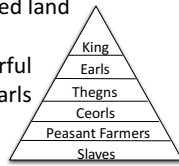


## Anglo Saxon Society

- Population – 2 million, 90% peasants who farmed land and there were about 6000 Thegns
- Church controlled by Bishops, who were powerful
- Society was in a social hierarchy; King at top, earls ruling the 5 earldoms, Thegns (local lords) in charge of shires, and military figures
- Ceorls (free peasants), Peasants and Slaves worked the land



## Anglo Saxon England

- 5 Earldoms: Mercia, Wessex, East Anglia, Kent and Northumbria
- Parts of the North were still ruled by descendants of the Vikings/Danish, called the the **Danelaw with own culture**
- The biggest cities were London and York but the capital was Winchester where the Royal Mint was (where money is made)
- Earldoms were split into shires, shires were split into hides (100 families) and 10 families was a tithing
- 10% of people lived in towns (burhs), which were fortified



## Anglo Saxon Government

- King most powerful but took advice from the Witan (royal council) made up of earls and bishops, who provided advice on foreign threats, religious affairs and land disputes. King did not have to listen to advice and did pick the members
- Earls very powerful, with key roles: collecting taxes (they kept 1/3 themselves), oversaw law and order, military generals with considerable power over thegns and housecarls. This made Earls like the Godwin's powerful, almost rivalling Edward himself
- Earls power based on King and thegns, depending on how weak King was and the support of their thegns
- Each shire had a shire reeve (sheriff) who followed kings writ: keep law and order, collect taxes and raise the fyrd (army)

## The Economy

- England was a wealth country, trading wool, farming in East and international trading with Denmark with North and Flanders.
- Trading was based around Burhs, which the king taxed, biggest towns were London and Lincoln. Efficient tax system

## Legal system

- Collective responsibility, whole tithing had to keep own order
- Wergild, compensation for killing family, to avoid blood feud
- Hue and Cry, community join together to track down criminals

## The King/Edward the Confessor

- The King was the most powerful person in England, chosen by God and all had to swear an oath to him.
- Edward was King from 1042 to 1066, his powers as king included:
- Economic: controlled mint and coin distribution, decided geld tax
- Military: He had the power over army, and could raise for war
- Law: made all laws, owned all land and could give/take it
- Edward was a respected but weak king (not a warrior spent too long in church), he relied too heavily on the Godwin's who became strong (militarily and economically) and a influence.

## The Godwin family

- Earl Godwin was made Earl of Wessex in 1018
- Godwin helped Edward to become King and Edward was married to Godwin's daughter Edith, giving royal connections
- The Godwins were very powerful – they ruled 4/5 earldoms, they were lords to hundreds of Thegns, they had limited military rivals, they convinced Edward to appoint Bishops to the church and had great wealth and influence over England
- Tostig, Earl of Northumbria, Harold, Earl of Wessex
- Edward needed Godwins to protect from Danish threat, whilst Harold and Tostig put down threat of Welsh prince Llewelyn, 1062

## The Embassy to Normandy, 1064

- In 1064 Harold Godwinson was sent on an embassy to Normandy by Ed, Anglo Saxons claim it was to recover hostages
- Normans claim Harold came to confirm William to get throne
- He was taken prisoner by Count Guy of Ponthieu – William of Normandy rescued him and then Harold spent time in Normandy with many military victories, William have him sword
- Harold then swore an oath, upon the bible and relics, that he would support William's claim to the throne (William uses later)

## Uprising against Earl Tostig, 1065

- In 1065 there was uprising against Earl Tostig in Northumbria
- 1. Northumbrians didn't like Tostig as he was from the south and stayed there too much, he didn't understand Danelaw culture
- 2. People thought he abused his power by imposing new laws, raising the geld tax and taking land from people for himself.
- 3. He didn't defend Northumbria against Malcolm II of Scotland
- 4. He ordered murder of popular Thegn Gospatric, triggered riot
- Edward tried to raise an army to defeat the rebels but Harold refused so he had to give in to the rebels, by replacing Tostig with Morcar and exiling Tostig. Edward seen as a weak king
- Harold possibly betrayed brother so he could get the throne

## The Succession Crisis, 1066

Edward the Confessor died on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1066, leaving no heir starting the succession crisis (who should be king!)  
The Witan always had to choose the new King, they had options and were certainly worried of threat from William and the Danes

## Reasons for the crisis

## 1. No Heir

- Edward has no son, therefore not having an heir to the throne
- His nephew, Edgar the Aethling was his natural born heir, as he was Edward's nephew and had royal blood.
- However, as he was only 16 at the time, he had no support of the Anglo Saxon Earls or Witan, who wanted a strong king to face the threats to England.

