

Revision checklist: This is a list of everything you will need to know for the exam.

First, go through your notes and make sure you have everything. Copy up anything you're missing.

Then make revision resources for everything. The best resources will help you to memorise information in an active way. Experts say that flashcards, acronyms, mnemonics and quizzes tend to work best

What was England like before 1066?	William's consolidation of power: Castles
Who wanted to be king in 1066 and what were their claims to the throne?	William Rufus - life, reign and death
Round 1 Harold v Harold: Fulford Gate	Changes to law and order
Round 2 Harold v Harold: Stamford Bridge	Village life - layout, a peasant's year, how much changed?
Round 3: Harold v William: The Battle of Hastings	The development of Norman towns
William's actions after Hastings and his coronation	How much did society change under the Normans?
What problems did William face when he became king?	Religion: Why was the Church so important during Norman times?
Rebellions against William and how he defeated them: Eustace, Edric the Wild, Hareward the Wake, the Norman lords, Edgar, Edwin and Morcar.	Religion: How did the Normans change the Church in England?
Power: the Harrying of the North	Site
Power: the feudal system	Religion: Monastic life

Top tip!

Get organised and start revising early! Starting early will also stop you getting as stressed before the exam.

Don't just read through these notes - you need to do something active to learn these ideas, like self-testing.

Colour and images help your brain to remember things.

You should interweave your revision - this means revise one thing, then another, then return to the first.

Experts say that if you learn something seven times you are less likely to forget it.

England before 1066

- After the Romans left Britain German tribes named the Angles and the Saxons invaded and settled in England.
- The country was divided into lots of small kingdoms.
- At the end of the 7th century Vikings (from places like Norway) invaded and the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms started to unite to fight these invaders.
- The Vikings controlled many areas in the North. Their capital city was York - they called it Yorvik.
- Trade between England and Norway became more common.
- Most people were peasants. They farmed for food and lived in very small villages.
- Christianity had been introduced by the Romans. Pagan beliefs still existed, especially in Viking communities, but by 1066 Christianity was the main religion in England and most other beliefs had died out.
- The Church was run by the Pope in Rome. Everyone was Catholic and the Church was incredibly important.
- In 1066 Edward the Confessor ruled a united England.

How was a new king chosen in 1066?

- A new king normally came to power because of **primogeniture** - they were the first born son of the old king and inherited the crown. If there was no son, then the next closest male relative would take the crown.
- Or, the old king could choose or nominate a new king. If he did this on his death bed it was called **novissima verba**.
- Or, the leading group of English nobles, the Witan, could name the new king, this was called **post obitum** (after death).

Edward dies, Godwinson prepares:

- Edward died on 5 January 1066.
- The Witan declared Godwinson king and he was crowned very quickly.
- However, Godwinson knew that Hardrada and William would try to take his crown. He thought William would attack first so prepared his army along the South Coast.
- Most of Harold's army was made up of the Fyrd - these were an unprofessional, peasant army, who had to provide their own weapons and fought in their own clothes.
- The Housecarls were Godwinson's professional soldiers, they were trained, professionals.
- The Anglo-Saxon army did not fight on horseback.

However, Godwinson was not the only person who thought he should be the next king of England ...



Who wanted to be king in 1066?				
Name:	From:	Related to Edward the Confessor?	Nominated by the old king?	Other support:
Edgar Aethling	England, raised in Turkey	Yes - Edgar was Edward's closet living male relative.	No	Very little
Harold Godwinson, Earl of Wessex	England, the most powerful English nobleman, from a noble family	Not by blood, but his sister was married to Edward.	Yes - Novissima verba. Godwinson had acted as Edward's regent, running the country for him when he was ill at the end of his life. On his deathbed, Edward said that Godwinson should be the next king.	The Witan crowned Godwinson king when Edward died. However, two powerful earls, Edwin and Morcar, opposed Godwinson. To gain their loyalty, he married their sister, Edith.
Harald Hardrada	Norway	No	Not Edward, but King Cnut (king from 1016-35) had promised Hardrada's family that they would one day rule England.	Godwinson's brother, Tostig
William, Duke of Normandy	Normandy, France	Edward was cousins with William's father, Robert of Normandy.	Yes, in 1051 Godwinson's family rebelled against Edward and William helped him to suppress the rebellion. Edward made William his heir after this.	In 1064 Godwinson was arrested in Normandy and William released him, but kept him in his own castle. While there, Godwinson swore an oath of fealty (allegiance/ loyalty) to William, saying that he would be the next king of England and that Godwinson would support him. Godwinson made this oath on two boxes, in which there were the bones of two saints. William was also supported by the Pope - he sent Bishop Lanfranc to seek his support and was awarded the Papal banner as a sign that the Pope approved of William's claim.

