

History Knowledge Organiser

Causes of the Norman Conquest

Key individuals

Earl Godwin
 Edward the Confessor
 Edgar the Outlaw
 Harald Hardrada
 Harold Godwinson
 William, Duke of Normandy

Key dates

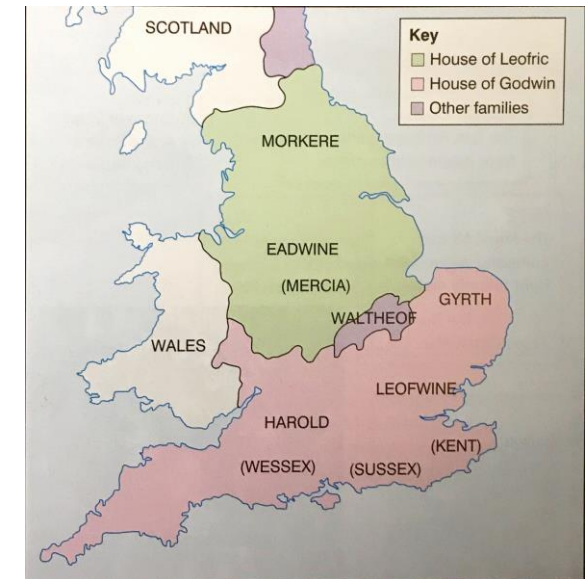
1042	Edward the Confessor becomes King of England
1052	Earl Godwin is exiled after a dispute with King Edward
5 th January 1066	King Edward the Confessor dies
6 th January 1066	Harold Godwinson becomes King of England

Who were the Normans?

In 911, a Viking named Rollo unsuccessfully attacked northern France. Despite this, the French king offered Rollo an area of land in north west France, in exchange for his loyalty (**allegiance**). This area of land became known as Normandy.

King Edward's mother was the half sister of Duke Richard II of Normandy, so Edward brought many of his Norman friends over to England as advisors. This led to conflict with Earl Godwin in 1051. William, therefore was a distant cousin of Edward's, as well as a close friend and advisor.

England before 1066



The rivals for the throne

Rules of Inheritance

Inherit directly or chosen

Post Obitum- 'after death' nomination

Novissima verba- named heir on deathbed

Use of force

Edgar the Outlaw- known as the **Aethling**.

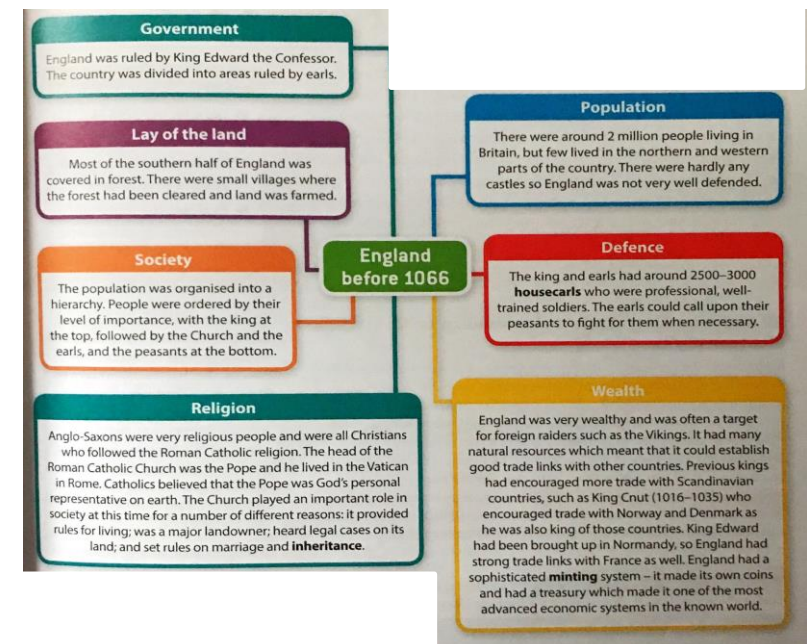
The great nephew of Edward. Had the support of many Anglo-Saxon earls.

