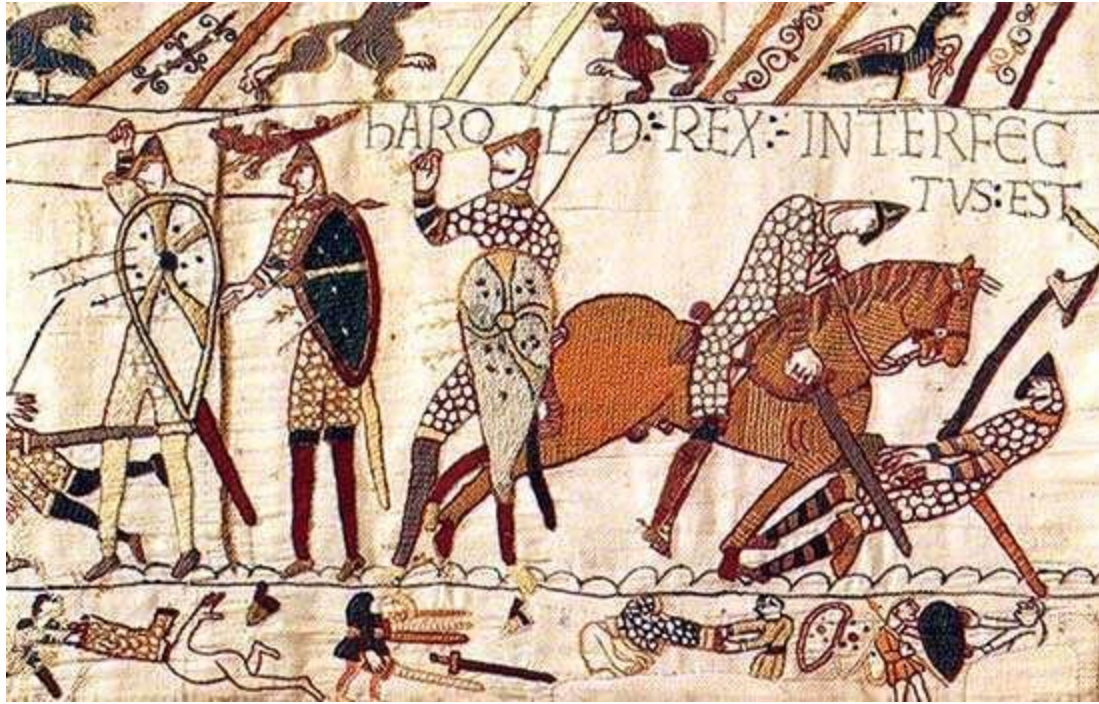


# Norman England



Exam Paper 2 - Revision Cards

## Revision Cards could be on:

1. Background to Norman Conquest
2. Death of Edward the Confessor and Consequences
3. Viking Invasion and Stamford Bridge
4. Normans Invasion and Hastings
5. Reasons why William won at Hastings
6. Pevensey Castle and Military Control
7. Pevensey Castle and Economic Control
8. Pevensey Castle and Political Control

## Revision Focus Areas



# Normans Card 1

## Background to Norman Conquest

**Edward the Confessor** - Saxon King of England before 1066, became King after death of his half-brother King Harthacnute (a Viking) in 1041, needed support of powerful Godwin family to return to England to become King - made to marry the daughter of Earl Godwin, very religious.

## •How Saxon England was run

1. Religion - Catholic Church had lots of power and influence, part of Witan council advising Kings
2. Earldoms - England was split into large Earldoms run by Earls, King no land of own
3. Godwin Family - very powerful family. Father was Earl Godwin who was believed to have killed Edward's older brother Arthur, family rebelled against Edward in 1051 - lost but able to remain in England, by 1057 controlled all Earldoms except Mercia

## •The Normans

1. History - originally Vikings, settled in Northern France under Rollo and given land from King of France to stop raiding, took on French language, Christianity, married French women but remained warriors - strong trade links with England (across sea)
2. William of Normandy - bastard son of old Duke Robert of Normandy, survived assassination attempts and became great warrior, distant cousin of Edward, said Edward had promised him the throne in 1051 after the Godwin rebellion

# Normans Card 2

Death of Edward the  
Confessor and Consequences

# Edward the Confessor - Saxon King of England before 1066, died having no male heirs leading to succession crisis and arguments.