Round 1 Harold v Harold: the Battle of Fulford gate

- In September 1066 food was running low in England. Godwinson had to dismiss the Fyrd to go back to their villages and get in the harvest.
- Hardrada set sail with around 300 ships.
- Hardrada landed, near Hull on 18th September. He travelled towards York, where he met Godwinson's Northern army, led by the Earls Edwin and Morcar, on 20 September.
- The English fought all day, trying desperately to break the Viking's shield wall. However, they were trapped by the river and boggy marshland.
- Hardrada won, but Edwin and Morcar managed to escape.

Round 2 Harold v Harold: the Battle of Stamford bridge

- Hardrada knew that Godwinson would travel north to fight, but presumed that it would take him several days, as he would have to assemble an army first.
- However, Godwinson made the journey in just four days, gathering soldiers as he travelled north. He arrived at Tadcaster on 24 September. This gave him the element of surprise.
- Hardrada also failed to prepare - many of his men were back on their ships, resting after Fulford Gate; Hardrada failed to send spies out so did not realise how fast Godwinson had travelled; Hardrada failed to realise what he was seeing when he spotted the glimmer of the sun reflecting off Godwinson's army's armour; Hardrada's men were not ready when Godwinson arrived, many were not wearing their armour.
- On 25 September the English arrived. They had to cross the bridge at Stamford to reach Hardrada's men. Legend says that the bridge was defended by a lone Norseman, who fought off the entire advancing army, until Godwinson sent men to float under the bridge in barrels and one of them managed to kill the lone Norseman with his spear.

William prepares for battle

- William was known to be a ferocious fighter - he had already conquered Maine and Sicily.
- When Godwinson became king he started to get his army ready. However, he had to move his men East, as the wind was blowing in the wrong direction.
- While he waited to be able to set sail, William prepared his men. They cut down trees to make boats and also prepared the wood so that they could build castles when they arrived in England.
- William also sent his loyal friend, Bishop Lanfranc, to Italy to see the support of the Pope. He came back with the Papal banner which helped him to recruit more men, keen to fight and please God.
- William was also supported by mercenaries - professional fighters who would join an army if they were paid. Many of these were experienced and had excellent weapons.
- William had infantry (foot soldiers), archers and cavalry in his army. The Norman cavalry trained from the age of three!
- William's army set sail and landed in Pevensey on 29 September 1066.
- They set up camp at Pevensey, because there were Roman fortifications that they could use as defences.
- While they waited for Godwinson to travel down from the South, they were well fed continued to train.
- The Normans attacked towns in the south so that Godwinson would have to travel down quickly, giving him no time to rest after the battle of Stamford Bridge.

Round 3: Harold v William: the Battle of Hastings

- Godwinson rushed back South.
- They met the Normans just north of the town of Hastings, on 14th October 1066.
- Godwinson's men gathered on top of Senlac Hill. William was at the bottom of the hill, surrounded by marshland. Godwinson's men had the advantage. They set up a shield wall at the top of the hill which the Normans found very difficult to break.
- When Norman arrows fell short of the English forces, William used conroi - a system using flags to communicate with his gonfanon (divisions of the army) and move them around. He was also on horseback which meant he could move around quickly and with ease.
- At one point a rumour went around that William had been killed. Part of the left flank of the Norman army got broke ranks and started to retreat, some of the English army broke the shield wall to chase after the retreating Normans.
- William was very brave - he took his helmet off to show that he was still alive.
- Seeing the English leaving the hill to chase after the retreating Normans gave William an idea - he used a tactic known as the feigned retreat, which he had also used during his campaigns in Sicily.
- The Normans pretended to retreat. The untrained English Fyrd saw the Normans running away and thought they had won. As they were peasants, they thought they might have the opportunity to steal weapons off the Normans, or to take prisoners that they could get a ransom for. They broke the shield wall and left the safety of Senlac Hill.
- When the English got to the bottom of the hill the Normans turned around and easily slaughtered the English Fyrd because they were superior fighters.
- The Cavalry were then able to reach and kill Godwinson.
- William had won.
- He later had an abbey built on the site of the battle as penance for all the lives lost there. However, he called 'Battle Abbey' - so that no one would remember that he had won there!

William won because: of his skill e.g. conroi, gonfanon, feigned retreat, he could react to events and change his plans; his superior soldiers e.g. cavalry trained since the age of three; the English tactics e.g. not fighting on horseback because they were used to Viking tactics; inexperience of English soldiers - the fyrd fell for the feigned retreat.