## 2. Harold's Embassy to Normandy

- William, duke of Normandy, claims that he made an agreement with Edward in 1051 that he would become king if Edward had no child, which was confirmed by Harold in 1061 during the embassy to Normandy. William had the support of the Pope
- Normans claim Harold Godwinson swore an oath on the bible to support William's claim to the throne, but this is rumour!

## 3. Promises

- **Harold Godwinson** claimed that Edward had chosen him to be next king on his deathbed. Harold was Edward's deputy, was experienced and had family connections to the king  
He had the support of the Earls, Thegns and military power
- **Harald Hardrada** – Harald was king of Norway and a fierce warrior, he claimed that his relatives had been promised the throne in a secret deal that started when Viking Cnut ruled England until 1035. Hardrada claims the throne was his to claim after he took over from Magnus in 1047.  
No strong claim, but felt could gain support from Danelaw, had 15,000 warriors and also had support from Tostig Godwinson

## Harold Crowned

- The same day as Edward's death, Harold gets himself crowned by the Witan on 6<sup>th</sup> January. This looks like he seized the throne!
- The Witan certainly knew William would plan to invade to claim the throne, so historians believe they crowned Harold quickly so they he could prepare the defences for an invasion.
- Soon as he is crowned, Harold goes to York, to ensure North does not protest and raises the largest army England had ever seen
- He places his army and fleet along the coast, waiting for the inevitable invasion from William
- William claims Harold has 'broken' his oath, causing his invasion

# The Three Battles of 1066

## Battles of Fulford Gate, 20<sup>th</sup> Sept 1066

- Harald Hardrada and Tostig invade with 10,000 warriors
- They fight Earls Edwin and Morcar just outside York (foolishly not defending the city), they are defeated by the invaders.
- Hardrada outflanks the English, many killed & hostages taken
- Harold Godwinson is now forced to come north himself

## Stamford Bridge – 25<sup>th</sup> September 1066

- Harold surprises Hardrada and Tostig at Stamford Bridge, they had left their armour and some of their troops at their boats
- Harold was victorious, killing Tostig and Hardrada because their armies were tired from Fulford Gate, the surprised arrival of Harold and that his men broke the Viking shield wall



## How significant were these battles?

- Distracted Harold from the South; William arrived whilst Harold was in the North
- Harold's troops were tired; some had fought at both Fulford Gate and Stamford Bridge, 400km march

## The Norman invasion

- Williams fleet was delayed leaving Normandy, but they left on 27<sup>th</sup> Sept, arriving 28<sup>th</sup> at Pevensey where William built a pre made castle, had a feast, harried the local area and began to prepare.
- Harold had to rush down from York, gathering troops/visiting London and arriving at Hastings first

## The Two Armies

- Normans: Cavalry (trained, well armoured, cavalry charge devastating) Archers and footsoldiers
- Anglo Saxons: Fyrd (Untrained soldiers with poor weapons and Housecarls (trained, axe wielding)

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

1. William launches attack at 9:00am with arrows, followed by footsoldiers and cavalry attacks against the English shield wall, but this fails and by 12:00 English hold strong on Senlac hill
2. Rumour William is dead, panic in Normans but William removed helmet and increases morale
3. William ordered feigned retreat, he Norman cavalry pretend to flee (run away) and the English housecarls leave the shield wall to chase them. This happens 3 times, breaking the shield wall
4. In chaos, Harold is shot in the eye, many of the Fyrd flee and Housecarls are cut to shreds
5. By 6:00 William has won the battle

## Why did William win?

### 1. William's tactic and leadership

- Feigned Retreat Tactic, worked 3 times and broke English shield wall: hugely significant
- William changed tactics and used his variety of troops well (archers, footsoldiers, cavalry)
- William delayed invasion until Harold was in North
- The Normans prepared well, brought castle and first ever cavalry to England

### 2. Harold's leadership and bad luck

- Harold's had disbanded fyrd just before invasion
- He rushed south to fight William. He could have stayed in London and fought a better better
- His men were poorly disciplined as left shield wall
- Harold's men were tired from fighting up north and then marching back down South.
- Bad luck Harold died and caused panic

# Establishing Control

## The submission of the Earls & Williams Coronation

- After Hastings, the Witan immediately elected Edgar as King and William sent troops to seize Winchester (the royal treasure) and marched towards London, he 'harried' the South by destroying homes and farms to intimidate the Anglo Saxons. The tactics work against the weak English
- At Berkhamstead Edgar, Archbishops Ealdred and Stigand, Edwin and Morcar and the Witan submitted to William. They swore an oath to obey him, and he swore to be a fair and just king.
- William was crowned king on Christmas Day 1066.



