more detail).

Provoke: doing things to make someone angry; trying to get a reaction from them.

Ridge: a long, narrow hilltop.

Mercenaries: soldiers from other countries hired to fight in an army so there are more men.

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Paper 2, Section B - Anglo-Saxon and Norman England

William's initial actions after the Battle of Hastings

Submission of the earls, 1066

- As the Normans recovered from the battle, the remaining English leaders gathered in London – Edwin of Mercia, Morcar of Northumbria, Edgar Aethling and Archbishop Stigand.
- William as reluctant to attack London so he approached slowly and took a circular route through the surrounding towns (such as Romney and Wallingford) – building castles and **laying waste** to homes, crops and farm animals in order to intimidate the English into accepting William as king.
- Archbishop Stigand left London to **submit** to William, followed by Edwin and Morcar.
- William was crowned king in Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1066. Holding the coronation in the Abbey was to convince people William was chosen by God.
- At the ceremony the Norman guards thought the shouts of approval from the Anglo-Saxons signalled an attack, and fighting broke out in the streets.



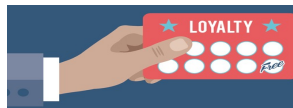
Castles: reasons, features and importance

- The motte was a man made mound of earth (hill)
- A wooden keep was built on top for defence ;
- The bailey was a fenced area around the motte where soldiers lived, stored their weapons and kept their horses.
- A wooden palisade (fence) surrounded the bailey.
- These castles were very **imposing** and would intimidate the English.
- Castles played a major part in Williams conquest of England – bases for controlling local areas; places to retreat to in an attack; a way of protecting warhorses.
- Castles built on the borders with Wales and Scotland to prevent raids, on the coast to prevent invasion from Denmark, and in towns to prevent rebellion.
- The Normans destroyed houses to make space to build them.



Rewarding followers

- One of the main problems William faced was an English rebellion, so after the earls submitted he tried to avoid provoking them. To do this William promised to:
 - Work with the English earls and follow King Edward's laws;
 - Allow Edwin and Morcar to keep their titles and land.
 - Retain Stigand and Aldred as Archbishops
- William rewarded the Normans who had fought for him at Hastings to help him conquer England He did this by giving them the land of English lords who died at Hastings.



The problem of the Marches

- After Hastings, Welsh princes began to attack and raid the **Marches**.
- William worried the Welsh could be potential allies for English rebels.
- To restore peace and defend the border, William created three new earldoms and gave them to men he trusted: Chester, Shrewsbury and Hereford.
- All three men built castles and brought peace to their lands. They also extended their power into Wales, making William more secure.



Tour of Normandy

- Spring 1067 – William went on a tour of Normandy to show off his triumph, showing off a group of leading Englishmen, Edwin, Morcar, Aethling and Stigard to his people.
- William left two men in charge of England in his absence (Odo and William fitzOsbern). While he was gone there was a small rebellion in Kent – small enough for a Norman **garrison** to deal with.
- The tour humiliated the English leaders who were encouraged to rebel.



Key words:

Submission/ Submit: accepting the authority of another person.

Laying waste: destroying.

Imposing: grand and impressive in appearance.

Marches: borderlands between England and Wales.

Garrison: a group of soldiers stationed in a town to defend it.

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Paper 2, Section B - Anglo-Saxon and Norman England

Early Anglo-Saxon resistance

Revolt of Earls Edwin and Morcar, 1068

- English leaders fled from William's court – Aethling to Scotland, Edwin and Morcar to their Earldoms – where they started to gather allies against William, including from the Welsh princes.
- Edwin was angry because William had promised that Edwin could marry his daughter (giving Edwin more status) – he did not keep this promise.
- Morcar was angry because William had replaced him as Earl of Northumbria, after initially allowing him to keep his title. Both earls were humiliated by the tour of Normandy the previous year.
- William acted quickly as soon as he knew there was danger – leading an army swiftly northwards and stopping in Mercia (Edwin's lands) to build castles. Then he headed to Northumbria (Morcar's lands) and built another castle in York.
- On the way, the soldiers destroyed houses and crops to warn others not to rebel.
- Edwin and Morcar surrendered without a fight.



Edgar Aethling and the rebellions in the north, 1069

Causes: resentment at Norman takeover; Edgar Aethling hoped to be king; the expectation that Scottish and Danish help would lead to success; fear of losing land to Normans.