William becomes king

- William travelled to London to claim the throne, but was met by Edwin and Morcar.
- Battled broke out, and William won.
- He made Edwin and Morcar swear oaths of fealty (loyalty) to him and in return they were allowed to keep their titles and land.
- William's coronation (when he was crowned king) took place in Westminster Abbey on Christmas day, 1066.
- However, William expected the English to rebel. He had armed men stationed all around the abbey and when they heard people cheering inside, they thought it was the noise of an attack. They stormed the abbey and set fire to houses nearby.

The Anglo Saxons were not happy to be conquered by the Normans and started many rebellions against William:

Rebellion:	Date:	Leader(s):	Events:	How/why were the rebels defeated?
Edwin and Morcar	1066 (immediately after B of H)	The Earls of Edwin and Morcar - brother in laws of Godwinson. Had fought for HG against HH at Fulford Gate.	Led a rebellion in London. Raised a massive army against William.	William used his knights to defeat the uprising, meets with Edwin and Morcar gets them to swear an oath of Fealty, returns their land and titles to them.
Dover	1066-7	Eustace of Boulogne, brother-in-law of King Edward the Confessor.	Odo had been really brutal towards the people of Kent, so they asked Eustace, who they had been enemies with previously, to help and they attacked Dover Castle together.	Norman knights, stationed in Dover Castle, suppressed the revolt, led by Odo. Eustace later made peace with William.
Rebellion of the Welsh Border	1067	Edric the Wild - Herefordshire. Supported by the Welsh princes. An English army.	Stole land on the Welsh border and attacked Norman settlements.	William led his army personally - met the rebels at Shrewsbury Castle. Rebels were beaten. Edric later made peace with William.
The South West and Exeter	1068 - Exeter	The town of Exeter	The town rebelled.	William sent in troops to siege the town, they held out for 18 days, but William did defeat them. When his men returned to London they were met by Godwinson's sons who raised another revolt, but William defeated them too.

<p>The Rebellion of the Norman Earls</p>	<p>1075</p>	<p>Ralph de Gael Roger de Breteuil (Earl of Hereford, son of William Fitzosbern - who William's second in command)</p>	<p>William forbid Ralph's marriage, upset Roger by undermining him - sending in his own sheriffs to hear court cases instead of Roger's men, he'd also taken land off Roger.</p> <p>Support from English e.g. Earl of the Northamptonshire and Philip I of France.</p>	<p>Didn't deal with the rebellion himself - sent Lanfranc and Odo.</p>
<p>Rebellions in the North</p>	<p>1068</p>	<p>Edwin, Morcar, Edgar Aetheling Supported by King Malcom of Scotland (who had married Edgar's sister)</p>	<p>Edwin, Morcar and Edgar Aetheling fled William's court in London (they had sworn allegiance to him in 1066).</p> <p>They fled up North and took control of some areas and attacked York. They had help from the Danish.</p>	<p>The Harrying of the North - William targeted land North of Leeds. They burnt land - 'scorched earth', salted the ground so nothing could grow (Domesday book says 80% of land recorded as waste), killed all males to spread fear and deter others. He targeted the North because it was furthest away from his powerbase.</p>
<p>East Anglia</p>	<p>c.1070</p>	<p>Hereward the Wake (East Anglia), son of an English noble man</p>	<p>Leads guerrilla style attacks on Normans in the East Anglian fens (low lying marshland).</p> <p>Attacks Peterborough in 1070.</p> <p>Sets up base on the Isle Ely (surrounded by marshland - hard for William to get to).</p>	<p>William built a wooden rampart to cross the marshes to Ely, but it broke under the weight of his soldiers. He got a witch to swear and wave her bear bottom at the rebels!</p> <p>Some monks led him to the Isle and he defeated the rebels. Hereward fled.</p>

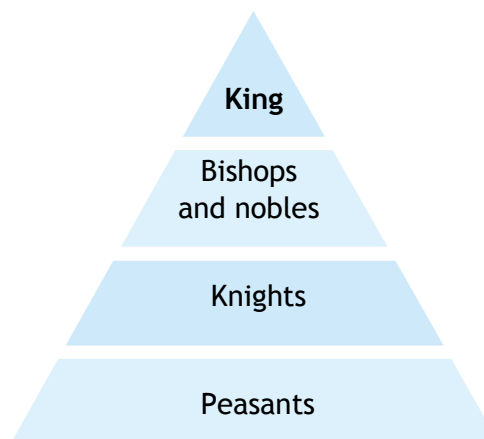
Key points: Lots of challenges to Norman rule; Anglo-Saxons did not like their Norman lords; need for castles; most brutal in the North as this is where the Vikings had been based and bordered Scotland - so an area that could be a problem for William - William Rufus later set up a Prince Bishop based in Durham Cathedral to rule over and control this area.

