

**History, Y9 T1b: Norman
Consolidation of Power
Level: Grade 5 (compulsory)**

Key Words, Week 1:

Revolt	A rebellion against the ruler of a country (those rebelling are known as rebels).
Regent	A trusted advisor to the king that was allowed to run the country while he was absent.
Motte and bailey	A castle which was easy to build, used by the Normans to control England soon after the Conquest.
Landholder	The person that lives on the land, effectively renting it from the king.
Landowner	The person who actually owns the land. After 1066, the king was the only landowner in England.
Tenure	The process by which you held land from the king. You didn't own it, but could use it to live on and grow crops.
Vassals	In return for renting land, a vassal had to pay taxes and provide military service for their lord.
Brutality	Doing something in an unnecessary cruel or violent way. The Harrying of the North was seen as extremely brutal.

Key Individuals, Week 2:

William the Conqueror	Norman king of England, ruled from 1066 to 1087.
Edwin and Morcar	Anglo-Saxon earls of Mercia and Northumbria. Submitted in 1066, but later rebelled multiple times.
Edgar Atheling	An Anglo-Saxon claimant to the throne. Allied with the Scots and the Danes to fight William.
Robert de Comines	A Norman earl, given the job of subduing Northumbria. Burned to death by rebels.
Hereward the Wake	An Anglo-Saxon thegn and rebel who took Ely.
William fitzOsbern and Odo of Bayeux	Loyal followers of William and his regents in 1067. (Earl of Hereford and Earl of Kent).
Ralph de Gael, Roger de Breteuil, Waltheof	Three earls that rebelled against William in 1075. Ralph and Roger were Normans, Waltheof was Anglo-Saxon.
Lanfranc	Archbishop of Canterbury and regent for William from 1070 onwards. Defeated the Earls' Revolt in William's absence.

Key dates, Week 3:

25th Dec 1066	William crowned king at Westminster Abbey.
Aug 1068	A major rebellion in the north, led by Edwin and Morcar.
Jan 1069	Robert de Comines was burned to death by rebels in Durham.
Sept 1069	The Danes invaded and supported the Anglo-Saxon rebellion, led by Edgar.
Oct 1069	William paid off the Danes and defeated the rebels.
Nov 1069	The Harrying of the North, lasted into early 1070.
1070	Hereward the Wake joined forces with the Danes, taking Ely.
1075	The Earls' Revolt – Roger, Ralph and Waltheof rebelled against William. Defeated by Lanfranc.

Key Events, Week 4:

The March on London (1066)	William took his time en-route to London, burning Kent and claiming the Anglo-Saxon treasury at Winchester.
Submission of the Earls (1066)	Edwin and Morcar, alongside Edgar, swore oaths to obey William as king.
Edwin and Morcar's Revolt (1068)	Edwin and Morcar rebelled against William, however, they surrendered quickly.
The Northumbrian Revolt (1069)	William faced a series of rebellions in the north, including an alliance of Anglo-Saxons and Danes.
The Harrying of the North (1069-70)	William's brutal solution to the Northumbrian Revolt. He murdered many people across Yorkshire and Northumbria, and destroyed their lands.
The Earls' Revolt (1075)	A rebellion by three of William's earls, designed to overthrow him. They had support from Normandy's rivals.

Maintaining Royal Power, Week 5:

Military strength	Success in battle gained William legitimacy. This enabled him to defeat his enemies.
Legitimacy	William emphasised his claim as Edward's rightful successor.
Royal ceremonies	William coronation secured his position. He also had 'crown-wearing' ceremonies.
Coinage	William minted coins, so money would carry his royal seal, demonstrating power.
Writs	William used official messages, carrying his seal, to send out his orders.
Royal progress	The king and his court travelled around the country, reinforcing his authority.
Land-owning	William owned all the land, so could take the land from anyone who opposed him.
Oath-taking	All men swore an oath to God that they would obey the king, on pain of death.

Reasons for the Harrying of the North, Wk 6:

Revenge	The death of Robert de Comines and thousands of Normans enraged the king.
Guerrilla warfare	The rebels refused to fight William face-to-face, so he destroyed their lands and forced them into surrender.
Danish threat	The Danes were threatening to invade, and Northumbria would be the perfect base for them to do so.
Further revolts	The Northumbrian revolt was encouraging other rebellions. William needed to make an example of the Northumbrians.
Different tactics	The Northumbrians resented Norman rule even more than the rest of England. This meant that William had to resort to extreme measures.