Rebellion 1: Early 1069

- Norman army sent to control the north was attacked at Durham by local English – many Normans killed.
- Another English army advanced on York, **laying siege** to the new Norman castle.
- Edgar Aethling came south from Scotland to lead the rebellion.
- William acted with speed and brutality: marched north destroying homes, farms and animals. His arrival broke the siege of the castle – rebels fled and Aethling went back to Scotland. William headed back south.

Rebellion 2: Summer and Autumn, 1069

- A large Danish **fleet** appeared off the Kent coast then sailed northward, pillaging and raiding, before anchoring in the River Humber, near York.
- At the same time, another revolt broke out in Yorkshire – Aethling again headed south from Scotland and this time his army seized control of York.
- William again marched north, storming into York. The English fled and the Danes stayed on their ships (did not attack William).

Hereward the Wake and the rebellion at Ely, 1070-71

- Hereward the Wake led a rebellion in Ely (an island in the middle of **marshland** that was hard to attack)
- Hereward was an Anglo-Saxon Thegn who disputed the redistribution of land under William, getting into a fight with the Norman barons given land in Lincolnshire.
- 1070 – King Swein of Denmark brought a fleet to Ely to support the rebels.
- Hereward fought a **guerrilla war** against the Normans for over a year (with the support of Morcar, and with the help of the marshland which caused difficulties for William's army).
- William eventually **bribed** the Danes to go home, which they did.
- William then ordered his troops to build a **causeway** across the marsh, which ended the rebellion.
- Hereward escaped but Morcar was imprisoned for life and other rebels had their hands and feet chopped off as a warning to other rebels.

Harrying of the North

- Reasons:** anger at the failure of English leaders to accept William as king; frustration over constant revolts; fear of Danish support for English rebels; revenge for Normans killed during revolts; punishment of English rebels.
- Features:** burning of homes, destruction of crops and killing of animals – putting northern population at risk of starvation; many local people killed; refugees from the north headed south towards the midlands.
- Impact:** some villages completely destroyed; many deaths - some historians see it as a **genocide** of the English; fear amongst the English; greatly reduced chance of further revolts; secured Norman control of the north; more castle-building.



Key words:

Revolt/rebellion: using force/violence to try and overthrow a ruler/the government.

Laying siege: surrounding something to try and force the people there to come out.

Fleet: group of ships.

Pillaging: stealing and using violence.

Marshland: low-lying, waterlogged terrain.

Guerilla war: a war fought by small groups using sneaky tactics, typically against a larger force.

Bribed: offered money to do something.

Causeway: a track across wet ground.

Genocide: deliberate attempt to exterminate a particular group of people.

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Knowledge Organiser: GCSE History

Paper 2, Section B - Anglo-Saxon and Norman England

What changes did William make to politics and society?

Changes in land ownership:

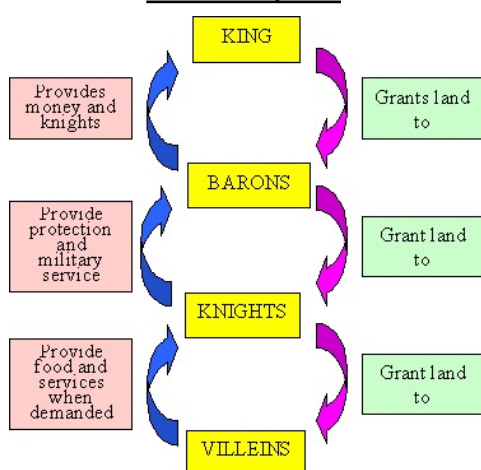
- After the rebellions of 1069, William changed his policy from co-operation to the destruction of the English landowning class and their replacement with Norman and French landowners.
- 5000 English thegns in 1066 – by 1085 almost all had lost their land (many worked for Norman lords).
- 25% of land held by just ten great Norman barons.
- William owned held twice as much land of everyone else put together.
- In 1085, there were 1000 **tenants-in-chief** – only 13 were English.



Norman government:

- **Power of the king:** William made all decisions as part of his centralised government. William did consult the earls on important issues to make them feel respected. William kept the majority of land in the country to himself – this made him appear to be a rich, magnificent and an unchallengeable ruler.
- **Regents:** when he was in Normandy (80% of the time after 1072), William appointed trusted supporters as regents, who were given the same powers as William.
- **Power of the earls:** William did not want his earls to rival his power – the new earldoms he created were smaller and less wealthy than those of Anglo-Saxon times.
- **Sheriffs:** continued use of Anglo-Saxon sheriff system where the king sent **writs** to officials who carried out his instructions in local areas. Roles of sheriff = collect taxes, carry out justice; raise soldiers for the army.