## 1. Contenders for throne

- Harold Godwinson - most important member of Godwin family in 1066, richest man in England, great military leader, had support of Saxon Lords, had been sub-regulus (deputy King) representing Edward the Confessor in battle and running the country for him
- William of Normandy - Duke of Normandy, great warrior, said Edward had promised him the throne in 1051 after the Godwin rebellion, also had support of Pope and Catholic Church - promised to fix problems in English church, also said Godwinson had sworn an oath to support his claim to be King
- Harald Hardrada - Viking King of Norway, great warrior, claimed throne saying King before Edward had made a promise to his Father Magnus that he could be King, had support of Tostig Godwinson (exiled Earl of Northumberland) so some local Saxon support in North

## 2. Consequences

- Witan's Choice - Important Saxon Council, chose Harold Godwinson as next King, crowned after just 1 day, angered William and Hardrada who planned invasions, normal life in Saxon England affected as Godwinson had to organise an army for defence (included Housecarils but also the Fyrd - peasant soldiers), eventually England would get new rulers when the Normans win at Hastings.

## Norman Card 3

Viking Invasion and Battle of  
Stamford Bridge

**Harald Hardrada and Viking invasion** - King of Norway, great warrior, claimed a promise had been made to his father Magnus by previous King of England before Edward the Confessor, not happy when Harold Godwinson chosen as King by Witan and planned to invade. Key Events:

**1. Harold Godwinson in South** - King Harold Godwinson judged the greatest threat to be William and mobilised his forces on the southern coast to prevent a Norman invasion.

**2. Fulford Gate** - Hardrada landed in the north on 8<sup>th</sup> September, defeated Northern Earls Edwin and Morcar at Battle of Fulford Gate on 20<sup>TH</sup> September, Earls managed to escape, Hardrada then took over York and demanded hostages/tribute (protection pay)

**3. Stamford Bridge** - Godwinson surprises the Vikings by marching his army nearly 200 miles in 5 days, catches them without armour at Stamford Bridge, in battle Hardrada and Tostig are killed, Hardrada's son Olaf surrenders to Godwinson and promised to leave England, no future Viking claim

IMPORTANT CONSEQUENCES - GODWINSON HAD WON, GOT RID OF VIKING INVADERS FOR EVER, BUT THE MARCH AND BATTLE HAD BEEN EXHAUSTING, SOME SAXON SOLDIERS DIED



# Normans Card 4

## Norman Invasion and Battle of Hastings

**Duke William and Norman invasion** - great warrior, said Edward had promised him the throne in 1051 after the Godwin rebellion, not happy when Harold Godwinson chosen as King by Witan and planned to invade. Key Events:

**1. Delayed invasion** - William couldn't invade when he wanted to as the wind was not right to sail to England, meant Harold Godwinson first had to fight Hardrada first up north and move his army from south coast

**2. Landing in Pevensey** - William landed in Pevensey, built motte and bailey castle on first day, burned villages, looked to provoke Harold Godwinson into an early fight when weak from Stamford Bridge

**3. Battle** - Took place on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Harold Godwinson had advantage of high ground and at first was successful with shield wall, Normans won after using a feigned (fake) retreat tactic to draw Saxons out often Shield Wall to weaken it, kept using it, then King Harold Godwinson shot in eye by arrow and wall fell

IMPORTANT CONSEQUENCES - MANY SAXON EARLS, THEIGNS (LOCAL LORDS) AND THE KING KILLED, NORMANS WOULD EVENTUALLY TAKE OVER AND CHANGE ENGLAND AFTER SECURING THE PORT OF DOVER, THE SUPPORT OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY AND CROWNING WILLIAM KING ON CHRISTMAS DAY 1066

# Normans Card 5

Reasons why William won the  
Battle of Hastings and  
Harold Godwinson lost

## 1. William's preparations

- **Army** - got this ready early in 1066, included knights and archers, IMPORTANT in the actual battle of Hastings for fake retreat plan and killing Godwinson
- **Pevensey Castle** - brought pre-made pieces so built quickly, safe base for soldiers to terrorise local area, IMPORTANT as helped to prepare for Hastings and forced King Harold Godwinson into an early battle he was less prepared for
- **Support of Pope** - promised to change and improve the English church, IMPORTANT as encouraged men to fight for William and helped recruit soldiers

## 2. William was a good leader

- **Bravery** - rumour in battle William dead, William raced to front and took helmet off
- **Tactics** - came up with feigned (fake) retreat plan in middle of battle, IMPORTANT as helped to weaken Saxon Shield Wall, led to victory on the day

## 3. Luck and Harold's mistakes

- **Delayed invasion** - William couldn't invade when he wanted to as the wind was not right to sail to England, IMPORTANT meant Harold Godwinson first had to fight Hardrada first up north so William had safe landing and time to built a castle
- **Stamford Bridge** - Godwinson's men were exhausted/tired from marching/fighting
- **Harold on foot** - Harold fought on foot in battle IMPORTANT as couldn't leave the Shield Wall to prevent men leaving it and following William's fake retreats

# Normans Card 6

Pevensey Castle and Military  
Control

**Pevensey Castle** - The first castle built by William the Conqueror during his invasion of England in 1066. It is on the South Coast of England on a spur of land jutting out into the sea and overlooking a natural harbour.

