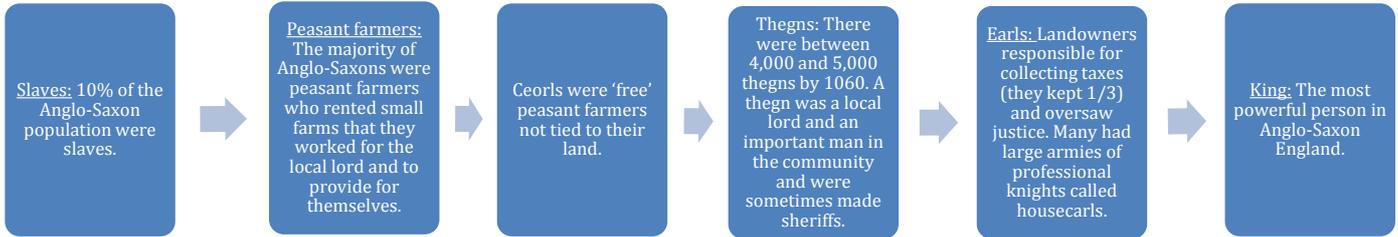


# Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c.1060–88 Revision Guide

## Anglo-Saxon England

2 million people in 1060. 4-6,000 were nobles.

### The social system



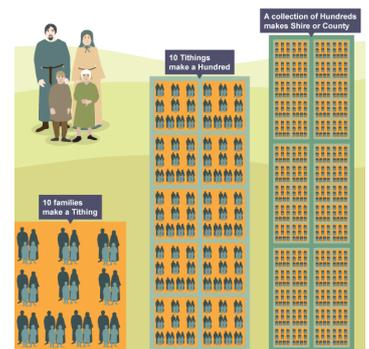
Anglo-Saxon society was flexible

### The power of the English monarch, Edward the Confessor (1042-66)

- **Powers:**
  - Law-making, the production of money, religion, landownership, military power and taxation.
  - Seen as a representative of Christ on Earth.
- **Limits:**
  - Half of England was called the Danelaw (which was Anglo-Danish).
  - In 1050 Godwin refused the king's orders to punish the people of Dover. In 1042 Edward appointed many Normans to influential positions.

### Government

- **The Witan** was a council of elders and landowners that advised the king. It discussed foreign threats, religious affairs and land disputes. It also helped to elect a new heir to the throne if there was no heir. It did not limit the king's power.
- **Earls** (see social system)  
Earldoms were split into shires which were split into hundreds.
- **Local government**
  - **Shire reeves** (sheriffs) were the king's local government officials. Sheriffs had to: Collect taxes and fines, enforce the law at the shire court, provide men for the **fyrð** (army) and maintain defences and roads. The king gave orders to sheriff through **writs** (written orders).
  - Every shire had a **burh** (fortified town) for administration and trading
  - Each group of five hides was obliged to provide one man for the fyrð.



### The Anglo-Saxon economy

- **Towns:** 10% of the population lived in towns. (Trade and taxes)
- **Villages:** 90% of people lived in farming villages. (Farming)

### The influence of the church

- Religion and the Church was a part of **everyday life**. As members of the church could read it was also used for records.
- **King Edward** was very religious, he devoted much of his later life to rebuilding Westminster cathedral.
- **Bishops** controlled large areas of the Church and served on the Witan as the king's advisers.
- **Priests, monks and nuns** were ordinary members of the community and had small landholdings.

### The House of Godwin

- Godwin had helped Edward the Confessor to become king
- The king married Godwin's daughter, Edith of Wessex, in 1045.
- Harold Godwinson succeeded his father as Earl of Wessex, and earldoms around the rest of England were given to Harold's brothers.
- Mercia was the only powerful earldom not controlled by the Godwins.
- Rival to Godwins: Welsh king, Llywelyn. The Godwins launched an attack in 1062 and sent Llywelyn's head to Edward. Harold appointed a new 'puppet' king of Wales who he could control.
- **Harold's embassy to Normandy**
- Harold Godwinson went to Normandy in 1064 on a mission for King Edward.

- Godwinson was taken prisoner by Count Guy of Ponthieu.
- Harold helped William in two military campaigns, after which he was given weapons and armour.
- Harold made a solemn oath - to support William's claim to the throne of England.