Harald Hardrada- believed he should be king based on prior Viking ownership of English crown before Edward became king.

Harold Godwinson- most powerful earl in England as Earl of Wessex. Was deputy king ('**sub-regulus**') in 1060. Claimed Edward promised him the throne on his deathbed.

Had the support of the **Witan**.

William, Duke of Normandy- Distant cousin of Edward. Claimed Edward had promised him the throne after helping Edward with the Godwin rebellion of 1051. This was shown in the **Bayeux Tapestry**.



KEY VOCABULARY/ TERMS

Earl, exiled, **housecarl**, **minting**, inherit, allegiance, *postobitum*, *novissima verba*, Witan, Aethling, sub-regulus, Bayeux Tapestry

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Military Aspects

Key dates- 1066

5 Jan	King Edward the Confessor dies
6 Jan	King Edward buried and Harold Godwinson crowned king
8 Sept	King Harold has to disband his fleet and southern army
20 Sept	Battle of Fulford Gate
25 Sept	King Harold defeats Harald Hardrada at Stamford Bridge
28 Sept	William lands at Pevensey
6 Oct	King Harold arrives back in London
11 Oct	King Harold leaves London
14 Oct	Battle of Hastings

William prepares to invade

French Support

William had a good relationship with the King of France. He was the most powerful man in north-west Europe. He had a stable base around Normandy.

Support from God

William sent Lanfranc to ask for the Pope's blessing. Alongside this, the Pope also gave him a **Papal Banner** ensuring support and a cause of a **Holy War**.

Getting across the Channel

He halved his journey to England by moving his fleet to the mouth of the River Somme.

Military Prep- the fleet

William built flat bottomed boats that could transport horses. He also built 'flat pack' castles which could be put up quickly when they landed.

Military Prep- the army

William began to **mobilise** straight after Harold's **coronation**. The Papal Banner allowed William to recruit men from all over France. Eventually, around 8,000 were ready to cross the English Channel.

Battle of Fulford Gate

Harold waited for William during Spring and Summer but had to send the ordinary peasant soldiers (**fyrd**) home to harvest their crops on 8th September.

Hardrada then invaded with 300 ships, sailing up the river Humber and landing near York. Earls Edwin and Morcar led the northern army against him in what was known as the Battle of Fulford Gate.

Both sides suffered great losses but the Vikings triumphed, whilst Edwin and Morcar were forced to flee.

Battle of Stamford Bridge

Defeat at Fulford meant Harold had to move quickly. He marched north with a private army and covered the 190 miles in 4 days catching the Vikings by surprise.

The Vikings were camped on the opposite side of the river Derwent and had not defended it properly. The resulting battle was long and bloody, and saw both Hardrada and Tostig killed. It was said only 24 of the 300 ships returned to Norway

Harold's victory was short lived as William arrived 3 days later on the south coast of England.

KEY VOCABULARY/ TERMS

Mobilise, coronation, Papal Banner, Holy War, fyrd

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Battle of Hastings

Key dates

11 Aug	William ready to launch an invasion from Normandy
28 Sept	William lands at Pevensey; King Harold marches south
6 Oct	King Harold and the remnants of his army reach London
11 Oct	King Harold leaves London, choosing not to wait for 30,000 reinforcements, and marches to meet William
13 Oct	King Harold reaches the South Downs

Who was more prepared?

	The Anglo-Saxons	The Normans
Type/size of army	Fyrd; 7,000	Mixture of trained mercenaries; 7,000
Specialist troops	Housecarls and thegns	Knights
Weapons and armour	Hand to hand	Hand to hand and ranged
Battle Style	Shield wall formation	Various
Position in battlefield	Top of Senlac Hill	Base of Senlac Hill
Previous experience	Harold very experienced	William very experienced
State of the army	Exhausted after march	Well rested
Extra support	Witan and some brothers	King Philip I of France and the Pope

The Events of the Battle

Began at 9am with a volley of arrows from the Norman archers. This proved ineffective as they were shooting uphill. Norman infantry then charged but were repulsed by the very effective Anglo-Saxon shield wall.