## •Castles generally helping Norman military control of England

1. Soldiers - castles were bases for soldiers/cavalry to control areas, built in key defensive locations such as on the coast and on the Welsh borders
2. Rebellions - castles were also built near large Saxon populations/towns, could react quick to any rebellions, Normans built castles near places where rebellions did take place e.g. Built second castle at York following 'Harrying of the North'

## •Pevensey Castle Specifically helping military control

1. Invasion - first castle built, William brought pre-made pieces to Pevensey on ships and built on day 1 in England, helped to protect soldiers and prepare for upcoming battle against King Harold Godwinson
2. Later Kings - Kings after William the Conqueror knew how militarily important Pevensey was, William II faced a rebellion from Pevensey when he became King and was quick to besiege (surround) the castle - couldn't risk losing it to a rival, Harold I took back direct control of Pevensey Castle from the Norman Lord Gilbert Laiglewhen he became King and improved it by rebuilding it in stone - spent 1<sup>st</sup> year there to make sure his brother Robert didn't invade from France

Normans Card 7

Pevensey Castle and  
Economic Control

**Pevensey Castle** - The first castle built by William the Conqueror during his invasion of England in 1066. It is on the South Coast of England on a spur of land jutting out into the sea and overlooking a natural harbour.

## •Castles generally helping Norman economic (money) control of England

1. Trade - castles were places where on trade routes and people had to pay tolls to travel around the land around the castle
2. Markets - castles were often the only allowed location of local markets so lots of buying and selling - fees/taxes had to be paid to the Lord to take part.

## •Pevensey Castle Specifically helping economic control

1. Location - close to France and Normandy, more trade now with France making Normans and new Norman Lord Robert Mortain lots of money
2. Money making activities - Importance of Pevensey seen in how much more people and money now there, Saxon times 24 Burgesses (freemen) were there and King Edward I made £1 in rent and £3 in tolls, by 1087 there was now 60 Burgesses with £3 now made in rent, £4 in tolls and £1 from a new coin making mint, there were also new salt works making Lord Robert £5 a year



# Normans Card 8

Pevensey Castle and Political  
Control

**Pevensey Castle** - The first castle built by William the Conqueror during his invasion of England in 1066. It is on the South Coast of England on a spur of land jutting out into the sea and overlooking a natural harbour.

## •Castles generally helping Norman political control of England

1. Feudal System - castles were linked to the Norman system of power as important people lived there like Lords or Knights/Sheriffs (who ran areas for missing Lords), taxes were paid there and courts there upheld the King's laws
2. Symbol - castles were big and built in stone, they had a psychological impact on local Saxons telling them the Normans were strong, there to stay and not to rebel

## •Pevensey Castle Specifically helping economic control

1. Invasion - first castle built, existence was one thing that may have provoked King Harold Godwinson to make a quicker journey to Hastings to fight William - the castle had a psychological impact saying William was in charge of that area now
2. Example to old Saxon Lords - When William the Conqueror left England to go back to Normandy in 1067 he took Earls Edwin and Morcar to Pevensey to demonstrate his power, made a point of distributing land to Norman followers in front of them, Pevensey went to Robert Mortain, the King's half brother showing its importance
3. Sheriff Walter de Ricarville - ran land (rape) of Pevensey from castle in absence of Lord Robert who was back in Pevensey

# Normans Card 9

How the Normans controlled  
England - Feudal System and  
using land

**Conquest** - William won at Hastings but still faced opposition. Many English Lords wanted Edgar Aetheling to be King. William had to continue to attack towns, capture the port of Dover, persuade the Archbishop of Canterbury to support him and get the support of the Saxon Earls Edwin and Morcar to be King.