**The rising against Earl Tostig**

- Tostig Godwinson became Earl of Northumbria in 1055.
- The locals rebelled because: heavy taxes, Tostig was not a northerner and had abused his power.
- The rising of 1065 began with rebels marching on York, where they killed Tostig's housecarls and servants and declared Tostig an outlaw. They invited Morcar, the brother of the Earl of Mercia, to be their earl.
- Harold's response: Harold met with the rebels and Tostig was exiled

**The 4 claimants to the throne in 1066**

- Edward the Confessor died 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 1066 leaving no heir.

**Harold was selected by the Witan!**

<p><u>Edgar Aethling</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He was Edward's nephew.</li> <li>• The Witan knew that threats from Scandinavia and Normandy were very serious in 1066 and England would not be safe with a teenage king.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Duke William of Normandy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He was a relative of Edward the Confessor.</li> <li>• He was a strong military leader.</li> <li>• Supposedly Edward the Confessor had promised him the throne and Harold Godwinson had agreed.</li> <li>• Had Pope's backing.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Harold Godwinson</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He was English.</li> <li>• Earl of Wessex.</li> <li>• Had advised the king and acted as his regent.</li> <li>• His sister was married to the king.</li> <li>• He had gone on embassy to Normandy for King Edward.</li> <li>• He was an experienced military leader.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Harald Hardrada</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He was the king of Norway.</li> <li>• He was a fearsome Viking warrior, feared across Europe.</li> <li>• His claim to the throne was based on Viking secret deals and treaties.</li> <li>• Tostig Godwinson convinced Hardrada that Harold Godwinson was unpopular in England.</li> </ul>

- Harold's coronation took place on 6 January 1066, the same day Edward was buried.

**The Year of 3 battles: 1066**

- Godwinson had positioned his troops on the South Coast as he was expected William of Normandy to attack, but the wind was in the wrong direction for William's ships.
- 20<sup>th</sup> September 1066: The Battle of Gate Fulford
  - Harald Hardrada's army claimed York
  - They outnumbered Edwin and Morcar's troops, they were well-trained.
- 25<sup>th</sup> September 1066: The Battle of Stamford Bridge
  - Harold Godwinson's army marched 185 miles North in 5 days and defeated Harald Hardrada's army
  - Harold launched a surprise attack and Hardrada's army was exhausted from their last battle.
  - Hardrada and Tostig were killed.
- 14<sup>th</sup> October 1066: The Battle of Hastings
  - William of Normandy and his army landed in England. Harold Godwinson's men returned south and fought them in battle. Harold was killed and his army defeated. William the Conqueror became King of England.

**The reasons for William's victory**

Tactics	Leadership	Luck
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harold's troops all fought in the same way – forming a <b>shield wall</b></li> <li>• William had a mix of professional <b>knights, archers and cavalry</b>.</li> <li>• William weakened the shield wall with the <b>feigned retreat</b> tactic.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• His knights brought their own <b>horses and a 'pre-fabricated' castle</b>.</li> <li>• Harold disbanded his Southern army in September.</li> <li>• Harold decided to launch a surprise attack on William rather than waiting for him to reach London. This mean Harold did not have as many men.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harold faced <b>2 invasions in 2 weeks</b></li> <li>• The weather meant William arrived in England just after the Battle of Stamford Bridge.</li> <li>• Medieval battles were chaotic. Both sides were fairly evenly matched and William was lucky to have won.</li> </ul>

**William I in power: securing the kingdom, 1066-87**

- On 25<sup>th</sup> December 1066, William was crowned king of England. He promised to be a good king, in return for Anglo-Saxon loyalty. He secured his power through:

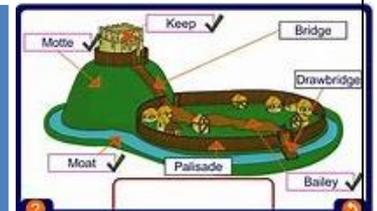
**Submission of the earls**  
After the Witan elected Edgar the Atheling and the March on London  
Atheling, Edwin, Morcar and English archbishops submitted to William.

**Rewards to followers**  
William sent gifts to the Pope, set a heavy geld tax to pay his soldiers, despoiled all land belong to him and granted land to his followers.  
William also rewarded loyal Anglo-Saxons like Edwin and Morcar by letting them keep their earldoms.