The Feudal System:



The Norman aristocracy:

- Great lords (AKA nobles/barons) who took control of land all over England; kept their land in Normandy and travelled between the two countries.
- Spoke French – sign of their superiority. Believed bravery, loyalty and honour were the most important qualities.
- Built stone halls and castles to show off their wealth, power and status. Had lots of servants.

Legal system:

- William wanted continuity with Anglo-Saxon laws but also wanted to increase his power and that of the Church.
- Kept the majority of the Anglo-Saxon laws and kept the systems of tithings and the 'hue and cry' as they were effective forms of policing.
- Used fines for lesser crimes but the fee went to royal officials (himself), not the victims' family; death penalty used for serious crimes or reoffenders.
- **Forests** had their own legal systems with harsher laws – anyone caught hunting faced blinding or execution; English hated the Forest Laws but powerless against them.

Towns after 1066

-Towns grew around new castles – castle garrisons bought food and goods from locals.
-England more peaceful = safer for merchants to travel and trade. More trade = more tax and more wealth for king.
-New French communities in towns such as Nottingham.
-Port towns on south coast doing more trade with France.

Villages after 1066

-New (Norman) lords in control of villages.
- Many English landowners now had to work for Norman lords – they lost status and some even became villeins (unfree workers tied to lord's land).
- Most aspects of daily life did not change (food, medicine, clothes, homes); most people still farmers.
-Language changed gradually (French words introduced).

Changes to the Church:

- William promised the Pope that he would reform the "corrupt" English Church if the Pope supported him as King.
- Archbishop Stigand was seen as corrupt for holding 2 bishoprics and for carrying out Archbishop duties without being appointed by the Pope. In 1070, Stigand was **deposed** and replaced with Lanfranc (a Norman) – Normanisation of the Church could begin.
- At the end of William's reign, every bishop (bar one) was Norman or French, and so were the abbots of large English abbeys (only 3 English abbots by 1086).
- Lanfranc was very loyal to William – supported Pope's religious reforms but made sure the Pope's influence in England did not reduce William's power.
- Introduced reforms to deal with problems in the English Church (such as the marriage of priests and pluralism – holding more than one Church office); rebuilt larger cathedrals that symbolised Norman power; set up church courts.

Key words:

Tenants-in-chief: major landholders who held their land directly from the king. **Regents:** someone who rules on someone else's behalf. **Forests:** any area the king said was to be used for hunting. **Deposed:** sacked; gotten rid of. **Writs:** Written instructions

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Knowledge Organiser: GCSE History

Paper 2, Section B - Anglo-Saxon and Norman England

Bishop Odo, William's family & the Revolt of the Earls of 1075

Odo's career until 1066

- Odo was William's half-brother and William appointed him **Bishop** of Bayeux – not because he was deeply religious but because William wanted one of his relatives in power of this important Norman town.
- Odo was a good bishop but more interested in military and political matters – for example, he paid for 100 ships for the invasion of England in 1066 and is shown fighting at the Battle of Hastings on the Bayeux Tapestry.



Odo's career after the Conquest

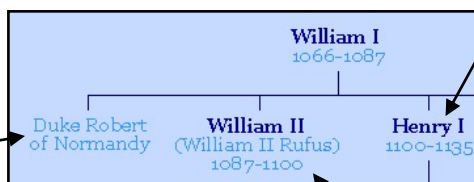
- William trusted his brother a lot and gave him a huge amount of land (only William owned more).
- Odo was appointed Earl of Kent in 1067.
- Odo was **regent** several times when William returned to Normandy, although he often shared this role with Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury.
- In 1075, Odo led the king's army to defeat the Earl of Norfolk and end the Revolt of the Earls.
- He treated the English harshly and was hated by them; the people of Kent rebelled against him in 1067.
- Odo's desire for more power eventually led to conflict with William. In 1082, Odo planned a military expedition to Italy – William ordered him to abandon this plan but Odo ignored him.
- William arrested and imprisoned Odo in Normandy because Odo ignored him.
- Odo was released as William was dying – probably due to pressure from the nobles. He then caused problems for William's son, William Rufus – rebelling against the new king.



William's family

- William was married to Queen Matilda in 1050 – she was the daughter of another important French ruler. Matilda often acted as William's regent in Normandy while he was in England. They had 10 children including the three sons in the family tree below.

Robert was the eldest son who William had made his heir to the duchy of Normandy. A great soldier in battle – he wounded his father in battle when he rebelled.

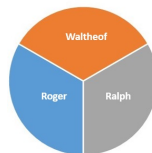


Youngest son of William. Not given any land as inheritance and instead got money.