Some Normans began to run away and the fyrd began to chase after them leaving their safe position on the hill. These men were easy targets for Norman cavalry and so the n=Normans used this trick (feigned retreat) to drain numbers from the shield wall.

Norman cavalry then charged in, after midday, which led to heavy casualties on both sides. The feigned retreat tactic was sued again and ate away at the shield wall.

By 4pm, the Normans began to break through the side of the shield wall and it was at this time that Harold was killed. With this, the Anglo-Saxon fyrd broke ranks and fled.

Why William won the battle

William's Strengths

- Highly trained, well prepared and well rested army.

Harold's Weaknesses

- Tired and weakened force after previous battles and a long march.

Luck

- Change in weather delaying William tied in with Hardrada's invasion in the north.

KEY VOCABULARY/ TERMS

Mercenary, thegn, shield wall, feigned retreat

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Establishing and maintaining control

Key dates

1066	25 Dec- William crowned King of England
1067	Mar- William returns to Normandy; unrest in Herefordshire and Wales Dec- William returns to England; distributes land in areas of potential rebellion to loyal barons
1068	Rebellions in the south west Siege of Exeter by William Earls Edwin, Morcar and Edgar the Aetheling flee north
1069	Rebels burn Norman Earl Robert of Commines to death in Durham. It spreads to York. Vikings invade Revolts in Dorset, Somerset, Staffordshire and Cheshire King Malcolm of Scotland marries Edgar's sister, Margaret
1070	'Harrying of the North' Unrest in East Anglia
1072	Scotland invades northern England
1075	Revolt of the Norman earls
1076	Last English earl, Waltheif killed Scottish raids in Northumbria

Key individuals

Archbishop Stigund

Been a bishop since 1043 and advised King Edward and Godwin. Made Archbishop of both Canterbury and Winchester. William removed him from his position for corruption in 1070.

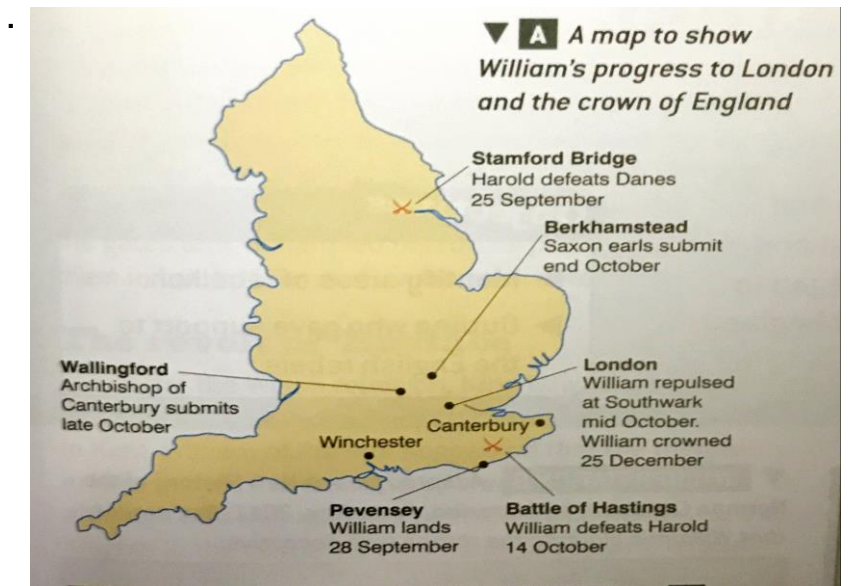
King Malcolm III of Scotland

King of Scotland 1058-1093. Gave protection to rebellious Anglo-Saxons. Invaded northern England but upon defeat had to accept William as his overlord in 1072. He rebelled and was killed at the Battle of Alnwick in 1093.