**Marcher Earldoms**  
The Welsh had rebelled against Edward Hereford, Shrewsbury and Chester  
They were smaller and had more power over laws, building castles and taxes.

**The March on London**  
After Hastings, William led his men on a campaign of destruction of homes and farms. William took control of the treasury at Winchester.

**Motte and Bailey Castles**  
500 were built during his reign.  
Initially out of stone, then out of wood.  
They were built in strategic locations.



### The Revolt of Edwin and Morcar in 1068

- William returned to Normandy. Edwin and Morcar fled from William's court and were joined by many others in rebellion against William because:
  - William did not keep his promise to marry Edwin's daughter
  - Illegal land seizures made by William FitzOsbern and Odo of Bayeux.
  - Morcar's was replaced as Earl of Northumbria
  - Resentment of new castles
  - William's heavy geld tax of 1066
- William took his forces north and took control of Warwick. Edwin and Morcar quickly surrendered.
- Edgar Aethling escaped to Scotland, and formed a new centre of resistance to William's rule.

### Edgar the Atheling and the rebellions in the north, 1069

- William made the Norman Robert Curthose Earl of Northumbria
- Edgar the Atheling escapes William's court and went to Scotland to get support.
- Curthose took a large force north in January 1069. He launched attacks all the way to Durham, causing great resentment.
- Some Northumbrians killed Curthose and his troops.
- A similar uprising occurred in York, killing the governor and many Norman troops.
- William arrived quickly with a large army and built a castle to be defended by William FitzOsbern.
- In September 1069 a Viking fleet from Denmark led by King Sweyn joined Edgar the Atheling and attacked York.
- 3,000 Normans were killed.
- To deal with the Danes William paid them a large amount of money, and then embarked on a campaign of total destruction known as the 'Harrying of the North'.

### The Harrying of the North, 1069-70

- Immediate impacts
  - Around 100,000 people died
  - People starved to death or froze after their crops had been destroyed, their livestock killed, and their homes burned down
  - Thousands of refugees fled the region
  - There were reports of cannibalism and people selling themselves into slavery for food.
- Long-term impacts (1069-87)
  - There were no further uprisings in Northumbria
  - In the Domesday Book, 60% of Yorkshire was declared as waste and without livestock
  - Reduced the chance of a Danish
  - William decided to replace the Anglo-Saxon aristocracy rather than winning them over

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

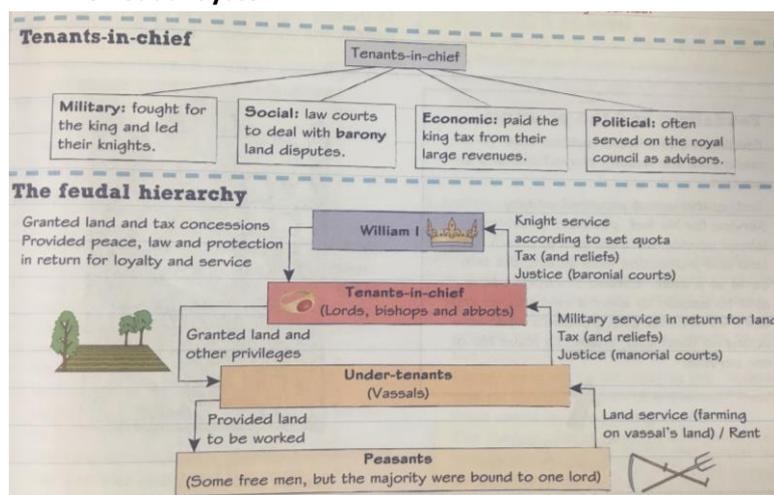
- In 1070, King Sweyn of Denmark led a fleet to Isle of Ely surrounded by fen, in East Anglia. It was part of Danelaw, so Sweyn made an alliance with Hereward the Wake.
- Hereward had been fighting a guerrilla war against the Normans in revenge for his brothers' death and because they wanted Edgar Atheling to be king.

- The Danes and Hereward raided Peterborough Abbey.
- William bribed the Danes to return home. Morcar joined the revolt.
- The Normans eventually captured Ely and Hereward fled.