Became King of England when William died – twice invading Normandy to try and take it from his brother Robert.

Revolt of the Earls, 1075

- In 1075, the Norman's Roger (Earl of Hereford) and Ralph (Earl of Norfolk) alongside the Anglo-Saxon Waltheof (Earl of Northumbria) plotted against William.
- Roger and Ralph both resented William for giving them less power than their fathers had had. Waltheof was English and resented that he was only given half of the Northumbrian lands, making him less wealthy than the Norman earls.
- They hoped to get the support of the Danes, and of the English people.
- They planned to split England into 3, with Roger having the west, Ralph the east and Waltheof the north.
- King William was in Normandy (with Lanfranc acting as English regent, with Odo's support)
- Waltheof told Lanfranc the plan before it even started.
- Lanfranc wrote letters to Roger of Hereford, trying to persuade him to make peace with William, but he and Ralph of Norfolk did not back down.
- Lanfranc marched two armies north to prevent Roger and Ralph's armies meeting up and the Danish arrived too late to help.
- Ralph was cornered by the royal army but managed to flee to Brittany (some of his men were blinded and mutilated in punishment).
- Roger was captured and his lands confiscated – he was imprisoned for life; Waltheof was beheaded – perhaps because William had had enough of English rebels.



WARNING

Key words:

Bishop: powerful position within the Catholic Church.

Regent: someone who rules on someone else's behalf.

Crusade: military expeditions to the Holy Land, starting in the 11th century.

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Knowledge Organiser: GCSE History

Paper 2, Section B - Anglo-Saxon and Norman England

What happened at the end of William's reign?

William, Robert and revolt in Normandy, 1077-80

- William had trusted his eldest son to be the Norman heir, but by the 1070s, William thought Robert was spoiled and foolish. He left Queen Matilda as regent in Normandy rather than Robert. Robert was humiliated by William not giving him enough wealth, and for refusing to give him Normandy.
- Spark of the revolt was a brawl between Robert and his younger brothers (William Rufus and Henry) after they urinated on him and his friends for a joke.
- Next day - Robert attacked William's castle at Rouen but failed.
- Robert was dangerous as he had the support of a large number of young knights and the rulers of Flanders and France gave Robert a castle at Gerberoi to make it harder for William to defeat his son.
- Robert and his men carried out raids in Normandy – angering William, who retaliated by marching an army to Gerberoi and **besieging** the castle.
- Robert won the fight – he and his men surged out of the castle and attacked William's men; Robert himself injured his father in the arm. William Rufus (fighting for William) was also injured.
- William's defeat at Gerberoi made Robert look very successful and William look like he had become weak and vulnerable. As a result, the King of Scotland decided to invade the north of England.
- William agreed to a peace settlement, confirming Robert as his Norman heir. In return Robert led William's army north to defeat the Scots.



The Domesday Book

- In 1085, William ordered the Domesday Survey – sending men all over England, into every shire, to find out how much land people owned, how much it was worth and how many animals people owned.
- This was to sort out how much tax each man should pay, and to check who William had given land and how many men could fight in his army.
- Collecting the information took less than a year, due to the Normans utilising the highly efficient Anglo-Saxon **administration** system.

Death, disputes and revolts, 1087-88

- William led an attack on the French town of Mantes. As he rode through the town, his horse reared up and the pommel of William's saddle hit him in his stomach, causing internal damage.
- On his deathbed, William kept his promise to leave Normandy to Robert.
- William wanted his favourite son, William Rufus, to be king of England, even if it meant splitting England and Normandy.
- William sent Rufus to England with a letter to Archbishop Lanfranc, instructing him to arrange for Rufus to be crowned king of England.
- When Rufus became king, the nobles faced a **dilemma** – they owned land in both England and Normandy, which were now ruled by different men, meaning they owed loyalty to both rulers.
- Bishop Odo (released from prison on William's deathbed) said the nobles should choose Robert, and help him reunite England and Normandy.
- In 1088, Rufus realised a revolt was underway – many nobles had stayed away from his Easter **court**. There were outbreaks of rebellion across the midlands and the south. Rufus headed straight for the heart – Rochester Castle where Odo was plotting. He captured the castle and Odo, bringing a swift end to the revolt. He was helped by Robert's failure to invade England. Rufus had established himself as king.



Key words:

Besieging: surrounding a castle to try and force the occupants to come out.

Administration: the process of running/organising a business, country or organisation.

Dilemma: problem.

Court: where the king lived and where governing took place.

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