**History, Term 1b:
Grade 9 (optional)**

Reasons for Edwin and Morcar's Revolt, Week 4:

Edwin's anger William broke the betrothal of his daughter to Edwin, and reduced his lands.

Morcar's anger William divided Northumbria in half and gave others powerful positions in Morcar's lands.

Bad regents Odo and William fitzOsbern had been allowing their men to pillage and plunder England during the regency. Land grabs were common.

Castles These made it very clear who held the power in England, and Anglo-Saxon homes were cleared in towns to make way for them.

Taxes William increased the geld tax to pay off the mercenaries he had used at Hastings.

Reasons for Earls' Revolt, Week 7:

Loss of lands After the death of their fathers, William had reduced the lands of Roger and Ralph.

Loss of privileges William had introduced sheriffs into the marcher earldoms, restricting Roger's power.

Resentment Waltheof had been forced to beg for mercy by William previously.

Powerful allies The Danes and French, as well as Brittany, were all promising to attack William.

William's absence William was in Normandy and Lanfranc had been left in charge of England.

Anglo-Saxon support The Earls believed that the Anglo-Saxons would support their rebellion due to their hatred of William.

Features of Castles, Week 2:

Motte A large mound of earth which was fire proof. The keep sat on top of it.

Bailey Protected by the palisade, this is where the stables and barracks would be. Local people could shelter here.

Palisade A fence made of solid timbers, which circled the whole castle.

Keep A strong wooden tower which served as a look-out point, or as a final line of defence.

Ditch Often filled with water, this made it harder to reach the palisade.

Gatehouse Controlled access to the castle, something had a drawbridge which could be pulled up during an attack.

Reasons for building castles, Week 3:

Strategic locations Used to prevent rivals from crossing rivers or through hills.

Dominate territory Castles were built in towns and in the country, and acted as the base of Normans that were subduing England.

Symbol of power A very visible symbol of who held the power in Norman England.

Features of Marcher Earldoms, Week 1:

Shire-sized Smaller than normal earldoms, they were easier to control than normal earldoms. This also limited marcher earl's power.

Create towns Marcher earls had the right to create burhs, usually a right of the king. This was to attract Norman settlers.

Control over sheriffs Usually, the sheriffs reported to the king, but in marcher earldoms, sheriffs worked for the earl, giving the earl more power.

No taxes Exemption from taxes encouraged marcher earls to spend on new settlements and defences.

Castle building In the rest of England, landholders had to apply to the king for the power to build castles. Marcher earls were free to build as many as possible, to defend the borders.

Features of landholding under Normans, Week 5:

Forfeiture William owned all of the land – if someone rebelled against him, they lost their land.

Redeem land Anglo-Saxons had to pay William to retain their old land.

Inheritance tax When a landholder inherited land, they had to pay William to keep it.

Lack of heir If a landholder died without an heir, the land would return to the king.

How Anglo-Saxons lost their land, Week 5:

Forfeiture If anyone acted against the king, the king could claim their land. William would rarely grant this back to Anglo-Saxons.

New earldoms William created new earldoms to give to his followers, putting Anglo-Saxons under their control.

Land grabs Either straightforward seizures of land by the Normans, or corrupt dealings in the shire courts. This took land away from the Anglo-Saxons and gave it to the Normans. Both were illegal.

Key Earls of England, Week 7:

Chester Hugh d'Avranches, 1071-1101

East Anglia Ralph de Gael, 1068-75

Hereford William fitzOsbern, 1067-71
Roger de Breteuil, 1071-75

Kent Odo of Bayeux, 1067-88

Mercia Edwin, 1060-71

Northumbria Morcar, 1065-67
Gospatric, 1067-68
Robert de Comines, 1068-69
Gospatric, 1070-72
Waltheof, 1072-75

Shrewsbury Robert de Montgomery, 1071-94

More key words, Week 6:

Seizure Taking away land.

Forfeit To lose something as a punishment.

Guerrilla warfare Small bands attacking a large force by surprise, then disappearing into the local population.

Marcher earldom A border area of England, under martial law.

Exemption Not having to pay something.

Bookland (Anglo-Saxon) A gift of land which could be passed on to an heir.

Lease (Anglo-Saxon) Land that has been loaned for money for a set period of time.