## Rewarding Followers & New Oaths

- **William rewarded his Norman followers:** gifts sent to the pope, a heavy geld tax allowed him to pay off his mercenaries (professional soldiers) and he gave out land to his followers as he declared he owned it all, for example Bishop Odo was given Kent and kept 20% for himself.
- **To encourage Anglo Saxon loyalty,** William allowed Earls Edwin and Morcar to keep their earldoms but they were smaller than before, he promised Edwin could marry his daughter (this did not happen) and he allowed some archbishops to keep their positions.
- However, all those who fought against William at Hastings lost their land.

## Securing the Welsh Marches

- William created new marcher earldoms (on the Welsh border) Chester, Shrewsbury and Hereford, given to people like William FitzOsbern for a number of reasons:
  1. **Protection from the Welsh** who had been a threat to Edward, he allowed the Marcher build castles (80 in Hereford) and did not pay tax so could spend on defence of their lands,
  2. **To reward loyal Normans:** Each Marcher Earl was given independence to run their own earldom, with own sheriffs and powers to set up towns, to encourage settlement in England
  3. **To increase his power & loyalty:** He broke up earldoms to create, Earls more loyal & less threat



## Williams use of Motte and Bailey Castles

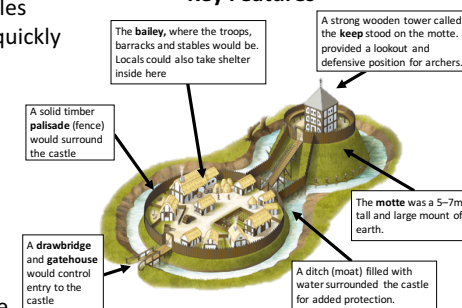
- Castles were an essential part of William's rule over England and it is estimated **William built over 500** during his reign. 'Motte and Bailey' castles were quick/easy to build, taken less than 2 weeks.
- William even brought a 'pre made' Motte and Bailey with him during his invasion in 1066.

### There were multiple benefits for William:

1. **Control:** Bases for Norman knights in rebel areas like Midlands/North to stop rebellions of 1069/75. Castles were often built 32km apart, making it easy to act quickly
2. **Symbols of power:** Size showed domination and used to put Norman 'stamp' on areas e.g. York
3. **Protection:** Built along Marcher Earldoms to protect from Wales (70 built in Shropshire), whilst others built on border of Scotland and on Coast Castles were essential in stopping the rebellions, but were just one method & could be destroyed as they were in York

The building of castles angered Saxons as many were built by destroying Anglo Saxon houses

### Key Features



# Anglo Saxon and Norman Resistance

## Edwin and Morcar 1068

### Why did they rebel?

- Edwin's Earldom of Mercia was made smaller & he never got to marry Williams daughter
- Regents Odo and William FitzOsbern stole Anglo Saxon lands allowed looting whilst in charge, triggering rebellion
- Many Anglo Saxons had lost land
- William ordered a heavy Geld Tax 1066
- Morcar's Earldom (Northumbria) reduced

### Events

- Edwin and Morcar flee North and gather rebels, including Edgar the Atheling, Waltheof and Welsh prince Belddyn
- William marches north, attacks Edwin and Morcar's earldoms (Wessex and Northumbria) and builds castles in cities like Warwick and Nottingham to prevent more
- William reaches Northumbria and builds a new castle in York, Edwin and Morcar surrender whilst others flee to Scotland

### Results

- Edwin & Morcar imprisoned (but escape to cause another rebellion in 1069)
- The building of castles to prevent rebellions
- William had defeated a weak rebellion, which showed his power but he had failed to prevent a further one in 1069.