### Changes in landownership from Anglo-Saxon to Norman, 1066-87

- The rebellions showed William that Anglo-Saxon earls could not be trusted..
- By 1087 only 5% of the land was still held by Anglo-Saxon aristocrats.
- Other changes to landownership:
  - The king owned all the land in his kingdom, so if anyone acted against the king their land could be forfeited
  - William created new earldoms and blocks of territory to grant to his followers
  - Illegal land grabs occurred, including outright thefts
  - The king's tenants-in-chief also had a lot of power – they could reallocate land (to their followers)
  - Heirs to land often had to pay the king a 'relief' to continue using the land. This encouraged loyalty to the king.

### • The Feudal System



Vassals = Knights. 6,000 knights in Norman England

### Maintaining royal power

- Military strength
  - William maintained his power through his military strength, his skill as a military leader and his ruthlessness
- The legitimate successor
  - The English wanted a legitimate ruler, not just a conqueror. Therefore William's claim to the throne – that Edward the Confessor had promised it to him – was stressed throughout his reign
- William instituted royal ceremonies and customs to symbolise that he was appointed king by God
- He took control of the minting of coins and put his image on them
- William and his royal court travelled across England to make his authority visible in all parts of the country
- William held oath-taking ceremonies where all men swore to serve him loyally.

### The Revolt of the Earls, 1075

- The conspirators
  - The revolt of 1075 was different to 1068-71 because it included **Normans rebelling against William**
  - The leader was Ralph de Gael, Earl of East Anglia, along with the earls of Hereford and Northumbria.
- Reasons
  - Loss of land – Ralph and Roger did not inherit the same amount of land as their fathers.
  - Loss of privileges and Power
  - Roger had been a Marcher Earl and by 1075 Marcher Earls no longer had special powers.
- Events
  - At Ralph de Gael's wedding feast he and Roger de Breteuil, Earl of Hereford, told Waltheof, Earl of Northumbria, of their plans. Waltheof, the last remaining major Anglo-Saxon earl, may have recruited the support of King Sweyn in Denmark.
  - Before the revolt Waltheof informed Archbishop Lanfranc what was going to happen.
  - Their revolt was a failure due to lack of widespread Anglo-Saxon support and the Danish fleet arrived too late.
  - Ralph escaped to Brittany. Waltheof and Roger were captured and imprisoned by William.
  - Waltheof was executed in May 1076 (he had rebelled before).
- Effects

- William now needed to be careful of his own earls
- Anglo-Saxons joined the loyal Normans to stop the revolt from spreading.
- Waltheof's execution suggests that William took a harsher stance on Anglo-Saxon rebellion.
- The failure of the Danish invasion in 1075 was the end of the Viking threat to England.

### The Church in England

- Bishops often developed laws for the king and advised on legal matters
- Church clerks issued the king's writs (legal document of the king's orders) and kept charge of the royal seal
- Senior Church leaders, the archbishops, sometimes acted as the king's representatives and regent
- In 1070, Stigand, the Archbishop of Canterbury, was replaced by a reformer named Lanfranc.
  - Stigand, typical of Anglo-Saxon Church leaders, was 'pluralist' (he was bishop of Canterbury and Winchester), as this brought more land and money. He was also accused of 'simony' (taking money in exchanging for granting Church jobs to others). Lanfranc disapproved of these practices because he wanted the Church to stand above corruption and money-grabbing.
- Lanfranc's reforms of the Church
  - Lanfranc banned marriage for the clergy and made celibacy compulsory for priests.
  - Archbishop of Canterbury became Head of the Church of England and was appointed by the king.
  - From 1076 any court case involving the clergy would be heard in Church-only bishops' courts.
  - Cathedrals in rural locations were knocked down and rebuilt in strategically important market towns.
  - Archdeacons became more common. They enforced Church discipline in the diocese.
  - Lanfranc introduced Norman traditions in the English church.
  - Lanfranc increased the number and importance of monasteries.
- Within 50 years of 1066, every English church, cathedral and most abbeys had been demolished and rebuilt in the Norman style.
- After 1070 there was only one remaining Anglo-Saxon bishop, Wulfstan, bishop of Worcester.