Hereward the Wake

Believed to be the son of the Earl of Mercia. Made an outlaw by King Edward as he was uncontrollable. Became an English hero after rebelling against the Normans in East Anglia.

After Hastings



Rebellions against the Normans



The Harrying of the North

In January 1069, Norman Earl Robert of Commines was murdered by English rebels and Edgar the Aetheling had attacked the city of York. Alongside this, Vikings had invaded in the Summer, joined with the English army and captured the castle at York after defeating a Norman army.

William paid for the Vikings to leave and laid waste to the areas around York, burning and **salting** the fields and killing all living creatures. It was recorded that 80% of Yorkshire became uncultivated and unpopulated.

KEY VOCABULARY/ TERMS

Fortifications, treasury, negotiation, siege, ravaging, regent, Harrying, Danelaw, salting, outlaw, guerilla, fenlands

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Feudalism and government

Key dates

1068	Fyrd used to deal with rebellion at Exeter
1075	Fyrd used to deal with Rebellion of Norman Earls and the rebellion in East Anglia
1075	Waltheof, last remaining English earl, removed from position
1076	Waltheof beheaded
1085	Survey of England agreed
1086	Domesday Survey

The Feudal System

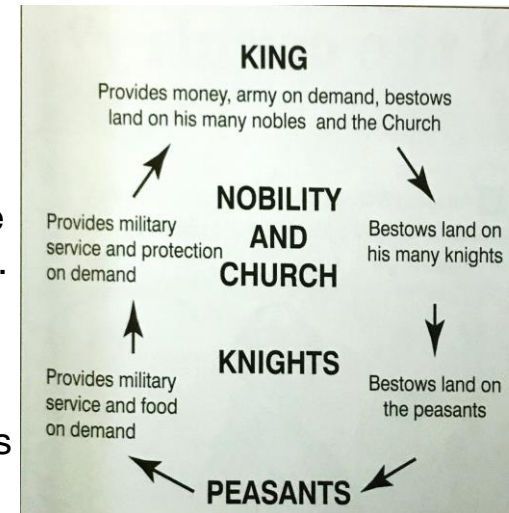
Before the Norman invasion, England was ruled by the King and his earls (**aristocracy**). Their form of feudalism was based on lordship and **patronage**. The Norman feudal system was based on favour and reward.

This system was based on give and take and was similar to what already existed in England. However, land (**fief**) ownership remained with William himself who used the nobles (**barons/tenants-in-chief**) to run (**administer**) the country. Peasants (**villeins**) worked in the fields. In this way, everyone knew their position in the **social hierarchy**. By a process of **subinfeudation**, tenants-in-chief could reward their own followers, knights, with smaller grants of land.

Knights had to provide service to the king; however, they could avoid this service by paying a form of taxation (**scutage**) during times of peace. This system of patronage in return for fealty was called **fiscal feudalism**.

The Church, under Bishop Odo, also became a major land owner under the Normans owning 25% of the whole of England.

The border of England and Wales was a problem of conflict for William so he made William FitzOsbern 'Marcher Lord'. He held wide ranging powers in this area and ensured it was well **garrisoned** to protect against any Welsh or Anglo-Saxon invaders.



Key individuals

Robert of Mortain

William's half brother. Supplied ships for William's invasion of England and given 20 counties of land as a reward. Helped William run Normandy.

William FitzOsbern

Distant cousin of William. A loyal soldier, steward and close friend to William, he was given lands all over the south of England.

King William II

Known as William Rufus (red), he forced King Malcolm III of Scotland to accept him as overlord. **Mortgaged** Normandy from his brother, Robert, for £10,000.

Robert Curthose

Given nickname Curthose (short boot). Participated in the First Crusade Imprisoned by his younger brother, Henry, in 1105-06 where he lived until his death.