## Why were there rebellions?

- **Norman rule:** Hatred of Williams rule (high geld tax) and actions of his regents in rule
- **Loss of Land:** Normans took Saxon lands, earldoms were reduced in size
- **Danish:** Invade three times, for gold?
- **Opportunity:** Whilst William away in 1075

## How did William deal with rebellions?

- **Castles:** Used to stop 68/69/75 rebellions and launch attacks against rebel areas
- **Bribery:** Paid off the Danish three times, possibly not successful as they kept returning
- **Violence:** Harrying of the North & William openly leading the attacks on rebels
- **Landholding:** Changed who owned lands, forfeited lands

## The Anglo-Danish Rebellion 1069

### Why did they rebel?

- Hatred of Williams rule and Normans
- January 1069, Robert Cumin (Earl of Northumbria) allowed looting of villages, caused rebellion in York and his death.
- Small rebellion put down and second castle built in York, however much larger rebellion starts in September 1069

### Events

- King Sweyn sends 240 ships to invade, where they join with Edgar the Atheling, Edwin Morcar and an Anglo Saxon army
- They attack York, destroy both castles killed 3000 Normans
- Rebellions in North spread around England; Cheshire, Welsh Marchers and in Devon. A serious threat to William
- William heads north but rebels scatter as they are too weak to fight him. William recaptures York
- As Danish are hiding in the marshlands, William pays them off to leave. Shows Danish had no aim to overthrow William

### Results

- The rebels had failed, Edgar flees and William regains control of England. Shows how weak rebels are, not united
- William does the Harrying of the North in winter of 1070/71

## Harrying of the North, 1070/71

### Causes

- **Triggered by 1069 rebellion:** William wanted revenge for attacks and killing of Normans/Robert Cumin
- **Tactics:** One of Williams tactics, used before in 1066 to send message. William was merciless if did not obey him and used fear/terror as a method to get what he wanted
- **Ending rebellion:** Wiping out rebels in North and allies of the Danish in the Danelaw. Harrying would mean no men or resources left for further rebellion, and there was not!

### Events

- "Devastation" of the North, 60% of Yorkshire wasteland homes destroyed, crops salted, animals kills, seeds burnt.
- Thousands killed, rebels and innocent, over 100,000 dead.
- Many die of starvation, thousands flee to the Midlands.

### Results:

- William builds more castles (Newcastle) to stop rebellions
- From 1071, there were no more rebellions in north, northern rebels and Danish allies had been removed
- 60% of North destroyed, 80,000 less people, 20 years later, Domesday Book, called the area a 'wasteland' and William could not take any tax from the area.
- William changes strategy, begins to replace Anglo Saxon earls with Normans and take lands to reduce rebellion

## Hereward the Wake and the rebellion at Ely – 1070-71

### Why did he rebel?

- Hereward, an English Thegn, returns from exile to find lands had been given to a Norman and joins with King Sweyn who has returned to England to raid
- **Events**
- Hereward's rebels and the Danish set up on the island of Ely (in the marshlands as it's easy to defend). They began a campaign of guerrilla war
- They raid local areas like Peterborough Abbey and the Danish take all the gold
- Between 1070-71, the Normans struggle to stop as they can't get cavalry across the marshlands
- In 1071, they are joined by Morcar
- William decided to bribe the Danish (again) to leave and they can keep treasures, they leave
- Surrounds Ely, builds a bridge across to send his cavalry and defeats the rebels

### Results

- Hereward escaped, Morcar imprisoned and rebels had either hands or feet amputated
- This was the last Anglo Saxon rebellion

## Revolt of the Norman Earls, 1075

### Why did they rebel?

- Norman Earls Ralph De Gael and Robert De Breteuil and last Anglo Saxon Earl, Waltheof. Met at a wedding
- The men were angry about loss of land, loss of privileges and loss of power e.g. Roger's Marcher Earldom was smaller than his father (FitzOsbern) owned, whilst new sheriffs reduced his power
- Waltheof promised support of Danish
- Planned to takeover when William was in Normandy and split the country in 3

### Events

- Waltheof told Lanfranc of the plans
- Lanfranc urges Roger to not rebel, but he ignores so he is excommunicated from church
- Lanfranc and Odo raise a combined Norman and Anglo Saxons army and defeat the rebels. The people support William, first time Anglo Saxons join
- William arrives back when the Danish do, they flee after just raiding York.