William's consolidation of power: The Harrying of the North

- After the people in the North revolted in 1069, William retaliated with brutality - he wanted to scare them so badly that they would never revolt again.
- He sent armies to the north of England to kill young males, burn down villages, destroy crops and salt the land so nothing could grow there. Whole families starved to death. Historians believe around 75% of the population were killed.
- When the Domesday book was written nearly 20 years later, it recorded that 80% of the land in this region was still waste land - nothing could grow on it after the Normans had salted it.

William's consolidation of power: The feudal system

- A hierarchal way of organising society.
- Allowed William to control the English without being everywhere at once.
- He appointed Normans as nobles, who would then look after a small area of land for him. They would gather tax for William and organise English peasants to farm the land for them to keep the economy going.
- In return for land, Norman lords and knights would provide military service to the king.
- The king was at the 'top' and claimed to have been chosen by God.



William's consolidation of power: The Domesday Book

- William sent people all over England to find out about his new kingdom.
- They asked questions in every town and village, to find out how much land, crops, animals, peasants and potential for tax there was in each area.
- Helped William to get to know his new country, work out where problems were and what he could tax who.
- Written in 1086, by monks at Winchester.

William Rufus

- William had four sons: Robert, Richard (died 1075), William Rufus and Henry.
- When William died he left Normandy to his eldest son, Robert, who had revolted against him so was in his bad books! Rufus was left England and his youngest son, Henry was left money.
- Rufus ruled England between 1087 and 1100.
- In 1089 he fell out with the Church when he refused to appoint a new archbishop of Canterbury (when Lanfranc died) and took the role himself to make money. However, he then became ill and asked Anselm to take his confession. When he recovered he made Anselm Archbishop of Canterbury, but the relationship was poor and Anselm fled into exile in 1100.
- He had a poor relationship with Robert. Many nobles had land in both England and Normandy and felt they couldn't please both Robert and Rufus. They revolted in 1088, led by Bishop Odo.
- In 1091 Rufus invaded Normandy and Robert had to give up some land to him.
- 1091 - fought off an invasion by King Malcolm of Scotland, and forced him to pay homage to him.
- In 1096 Robert joined the First Crusade and to fund it he gave Rufus Normandy in return for 10,000 marks. Rufus would rule Normandy while Robert was at war.
- In 1100 Rufus was shot whilst hunting in the New Forest. William Tyrell fired the arrow and then fled. Henry took the throne the very next day - leading some historians to say he must have planned Rufus' death, especially since Tyrell was a good Bowman and was unlikely to hit the king by accident.

Norman society: Law and order

- Based on the judgment of God.
- Trial by ordeal - water or fire for peasants, the same as under the Anglo Saxons, but trial by combat for the Norman lords as this was more noble.
- Local lords could hear trials.
- There was also the King's Court and Church Court. The clergy could literally get away with murder!
- Hundred courts, sheriffs, juries.

Norman society: Village life

- Most people lived in villages. They were freemen - peasants who could move if they wanted, they rented land farmed land off the lord/knight; or villeins - peasants who were owned by the lord/knight and could not leave the village.
- Peasants lived in simple, one roomed cottages made out of wattle and daub (wood and poo).
- They farmed strips of land. This was hard, labour intensive work.
- There was also a miller who ground wheat into flour, a brewer who made beer and tradesmen like blacksmiths and carpenters.
- Peasants did born work for the Lord and the Church.

Norman society: Why was life so difficult for peasants?

- Farming was labour intensive.
- Survival relied on a good harvest, which was not guaranteed.
- No time off - only 'Holy Days' like Easter and Christmas, or the Sabbath (Sunday).
- Uncomfortable housing - wattle and daub, one room, shared with animals.
- Had to pay money to the lord as rent, miller for flour, to use the lord's oven (weren't allowed their own), to the brewer for beer (price fixed by the lord) and the tithe to the Church (10% of produce).
- Had to do born work for the lord and the Church. Not paid and could take up time needed to harvest your own food.