Death of William II

King William I had 3 sons: Robert, William and Henry. On his deathbed in 1087, he gave Normandy to Robert and England to William. Henry received £5,000. This led to bitterness and resentment between the brothers.

In 1100, William II was hunting in the New Forest in Hampshire when he was shot through the heart with an arrow. He was replaced by his brother, Henry I. Historians do not know if this was an accident or an act of murder.

KEY VOCABULARY/ TERMS

Aristocracy, feudal system, patronage, administration, villein, baron, social hierarchy, fief, tenants-in-chief, subinfeudation, scutage, fiscal feudalism, garrison, geld, hides, ploughs, hundred, mortgage, sheriff, honorial court, jury, primogeniture, ecclesiastical, murdrum fine, mutilation, ordeal

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Feudalism and government

The Domesday Book

King William faced the threat of Viking invasion in 1085 and needed to enforce a tax (**geld**) to pay for his army. He ordered for an inventory survey of what people had, to be made to help him raise the tax.

The survey was carried out in 1086 and written in book form under William I. It became known as 'Domesday' or 'Day of Judgment'.

Once done, it showed that William and his family owned 20% of the country, the Church 25%, 10 members of the aristocracy 25% and the remaining 30% owned by 170 people.

It also shed light on England's population. In 1086, there were roughly 2,000 knights alongside 10,000 Norman settlers in a population of 1.5-2 million people.

Exam Practice

Use the information to answer the following exam questions. Make sure you use the 'Key Vocabulary/Terms' in your answers.

Write an account of the ways in which the feudal system changed under the Normans. (8 marks)

Explain what was important about the reforms to law and order under William I. (8 marks)

Keeping law and order

The Anglo-Saxon law and order system was very effective so William retained many practices.

	Continuity	Change
Shire Courts	Held twice a year and heard by the sheriff .	Declined in importance due to increasing role of honorial courts . Juries were sometimes introduced.
Hundred Courts	Looked at local issues normally involving land (100 hides)	Met more frequently. Run by sheriff's deputy.
Inheritance	Divide land amongst families.	Followed system of Primogeniture (eldest son takes all)
Oath System	People's word (oaths) was very important and could lead to the family of the 'criminal' being punished. Continued to be asked to take the 'Common Oath'	Murdrum fines were introduced to protect against Normans being attacked. Whole communities could be liable to a fine if this happened.

Regarding punishments, the Anglo-Saxon system was brutal involving capital punishment, **mutilation** and the grisly **ordeal** system. The Normans continued this but a new ordeal:

1. Ordeal by fire (Anglo-Saxon)
2. Ordeal by water (Anglo-Saxon)
3. Ordeal by combat (Norman)

The Normans also introduced Forest Laws whereby anyone caught hunting in the forests could be severely punished.

KEY VOCABULARY/ TERMS

Aristocracy, feudal system, patronage, administration, villein, baron, social hierarchy, fief, tenants-in-chief, subinfeudation, scutage, fiscal feudalism, garrison, geld, hides, ploughs, hundred, mortgage, sheriff, honorial court, jury, primogeniture, ecclesiastical, murdrum fine, mutilation, ordeal

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Economic and social changes

A Peasant's Year

Spring:

Sowing Seeds

Summer:

Harvesting Crops

Autumn:

Ploughing Fields

Winter:

Surviving

Work and Food

Peasants ploughed and sowed the land using tools like **scythes** and **sickles**.