### Results

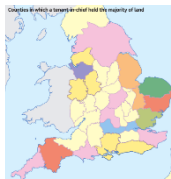
- William did now have to be careful of his own earls – Waltheof was executed and Ralph escaped and Roger imprisoned.
- There were no more rebellions at all

## Maintaining Royal Power

- Military power, new oaths taken by all men, travelling around the country, using power of ruling land, control of mints/coinage, royal ceremonies and wearing crown

## Changes to land ownership

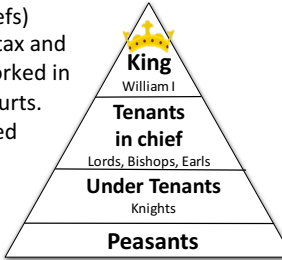
- William owned all land, and gave out as part of the Feudal System, all based on loyalty to him and could be taken (forfeit) if they disobeyed.
- He broke up the big earldoms (Wessex), which reduced Earls power and made them all dependent on him for their land
- William increased his power: to inherit land you had to pay William and if you had no heir, the land went to William.
- William began to take land using forfeit, set up new earldoms (Marcher Earldoms) to help his rule and simply land grabs (taking it!)
- By 1087 less than 5% of the land was held by Anglo Saxon Nobles, majority owned by 10 Norman barons (William personally owned 20%, worth £12,000) & church held 25%
- Tenants in chief given power to take rebellion thegn land and give out for loyalty



# Four Page History: Norman England

Between 1066 and 1088, William I ruled over 'Norman England' and as a result Anglo Saxon England was 'Normanised', changing large parts of the government, church & society

## The Feudal System

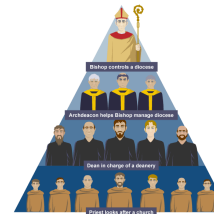
- To help his rule of England, William introduced the **Feudal System**, which was a hierarchy with William at the top. Simply, he gave out land in return for loyalty (homage)
  - Tenants in chief:** These were earls and lords who were given huge areas of land (fiefs) in return for military service, raising tax and dealing with law and order. Many worked in the Witan as advisors, or ran local courts. They got to keep share of tax collected
  - Gave out portions of land to knights
  - Under Tenants:** These were knights who had to provide up to 40 days 'knights service' a year for the king.
- 
- The king ruled a small area, collecting tax and keeping order. They replaced thegns, there were roughly 6000 of them. William needed these knights for his military power. This was important as it gave William a private army, loyal to him
  - Peasants:** Lived on land but did not own it. They had to do 2-3 days labour service for the knight, farming the land
  - Landholding:** When a landholder died, the heir had to pay a relief (money) to William to claim the land, this increased loyalty. William could raise or reduce relief price for most loyal followers
  - How did it help William?** William had ultimate control as all land was based on allegiance/loyalty to him, those who failed to do their duty would have their lands 'forfeit', or the threat of it. The system helped William's governance; he had taxes collected, could raise an army loyal to him and law and order was kept. He also used landholding as a method of control, taking the land from Edwin and Morcar, or reducing the size of land to stop threats e.g. Roger and Ralph, but this led to rebellion in 1075

## Norman Government

- William centralised power around himself**, he had total control over the feudal system, land/forest, economy (the mint, geld tax), shire reeves (answered to him) & the church (Lanfranc/Bishops).
- Kept Anglo Saxon government of witan for advice and shires/hides/tithings for administration and geld tax of England
- Reduced Power of Earls:** Earldoms now smaller, removed Wessex/Mercia, increased power of sheriffs and earls had to make new oaths to him. Used Marcher Earls as powerful leaders
- Increased power of Regents:** Trusted followers in charge whilst William in Normandy, had power to rule England. Bishop Odo provoked Anglo Saxon rebellions in 1068, so replaced by Lanfranc, who overcame the Revolt of the Earls in 1075

## Normanisation of the Church

- Church in Anglo Saxon England was powerful, under the rule of Archbishop Stigand, however William thought it was corrupt and needed to be controlled.
- Stigand was replaced by William for the following:** he gave out jobs for money (simony), he gave posts to friends (nepotism) and had already been excommunicated by the pope for being a bishop in two different areas (pluralism)
- In 1070 Lanfranc became Archbishop of Canterbury** and was made head of the Church of England and began to use his council of bishops (who met 10 times) to force the following reforms (changes) to England's church:



- More control:**
    - A **new hierarchy** with Lanfranc at the top was enforced, with Norman bishops and Archdeacons given power over priests
    - Strict laws** for priests such as celibacy (no sex) or marriage to be more spiritual
    - Independent **church courts** set up for church crimes, giving the church its own place in the legal system, ran by archdeacons
  - Replacing Anglo Saxon Power**
    - All but one Anglo Saxon bishop were replaced by 1070
    - Within 50 years, every English church was replaced by larger Norman ones, usually in city centres like Norwich to increase a Norman bishop's power and influence over the areas.
    - Development of new monasteries to spread Christian values
- Lanfranc's power:** Lanfranc and the church were very powerful, only 25% of the land, however William had complete control as Lanfranc swore an oath of allegiance to William and not the Pope, whilst William who controlled all decisions, oversaw the church council and had power to appoint/remove/forfeit Bishops..

## Shire Reeves and The Forest Laws

- Sheriff (Shire Reeve) replaced by Normans and had powers increased: only answered to the king, raised fyrd, managed castles, kept law and order and managed the King's lands/forest (demense).
- As they were entitled to a share of the taxes, some misused this to raise taxes whilst others took land from Anglo Saxons
- William liked hunting and he made new 'Royal Forests, simply by taking land from wherever
- He was able to make money by charging nobles to hunt there and it showed off his power
- There were harsh punishments (eye gouging) for breaking forest laws (e.g. poaching).
- William seen as unfair by simply taking and it encouraged others to take land too



## The Domesday Book

- In December 1085, William ordered a survey of England, called the **Domesday Book** and completed 1086, surveyed 12,000 villages
- England had 1,000 tenants in chief, almost 2 million people
- There were a number of benefits for William
  - Financial:** Valued England's land and wealth (animals, crops etc.) so, William could now tax effectively, immediately set a high Geld Tax in 1086 allowed him to see who was underpaying from his tenants and rule effectively.
  - Military:** Allowed him to know many men he could raise in an army and what supplies he could get. He used this information to raise an army for a potential Danish invasion 1086
  - Legal:** William knew who held the land and could deal with any disputes between landholders & later that year got all landholders to swear a new oath of loyalty, solidifying his rule.

## Norman Culture and Aristocracy

- Many Norman aristocrats came over, they only spoke Norman-French using interpreters, showed off wealth with buildings (Westminster), feasts and hunting in royal forest
- Chivalry:** Moral code ruling aristocracy, combined Christianity warriors to dictate actions, e.g. showing mercy in battle
- Penance:** Highly Christian and believed should 'pay' for conquest of England by building churches and prayer, e.g. Battle Abbey
- Landholding:** Norman culture passed land to single heir, this caused a succession crisis after William's death in 1087

## Changes to Anglo Saxon Society

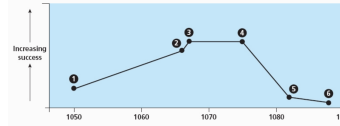
- Slaves free under Norman rule
- Number of free peasants (Ceorls) reduced as all peasants now tied to their lord as part of Feudal System. Life remained hard
- Thegns completely replaced by under tenants (knights)
- Norman earls replaced AS, less powerful with oath to William

## Who was most powerful?

- William:** Certainly most powerful, had complete rule and all others depended on him. Others did increase power:
- Lanfranc/Church:** Role in Church
- Sheriffs:** More independent power
- Regents:** Ruled as King. But, all these answered to William and he could remove, as he did earls

# Five Page History: William and his family

## The life of Bishop Odo



- Odo was William's half brother, he was Bishop of Bayeux in Normandy
- 1066, Odo contributed 100 ships to William's invasion fleet of England and fought at Hastings
- Odo made Earl of Kent and given many other estates (22 counties!), 2<sup>nd</sup> largest landholder.
- Made regent of England, but causes AS rebellions by allowing the theft of lands and rape of women to go unpunished.
- 1082, Odo is investigated for taking church lands, misruling his earldom and planning to make himself pope: he is imprisoned
- 1088, Odo is released from prison after the death of William, but leads a rebellion against William II. He is eventually exiled.