### Society, government and the economy in Norman England.

Continuity from the Anglo-Saxons	Change
Farming continued	Trade with Scandinavia reduced
Writs used to direct sheriffs and others	Buhrs cleared and replaced with castles
Geld Tax - previously used to pay of Vikings now used to pay Norman soldiers. They were particularly heavy in 1084+1086	Lanfranc reformed the Church centralising power
Towns could continue to trade	Feudal System – No one could be more powerful than the king. Major land-holders were called tenants-in-chief. They would have to raise an army of 4,000-5,000 knights. No more slaves or ceorls. The tenant-in-chief could reallocate land when a thegn died.
The Church continued to play a big role in government. But it was more powerful after Lanfranc's reforms.	Anglo-Saxons removed from power after the Harrying of the North
Use of regents: Harold Godwinson had been regent for Edward the Confessor Odo of Bayeux and William Fitzobern in 1067 and Lanfranc (1075).	Domesday Book 1085 – guide to what the King's tenants-in-chief were worth based on the hide. 2 million words. 1,000 tenants-in-chief recorded. This increased the amount of tax William could charge and the amount of soldiers William could expect. It also helped to sort out legal disputes.
The role of the sheriff continued but sheriffs were now only answerable to the king and most sheriffs were replaced by Normans. They also took a share of the taxes.	Knights- new role. Had to serve for 40 days. Owed loyalty to the king.
Tithings and hue and cry remained unchanged.	The majority of land was kept for the king. It was known as the royal demesne.
When there was an important issue, like a Danish invasion, William would gather all the important landholders like a Witan.	Forest Laws: 30% of England was for the private use of the king.
Royal treasury remained at Winchester. William kept the silver pennies. William kept tighter control on minting.	William kept the Shire and the Hundred.

### William I, his sons and the Norman aristocracy

#### The Norman aristocracy

- Their 'culture'

- Spoke French as a sign of their superiority. Writs written in Latin, not English like before 1066.
- Hunting was their favourite activity
- Spent money on parties, jewellery, gifts, clothing and buildings
- Chivalry – Nobles liked to promote the culture of a knight
- Passed land down to a single heir. Did not share it out among children like the Anglo-Saxons.
- Believed in penance (making up for sins) – they did this by building churches

### **The significance of Odo, Bishop of Bayeux**

Odo was William's half-brother who had a bad reputation.

- Odo's career until 1066
  - William appointed Odo as Bishop of Bayeux (in Normandy)
  - Odo contributed 100 ships to the Battle of Hastings
- Odo's career after the conquest
  - William gave Odo a huge amount of land (worth £3000 a year) – only William had more land than Odo
  - Odo was appointed Earl of Kent in 1067 – a vital area that needed defending
  - William made Odo his regent on several occasions, but this was a disaster for relations because of theft of land and rapes of Anglo-Saxon women.
  - In 1075 Odo led the king's army to defeat the Earl of Norfolk and end the Revolt of the Earls
  - In 1080 Odo was in charge of the army that devastated Northumbria
- Imprisonment and rebellion
  - Eventually Odo wished for more power and planned a military expedition to Italy in 1082
  - William imprisoned Odo in Normandy and kept him there for the rest of his reign

### **William I's family**

- Queen Mathilda married William around 1050.
- Robert of Normandy (nicknamed Curthose), C.1053-1134 (eldest son)
- William Rufus, C.1060-1100 – King of England, 1087-1100

### **William, Robert and revolt in Normandy, 1077-80**

- In the 1070s William allowed his wife Mathilda to control Normandy angering Robert.
- William thought Robert was spoiled and foolish so he refused to give him Normandy or England.
- In 1078 Robert's anger boiled over and he had a fight with his younger brothers. The next day he fled and tried to take control of William's castle at Rouen. They failed, but Robert had the support of many young knights.
- William responded to Robert's raids in Normandy by marching an army to Gerberoy (France) and besieging Robert in the castle
- Robert decided to fight back and he beat his father – this was humiliating for William
- William agreed to a peace settlement at Easter 1080. He made Robert his heir in Normandy.

### **Death, disputes and revolts, 1087-88**

- William's death and the succession dispute
  - William Rufus and Henry were at William's death-bed
  - He wanted his favourite son, Rufus, to be King of England. He sent Rufus to England with a letter for Lanfranc instructing the archbishop to arrange for William Rufus to be crowned King of England.
- The nobles' dilemma
  - The nobles who had land in Normandy and England now had to do homage for both leaders.
  - Bishop Odo said that nobles should choose between Robert and Rufus and reunite England and Normandy. He suggested they unite behind Robert and depose Rufus, because he knew Robert would be easier to control
- The rebellion of 1088
  - In 1088 there were outbreaks of rebellion in England, causing a serious threat to Rufus
  - Rufus headed to Rochester castle where Odo was planning the rebellion to help Robert.
  - Odo did not get the support from other Normans or the English bishops, fyrd and population.
  - Rufus captured Rochester castle and Odo, who was exiled from England
  - William Rufus had established himself as the King of England.
- The defeat of Robert and Odo
  - The division of land between William's sons meant some Norman nobles had two sons.
  - Robert did not invade England
  - The rebellions faded away. Odo was exiled.
  - William Rufus secured his throne he also got rid of the 'forests' and reinstated many Anglo-Saxons laws which made him more popular.

# Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c.1060–88 Writing Guide

There are 3 types of questions on the Anglo-Saxon to Norman paper:

- A 4 mark
- A 12 mark
- A 16 mark

## **4 mark questions**

Four mark questions will ask you to describe two features of something. You need to have revised in detail in order to be able to answer this question. 4 mark questions are not hard, but if you haven't revised in depth, you won't have the facts to gain these easy marks

E.g. Describe **two** features of a Motte and Bailey Castle

### Feature 1

*One feature of a Motte and Bailey Castle is that to begin with they were built out of wood so that the Normans could build them quickly. Eventually they were built out of stone to improve their strength and durability.*

### Feature 2

*Another feature of the Motte and Bailey castle is the motte. The motte described the hill on which the castle was built. This would give the lord of the castle the ability to look over his land and to see any rebellions coming.*

**The answer above would get 4 marks.**

Description	Marks
One simple point- weak evidence or no explanation	1
One developed point with evidence	2
One developed point with evidence and one simple point	3
Two developed points with evidence	4

## **12 mark questions**

12 mark questions will ask you to explain why or how something happened

You should write 3 PEEL paragraphs.

Point

Evidence

Explanation

Link

E.g. Explain how William I's power over England increased as a result of changes to landholding.

Description	Marks
Reasons are not well explained/supported	1-4
1 reason is well explained with evidence, but both other reasons are not as well explained/supported	5-6
2 reasons are explained with some evidence, but 1 reason is not as well explained/supported	7-8
3 reasons are clearly explained with some specific evidence	9-10
3 reasons are clearly explained with specific evidence and reasons are linked together	11-12

The below answer would score full marks.

One way that William's power was increased as a result of changes to landholding was by replacing Anglo-Saxons landowners with Norman landowners. In 1066 100% of the land was owned by Englishmen. By 1086 only 1.3% was owned by Englishmen as William replaced English landowners with Norman ones. This increased William's power because William was now able to put people he trusted in positions of power throughout England which would prevent future rebellions as English landowners such as Edwin and Morcar had been able to rebel against William as a result of their ability as earls to raise taxes and an army. This links to the feudal system because William able to rely on his Norman supporters to help him control.

Another way in which William's power increased due to changes in landholding was a result of the feudal system. In Anglo-Saxon England the King shared the land with his earls meaning that some earls like Harold Godwinson were able to become particularly powerful and wealthy and in some instances act as a threat to the king's power. In Norman England, as a result of the feudal system, the king was now in control of all the land. If landholders failed to perform their duties, this land could be taken away from them. This helped William to control England as William now had the ability to replace Anglo-Saxon landowners for not obeying him. This links to the replacement of Anglo-Saxon landowners as William could now legally remove them from power if they failed to obey their new Norman king.

A final way William increased his power was by decreasing the size of English earldoms. This is evident because before 1066 there had been 3 main Anglo-Saxon earldoms, Mercia, Northumbria and Wessex. These were controlled by powerful earls such as Harold Godwinson who exercised a great deal of power. Whereas after 1066 William made several smaller earldoms, such as Shrewsbury in the Welsh Marches which were now controlled by Norman earls. This shows a change because the size of the earldoms had decreased in order to stop the new Norman earls from gaining power that could compete with the king and decrease his control in certain areas. This links to the replacement of Anglo-Saxon landowners as William used parts of different Anglo-Saxon led earldoms to create the new marcher earldoms.

Your point should give a reason which is directly relevant to the question

When giving evidence to show change you should try and give specific evidence from before and after: Like at the end of 60 Minute Makeover

After having given evidence, you need to go back to the question and explain your evidence

The final sentence of the paragraph should try and make links between the other factors you have written about

### 16 Mark Questions

These are your mini essay questions. You will be asked to assess whether you agree or disagree with a given statement. For this type of question we to PEEJL paragraphs.