Food and Drink

Breakfast: porridge

Lunch: rye bread

Evening: vegetables

Drink: beer or cider

Meat was rare, too expensive

Time Off

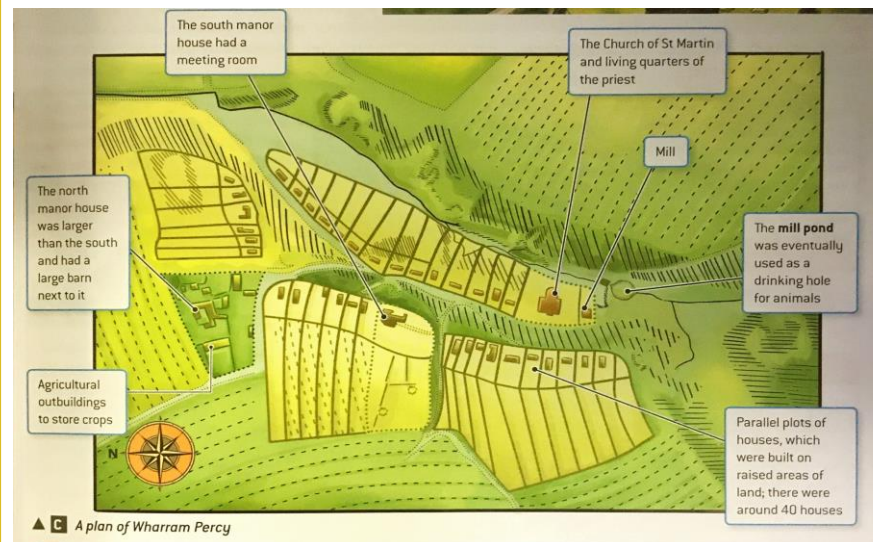
Worked 6 days a week and had Holy Days or Sundays off.

Peasants paid money in taxes or rent to their landlord and a tax to the Church called a **tithe**.

Norman Villages

90% of people lived in the countryside. Villages were controlled by the lord of the manor who lived in the **manor house**. The Domesday Book records there were c.13,400 villages in 1086.

At the centre of the village was a church which was most likely the most important building in the village. Surrounding fields for crops were straight, narrow strips. Some fields were left **fallow** to allow the soil to recover. **Mill ponds** were used as a drinking hole for animals. A typical example of a Norman village was Wharram Percy.



The poorest peasants (**serfs**) lived in houses around the lord's manor. They were not allowed to leave the area without the permission of the lord. **Manors** were specific areas within villages occupied by **freemen**. The collective term for all land owned by a lord was a '**demesne**'.

Key people that ensured the smooth running of the village include a **Reeve**, **Bailiff**, Priest and Miller

Norman Towns

Key towns before the Norman invasion include: Winchester, Chester and York. Towns served as important military, religious or administrative centres. The Normans encouraged the growth of towns in order to increase trade and taxes to the Crown.

Trade links with France were strengthened at the expense of Scandinavian links; however, the Normans brought stability in trade and this led to the development of many towns. A good indicator of the size and development of a town was the number of upper ranks of townspeople (**burgesses**).

Trades that helped develop the growth of towns include:

- The Salt Trade
- Metalwork
- The Wool Trade
- Markets and Fairs
- **Guilds** (specialist tradesman associations)

Markets and fairs could only be held if a **franchise** was given in the form of a **grant** from the king or his government. They became very important economic events for the Church and traders who made lots of money from them.

The Normans did change life in England, but the extent differed according to social status. Plenty of change at the top, very little at the bottom.

KEY VOCABULARY/ TERMS

Manor house, fallow, mill pond, serf, manor, freeman, demesne, cruck, reeve, bailiff, scythe, sickle, tithe, burgess, guild, franchise, grant

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The Church

Role of the Church in Norman England

Religion- ensure people demonstrated a belief in God.

Law- heard court cases for crimes committed out on Church lands.

Politics- leading Church members advised the king on national matters.

Education- the Church was the only institution that produced books.

Economics- the Church was a major landowner. They also collected tithes.

Health- disease was thought to be a punishment from God, so the Church would help look after the sick.

The Norman relationship with the Church

In 1066, William enjoyed the support of Pope Alexander II who granted him his Papal Banner prior to the invasion. This relationship deteriorated soon after when the Pope ordered William do **penance** for all the destruction he caused in his conquest.