## Who was William I?

- William had 9 children with Matilda, his wife, who was he devoted to and trusted as his regent in Normandy.
- His personality: very religious, would use extreme brutality, wanted to be acknowledged as legitimate King, experienced leader
- The three main children in this topic are: Robert, William Rufus and Henry

## William and Robert

- William had a very strained relationship with his son Robert, who he nicknamed 'Curthose', a.k.a. 'Dumpy Legs'
- Robert was a good warrior but lazy and weak willed, meaning William had little respect for him and wouldn't let him rule Normandy, trusting his wife Matilda instead. This infuriated Robert
- In 1077, William did not punish Robert and Henry for a prank on Robert, so he went into **rebellion against William**
- Robert captured Rouen Castle, but fled and then gained support from the King Phillip of France who gave him a castle close to Normandy which allowed him to raid his father's lands.
- William raised an army to stop Robert, but Robert beats him in personal battle, humiliating William.
- Matilda organised a reconciliation between William and Robert, where William makes Robert his heir to Normandy

## The Succession Crisis of 1087

- In 1087, William fell off his horse and he soon died, leaving a crisis over who claimed his Kingdom, but why?
1. On his deathbed **William did not announce who would be king of England**. He preferred William Rufus, but said he would leave it in 'God's hands' to decide, this sparked the crisis as it was unclear
  2. **William did not like his son Robert**, especially after his rebellion, and did not want to leave England to his eldest son. However, this would break Norman inheritance traditions as he was only left Normandy, with Robert feeling England was also rightfully his. William had promised Normandy would be Robert's after his defeat against Robert.
  3. **Robert had support of many Norman barons**, who wanted him to rule England & Normandy, as they hoped to manipulate him
  4. **William wanted his son William Rufus to have the throne**, and wrote a letter to give to Lanfranc, saying to crown him
- Before William died, Rufus went to England and took a letter to Lanfranc, who supported his claim and crowned him William II in 1087. This caused another rebellion led by Bishop Odo and Robert.

## Odo and Robert's Rebellion, 1088

- In 1087, Bishop Odo was released from prison and in 1088 he started a rebellion against William Rufus alongside Robert Curthose. Odo thought Robert would be a better ruler of a united England and Normandy kingdom.
- Many Norman nobles were divided because they had two lords, as they had lands in both Normandy and England but most lords, Norman bishops and the Anglo Saxon population supported William II,
- Rebellions spread across England: In Norwich, Somerset and Wiltshire, these were put down by William Rufus
- Bishop Odo and Robert of Mortain controlled large parts of southern England, they took refuge in Pevensey Castle, William Rufus and the local fyrd, lay siege to the castle for 6 weeks and eventually capture Odo and Robert who surrendered
- Robert Curthose never came to England to support the rebellion, Odo is stripped of his titles, land and exiled. Rebellion failed.

## How to answer each exam question

### 4 Mark Features Question: 5 minutes

Identify and give 2 features with one specific detail.

### 12 Mark Explain Question: 18 minutes

3 paragraphs that focus on changes, causes, factors in a period. Usually 'Explain why' or 'Explain how'

Three separate points, that explain using specific detail and always link back to the question 'This was important as....'

### 16 Mark Judgement Question: 25 minutes

Agree Disagree and Conclusion (Can give 2 agree or disagree, you choose)

Must stay focused on how far you agree or disagree and always link back to the question throughout. Include specific detail

For L4 (13+), make sure you balance your point 'However' 'Despite this..'

## 4 Mark Questions

- Describe two features of Lanfranc's reforms of the English Church
- Describe two features of the Forest Laws
- Describe two features of the Witan.
- Describe two features of the Battle of Stamford Bridge.
- Describe two features of Hereward the Wake's rebellion | 1070-71.
- Describe two features of the changes in landownership by William
- Describe two features of the career of Bishop Odo.
- Describe two features of Robert's Rebellion, 1087 to 80

## 12 Mark Questions

- Explain the changes to the Norman Church made by Lanfranc
- Explain why motte and bailey castles were built throughout England.
- Explain why the English rebellions against William the Conqueror failed.
- Explain why Robert of Normandy rebelled against his father in 1077-80.
- Explain how William controlled England
- Explain why Earl Harold of Wessex became king of England in 1066.

## 16 Mark Questions

- *'The main consequence of the Normanisation of England was that the king became more powerful'*. How far do you agree? (16 Marks)
- *'The main reason for the failure of the Revolt of the Earls in 1075 was Waltheof's warning to Lanfranc'*. How far do you agree?
- *'It was changes in landholding that did the most to secure Norman control of England'*. How far do you agree?
- *'The main consequence of William I's decisions about the succession was that William Rufus inherited the English crown'*. How far do you agree?
- *'The main reason why there was rivalry over the throne in 1066 was because Edward the Confessor did not have a son'*. Do you agree?