Point, Evidence, Explanation, Justification, Link

You will also be given two points under the question. **You do not need to include these points, but you must give knowledge beyond them.**

E.g.

'The main reason William won the Battle of Hastings was Harold's mistakes' How far do you agree?

You may refer to the following points in your answer as well as your own knowledge.

- The mistakes of Harold Godwinson
- Feigned retreat

The Battle of Hastings took place on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1066 between William, Duke of Normandy and Harold Godwinson, an Anglo-Saxon nobleman who had been made King of England following Edward the Confessor's death. I will consider the reasons for William's victory, including Harold's mistakes, the weakness of the English army and William's battle strategy. I will argue that the most important factor is William's battle strategy.

One reason why William won the Battle of Hastings was because of Harold's mistakes. The evidence to show this is that Harold did not wait longer than 5 days in London before marching south to fight against William. In addition, Harold rushed his men back from fighting the Battle of Stamford Bridge. They marched 410 miles in just 4 days which exhausted his already worn out army. This led to William's victory because if Harold had waited longer in London, he could have gained reinforcements meaning his army would have been 40,000 men rather than 8,000. This would have allowed the Saxons to outnumber the Normans and they might have been able to overwhelm William's army. This factor is important to a lesser extent because both sides had similar amounts of men, meaning it was William's well-trained troops and tactics that secured William's victory. Overall, it is clear that Harold's mistakes were an important reason why William won the Battle of Hastings. However, the type of soldiers in his army was also a contributing factor.

A second reason why William won the Battle of Hastings is because of the weakness of the English army. The evidence to show this is that most of William's army was made up of fyrdmen. They were normal civilians rather than professional soldiers, meaning they had little tactical knowledge and poor weapons. Many of Harold's trained housecarl soldiers had been killed at the Battle of Stamford Bridge, just days before Hastings. This led to William's victory because Harold's weaker soldiers were overwhelmed by the strategy and skill of the Norman army. In addition, the Norman army was made up of cavalry, archers and foot soldiers with strong weapons and tactical knowledge. This factor is important to a certain extent because if Harold's men had more strategic knowledge they may not have been fooled by William's feigned retreat and held their position in the shield wall. This had been the only thing that prevented the Normans from breaking through. Overall, it is clear that the weakness of the English army led to William's victory. However, William's leadership and tactics were crucial to this.

A third reason why William won the Battle of Hastings is because of the strength of his battle tactics. The evidence to show this is that William's army included professional knights, as well as archers and cavalry, who had strong tactical knowledge and good weapons. This meant he could use banners in order to instruct his men during the battle. Due to this, William was able to use the feigned retreat to draw Harold's men in and break their shield wall. In addition he used the tactic of firing his arrows up into the air rather than straight at the Saxons in order to get them over the top of the shields. This led to William's victory because his tactics during the battle were completely overwhelming for the exhausted and amateur Anglo-Saxons. They were surprised by the skill of the archers and fell for the feigned retreat. This caused them to lose their positions and break the shield wall meaning the Normans could get through to crush their army. This is the most important reason for William's victory because even though they had a similar amount of soldiers, William's strategy made his army stronger and allowed it to overpower the Saxons. So, overall it is clear that William's battle tactics were the most important reason for his victory.

In conclusion, although, it could be argued that having more soldiers and better trained soldiers might have prevented William from being victorious at Hastings because Harold's soldiers might have not been tricked by the feigned retreat or may still have been able to overpower the Norman army, the most important reason was because of William's tactics. By firing arrows into the air and getting his soldiers to perform a feigned retreat allowed William to weaken the Anglo-Saxon defensive line, ensuring his victory. As such, William's tactics were the most important reason for the success of the Norman Conquests in 1066.

You don't have to do an introduction but if you do use it to show contextual knowledge and give your overall opinion.

Your point should make a clear argument that is relevant to the question.

Your evidence should support the point you have made. It should be specific and accurate. Depending on the question you may need to give before and after evidence.

Your explanation should explain why your evidence supports the point you have made.

Your justification is where you assess how strong that argument is. You should use the phrases lesser, certain and greater extent here to show that you are assessing.

Link back to the question.

A good conclusion will be balanced. Summarise other less important arguments side. Explain why the other argument is stronger.