**Feudal System** - Set up to help William run the country, land was awarded to loyal Normans (such as William FitzOsbern - by 1076 no Saxon Earls left), they paid homage to King, Norman Barons would then also give out land to their supporters and knights in return for military service obligation

### •Norman Changes made to use of land of England to keep control

1. **Land** - William kept direct ownership of 22% of England's land, Edward had none
2. **Tenants-in-chiefs** - Normans given land were only 'borrowing' from the King - Saxons used to own it outright, **IMPORTANT** as King William could take this land away too so encouraged new Norman Lords to stay loyal and do as told
3. **Inheritance** - Land did not automatically pass to children, King decided **IMPORTANT** as encouraged Normans to be loyal and give good service to the King

### •How use of land was kept the same

1. **Similar to past Saxon society** - peasants saw little change, used to Lords telling them what to do, **IMPORTANT** as gave impression of continuity and not all change

# Normans Card 10

How the Normans controlled  
England - Domesday Book

**Conquest** - William won at Hastings but still faced opposition. Many English Lords wanted Edgar Aetheling to be King. William had to continue to attack towns, capture the port of Dover, persuade the Archbishop of Canterbury to support him and get the support of the Saxon Earls Edwin and Morcar to be King.

**Domesday Book** - a 'Giant survey' of everything in England, took over year, soldiers visited 13,000 villages, collected information on people and belongings such as livestock, eventually 2 million words, kept in Winchester, called 'Domesday Book' by Saxons who hated it

### •How helped Normans keep control

1. **Knowledge** - Kings knew more than ever before about their country and land
2. **Taxes** - By knowing what everyone owed and the estimated value of land Kings could set new taxes that they knew people would pay, **IMPORTANT** as Kings could use this to control people and support military projects etc
3. **Military** - Knowing everyone in England meant the King knew how many people he could call up into the army when needed,

CONTINUITY - THE DOMESDAY BOOK SHOWED THAT ALL THE LAND WAS OWNED BY APPROXIMATELY 250 PEOPLE - SIMILAR TO SITUATION IN SAXON TIMES

# Normans Card 11

How the Normans controlled  
England - Rebellions

**Conquest** - William won at Hastings but still faced opposition. Many English Lords wanted Edgar Aetheling to be King. William had to continue to attack towns, capture the port of Dover, persuade the Archbishop of Canterbury to support him and get the support of the Saxon Earls Edwin and Morcar to be King.

Important examples were:

1. **Harrowing of the North** - In 1068, Edwin, Morcar, and Edgar Aetheling, fled William's court, and went north, King Malcolm III of Scotland gave Edgar his support, in Jan 1069 Norman Earl Robert of Commines was murdered by English rebels, Viking King Swegn of Denmark joined the Norman Earls and captured York, **CONSEQUENCE** - King William paid the Vikings to leave and destroyed land all around York, burning crops, killing all creatures, many Saxons died of starvation
2. **Hereward the Wake** - In 1070, Hereward joined by King Swegn launched guerrilla-style attacks in marshes of East Anglia, burned Peterborough Abbey, Rebels had a safe base on Isle of Ely where William couldn't get to them, William even used a witch to curse the Rebels, rebellion ended when Hereward betrayed by monks who revealed secret route onto isle,
3. **Rebellion of Norman Earls** - in 1075, rebellion from Northern Earls, led by Norman Ralph de Gael who King William had banned from marrying, lots of support including from last Saxon Earl Waltheof and King of France, William's regents (Kings hen he was away) successful dealt with this and rebels killed and imprisoned, **CONSEQUENCE** - last Saxon Earl was beheaded, now only Normans as main Lords of England



# Normans Card 12

How the Normans controlled  
England - Changes to the  
Church

**Conquest and promise to Pope** - William took over in 1066, one of the reasons he had been successful was that he had the support of the Pope and Christian church which motivated people to fight for him. He had promised to sort of problems with the English Church.

### •Lanfranc's reforms to how the church was run

1. **New Archbishop** - William replaced the old Archbishop of Canterbury Stigend with Archbishop Lanfranc
2. **Synods** - new church councils set up to spread message of reform and help Normans control
3. **New hierarchy (top jobs)** - new appointments were created such as Archbishops and Deans. It aimed to control the church with each layer having to report to the one above - ultimately making Lanfranc the main man.
4. **Changed how Priests could work** - banned marriage, practice of pluralism (having more than 1 job) and simony (selling of church positions), made focus of priests on religion and serving God

### •Changes to building of churches

1. **Style** - new Norman churches were built in a Romaesque style and out of stones, Cathedrals were moved to larger towns, **IMPORTANCE** - showed Normans were in charge and God favoured Norman rule, helps control as people very religious