Norman society: The development of Norman towns

- Towns developed around castles - workers moved close to make money providing services for the Normans.
- Lords could tax markets so encouraged them.
- You had to have a grant from the king for a franchise before you could start a market, but the Normans did encourage this. Markets were normally once a week.
- The Church also put on fairs on - these had market stalls but also entertainment like tableaux (scenes put on by actors, normally based on Bible stories), bear baiting or cock fighting. They were held during 'Holy Days'.
- Examples of new towns - Droitwich - salt mines; Lincoln - near the cathedral, but peasants houses were knocked down to build the castle/walls; Shrewsbury - built up around a Norman castle built to protect England from Wales; Dover - developed/got bigger because of trade which was now with Europe rather than Scandinavian countries who had traded with northern towns before the Norman conquest.
- Burgesses were a new class that lived in towns. They could own property and were often craftsmen.
- Trades joined together in 'guilds' - a group of craftsmen (e.g. bakers, blacksmiths) who worked together to make sure their trade was protected.

Norman society: How much did life change?

- Everything was designed to either make the Normans look powerful or to make their life easier.
- Peasant life changed very little. They were still farmers and lived in villages.
- Law and order became more organised, with more professional people being responsible for courts.
- However, law and order was still based on the judgment of God.
- Education was no longer just in churches - grammar schools were opened where people could learn the skills they needed to trade, like French grammar.
- Church and legal matters were now recorded in Latin.
- The Church was brought more in line with Rome.
- Trade was more common than Europe.
- Language changed - Anglo-Saxon peasants started using French words like castle, baron and beef. French nobles also picked up some English words.
- Symbols of Norman dominance could be seen everywhere, built in Norman styles - churches, cathedrals, castles.
- Change can be progress, regress or things could stagnate.

Norman society: Why was religion so important?

- Provided everything the government provides today - help/charity if you were desperate; education; health care. The government did none of this.
- Peasant life was short and rubbish - people needed hope that there was something better waiting for them when they died (heaven).
- To get into heaven you could pay (benefactors gave gifts to the church), pray or pain (hurt yourself as penance for your sins). The Church was very rich from benefactors gifts, and were often given land so owned huge amounts. You also had to suck up to the Church so they would help you pray - you could not talk to God on your own. This gave the Church power.
- William was very religious. Lots of powerful Normans were also clergymen e.g. Lanfranc and Odo.
- Monks copied out books (there were no printing presses) so controlled what people could read - they controlled education.
- The Church was key at birth (christenings), marriage and death (funerals) so all stages of life.
- The Church provided entertainment and days off - Sabbath day (Sunday - no work), holy days, fairs.

Norman society: Church reforms

- William had already carried out reforms in Normandy - it was one of the reasons the Pope supported him at Hastings, hoping William would do the same in England.
- The Church in England was quite corrupt, with sins like simony (selling jobs in the Church), pluralism (holding more than one job), nepotism (giving jobs to friends/family) and clergy getting married (they were meant to be celibate) being common.
- William brought the Church more in line with Rome - for example using Romanesque architecture. This was a declaration that the Normans were rich, powerful and here to stay!
- He paid for cathedrals and monasteries to be built all over England, such as Battle Abbey and Durham Cathedral.
- Supported the Gregorian reforms - led by Pope Leo IX and Pope Gregory VII.
- Replaced English bishops/Archbishops with Norman ones, e.g. Stigand was replaced with Lanfranc as Archbishop of Canterbury. By 1080 there was only one English bishop left.

- The Church was organised into diocese, smaller areas that could be better controlled.
- Reintroduced a tax - every family had to pay one penny to the Pope.
- 1076 - The Council of Winchester passed a rule that the clergy could only be tried in Church courts.
- 1082 - Interfered when Odo was accused of a crime - had him tried as an Earl rather than bishop so it would take place in the king's court and William could make sure his friend was found innocent!
- However, most peasants didn't see a huge change. They still went to a parish church run by a parish priest (who was often English and married!).

Norman society: Monastic life

- Most monks followed the rule of St Benedict - they took four vows; chastity, obedience, poverty and stability.
- Chastity - no sex before marriage, no physical pleasure.
- Obedience - obey the abbot (head monk) and God (through the rule of St Benedict and the Bible).
- Poverty - not owning any possessions.
- Stability - living in the monastery, away from the lay community.
- Monks lived in monasteries - remote from other places so that they were not distracted from worshipping God.
- Everything they did was about worshipping God - for example they slept in individual cells with no room for personal belongings, and the dormitories were attached to the church by night stairs so that monks could get up in the middle of the night to pray.
- Monasteries were very rich, mainly because benefactors would give them money so that monks would pray for them when they died and their souls would then be more likely to go to heaven.
- Monasteries also tried to be self-sufficient. Everything the monks needed was made in the monastery so that they did not have to have contact with the outside world.