King William and his son, William II, also used a **geld** to extract money from religious houses. Both regularly used religious positions to promote or reward people, but it was only the Pope or the Church who had the power to do this, not kings. This led to disagreements between William II and Archbishop Anselm.

Both William I and II used the Church for their own personal gain (wealth). William II even ran the Church himself after Lanfranc died, taking vast amounts of money from it, but soon appointed Anselm after he fell ill due to what he thought was a lack of **piety** and greed.

Key individuals

Archbishop Lanfranc

Was an Italian **Benedictine** monk. Obtained the Papal Banner for William before the invasion. Became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1070 and advised King William on many affairs including the reforms of the Church in Normandy and England.

Archbishop Anselm

Succeeded Lanfranc as Archbishop of Canterbury in 1093. Had many arguments with William II and Henry I about their abuses of the Church, which led to banishment on two occasions. He always put the Church before his king.

Changes to the Church

William I was keen to **reform** the Church in England as he had done in Normandy. He believed the Church in England was not following the rules set by the Pope in Rome. He was very concerned about the level of **corruption** in the Anglo-Saxon Church.

Changes were made to specific areas:

Bishops- Anglo-Saxon bishops replaced with Norman ones.

Architecture- built churches and cathedrals in the **Romanesque** style.

Organisation- Dioceses (areas of land served by a church) were divided into archdeaconries, which were further divided into deaneries.

Legal Issues- only Church Courts could try the clergy.

Parish Priests- most Anglo-Saxon priests remained in their jobs and very little changed for them

KEY VOCABULARY/ TERMS

Pilgrim, Holy Land, abbey, monastery, reform, clergy, celibate, corrupt, Romanesque, diocese, Benedictine, penance, piety, prior, last rites, excommunication

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Monasticism

Key individual- St Benedict

Born in Nursia Italy.

Studied in Rome but moved away to focus on worshipping God.

Founded a monastery in Monte Cassino where he wrote a set of rules for monks to live by. This became the Rule of St Benedict.

The order includes monks and nuns, who trained for four years as **novices**. They then have to agree to live by four vows: poverty, chastity, obedience and stability.

Work done by monks

Monasteries and nunneries had to be **self-sufficient** so they produced their own food and materials. They sometimes employed **lay brothers** to carry out work.

All work was considered to be divine so monks copied books by hand in monastery **scriptoriums**. They also tended to the sick, worked in almonries giving alms to the poor, taught the community and advised the king.

Religious orders

An 'order' is a group of religious people who follow the teachings of a particular holy person. St Benedict was the most influential person at this time. Benedictine monks began to follow his teachings but as time went on, interpretations of these teachings changed and new orders were created e.g. Cluniac, St Cuthbert.

Education under the Normans

The growth of towns led to the need for better education for those that required improved numeracy and literacy. Alongside this, reforms within monasticism meant that schools moved out of religious grounds and became separate buildings.

Archbishops Lanfranc and Anselm were key people in reforms to the education system after the Norman conquest. They both promoted education and built libraries. One function of the Church was to produce clergy and lay people who were literate so grammar schools began to be built for this purpose e.g. Exeter, Lincoln and Oxford.

Students stayed at grammar school for at least 4 years and about Latin grammar in detail, as well as how to write and speak the language. Notes were written on boards made of stone which could be wiped clean.

The school year started in September and there were 3 terms, which ended in June. This allowed students to help bring in the harvest from July-August. The day began as the sun was up and ended late afternoon. Teachers would sit in the middle of the room and children on benches, answering questions directed at them by their teacher.

University was available to the most successful where all books and lectures were in Latin. Subjects such as maths, accountancy and law were not taught in grammar schools and were taught when students started work.

KEY VOCABULARY/ TERMS

Monasticism, novice, abbot, abbess, self-sufficient, lay brother, scriptorium, priory