

History Answers and commentaries GCSE (8145)

2BA Norman England, c1066 - c1100

Marked answers from students for questions from the June 2022 exams. Supporting commentary is provided to help you understand how marks are awarded and how students can improve performance.

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Answers and commentaries

Please note that these responses have been reproduced exactly as they were written by the student.

This resources is to be used alongside the GCSE History 2BA Norman England, c1066 – c1100 June 2022 Question paper and inserts.

Question 1

How convincing is **Interpretation A** about what happened after the death of Edward the Confessor?

Explain your answer based on your contextual knowledge and what it says in **Interpretation A**.

[8 marks]

Mark scheme

Target Analyse individual interpretations (AO4a)

Evaluate interpretations and make substantiated judgements in the context of historical events studied (AO4d)

Level 4: Complex evaluation of interpretation with sustained judgement 7-8 based on contextual knowledge/understanding

Extends Level 3.

Students may progress from a developed evaluation of interpretation by complex analysis of the interpretation supported by factual knowledge and understanding.

For example, the interpretation is convincing because the Witan were a group of nobles and leading churchmen who could suggest an heir or be guided by the dead king's wishes. But the method of choosing the next king was not certain and no wonder Duke William was shocked as he thought that he had Harold's support when he took an oath to support his claim in 1064. Harold Godwinson said it was only a personal oath, not to William as King of England, and he was a prisoner of William at the time so he was threatened.

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Level 3: Developed evaluation of interpretation based on contextual 5-6 knowledge/understanding

Extends Level 2.

Students may progress from a simple evaluation of the interpretation by extended reasoning supported by factual knowledge and understanding of more than one aspect of the interpretation.

For example, the interpretation is convincing because the prospect of invading England was a dangerous one. He would have to assemble an invasion fleet, and troops and make sure that while he was away Normandy was not invaded by his European enemies. And he had to get people on his side which he did when the Pope supported his claim and invasion as a holy war.

Level 2: Simple evaluation of interpretation based on contextual 3-4 knowledge/understanding

Students may progress from a basic analysis of interpretation by reasoning supported with factual knowledge and understanding based on one aspect of the interpretation.

For example, it is true that Harold was the most important earl in England as the Earl of Wessex he was a deputy king for Edward and also his brother-in-law. He expected to be king.

For example, it is true that William was a successful and brutal warrior in conquering Maine in 1048/49 when, insulted by the citizens of Alencon, he cut off their hands and feet. He had to keep up this fearsome reputation.

Level 1: Basic analysis of interpretation based on contextual 1-2 knowledge/understanding

Answers may show understanding/support for interpretation, but the case is made by assertion/recognition of agreement.

For example, Edgar was Edward the Confessor's nearest blood relative. But he was only a child in 1066. He had no money and no soldiers.

Students either submit no evidence or fail to address the question 0

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Student responses

Response A

The interpretation is convincing. As we know, when Edward the Confessor died he left no heir to the throne. He had no children, nor had he made a public/written promise for someone he wished to become Kings when he died.

This caused many problems and led to the four contenders. In the interpretation it tells us that Harold had been crowned King in 1066 we know as historians this is true.

It claims the wittens second choice was Edger the Aetheling. He was 12 years old with no battle experience. The reason he made a claim to the throne was because he was the closest blood relative. This source is also convincing because William fights for the throne during the battle of Hastings.

Overall, the source is very convincing. It states how William reacts to him not being crowned. As well as this, how quickly Harold was crowned.

This is a Level 2 response

The response demonstrates simple evaluation of the interpretation. Simple knowledge of the problems caused by Edward's death is shown to support the interpretation, though evaluation of how convincing this makes is implicit. The response is credited at level 2, at the higher mark in the level.

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Response B

Interpretation A is convincing about what happened after the death of Edward the confessor. We can tell this as it stated that the Witan had to choose who would be the next King as Edward didn't have any children, potentially due to him giving his life to celibacy, therefore when he died there was no heir to the throne.

As well as this, it also states how rushed his funeral was, this is true as Harold Godwinson was in a rush to be crowned king so the other claimants to the throne didn't stand a chance.

However, it could be less convincing as there are only three named claimants to the throne and they didn't even mention Harold Haardrada, the Viking.

It is also convincing as Harold Godwinson was chosen to be the next king by the witan which it clearly states in interpretation A. It also stated that Edgar was the second choice, which is true as he had one of the best claims to the throne, however due to his young age and lack of experience they chose Harold instead as he was very experienced.

This is a Level 3 response

The response addresses more than one aspect of the interpretation. Developed evaluation about why Edward's death caused a problem about his succession is shown. Understanding of Godwinson's urgency to be crowned King and Edgar's claim to the throne is also shown, though the evaluation of these is simple in nature. An imbalanced response, which is credited at Level 3.

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Response C

Interpretation A can be seen as quite convincing as it states that Edwards funeral and Harold's coronation was hurried. We know this to be true because Harold knew that as soon as Edward dies, then William and Hardrada would soon hear about it and try to conduct their rightful place as king. Harold became king very quickly which was unusual because there was usually a time of mourning involved but Harold was worried that this time of morning would give the Normans and the Vikings the time they needed to invade so Harold needed to raise an army.

This source is also quite convincing due to the witan preventing choosing William as king. The witan were a group of Anglo Saxon advisors who would help choose and advise kings and other powerful Earls, They believed that Williams claim to the throne was flimsy. In 1064, Harold swore an oath over holy relics to support William of Normandy for king of England but it is unsure whether or not he was blackmailed as he was trapped in Normandy after a boat crash. The only ties William had with Edward the confessor was that he helped Edward prevent a rebellion so had no real blood relations with him. This source is overly convincing.

This is a Level 4 response

Commentary: The response shows a complex evaluation of the interpretation. It explores two issues raised by the interpretation (the hurried coronation, and William's anger), placing them in impressively broad historical context. As such, it is credited at Level 4, at the top of the level.

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Question 2

Explain what was important about castle building in Norman England.

[8 marks]

Mark scheme

Target

Explain and analyse historical events and periods studied using second order concepts (AO2:4)

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key features and characteristics of the period studied (AO1:4)

Level 4:

Complex explanation of consequences 7–8
Answer demonstrates a range of accurate and detailed knowledge and understanding that is relevant to the question

Extends Level 3.

Students may progress from a developed explanation by extended analysis of the consequences of the stated development (Norman castle building) in the broader historical context (Norman England). This is supported by factual knowledge and understanding.

For example, what was important about Norman Castle building was that it had a strategic and symbolic purpose. The Anglo-Saxons had fortifications but nothing like the castles which the Normans built. In many towns they had to destroy the existing houses to make space for their castle and taxed the English to pay for them. So, there was clearly a shock to the English in seeing these new structures in which their conqueror's army lived and every day were a continual reminder that Anglo-Saxons had been beaten.

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Level 3: Developed explanation of consequences 5-6 Answer demonstrates a range of accurate knowledge and understanding that is relevant to the question

Extends Level 2.

Students may progress from a simple explanation by developed reasoning considering **two or more** of the identified consequences, supporting them by factual knowledge and understanding.

In addition to a Level 2 response, students make additional developed point(s).

For example, what was important about the castles the Normans built was that they showed their control and the suppression of the Anglo-Saxons. They built castles at important places for example where rebellions took place such as in Exeter. Or they built them to guard the borders with Wales and Scotland, and river crossings such as York. The Norman castles were a reminder to the Anglo-Saxons about who was in charge.

Level 2: Simple explanation of one consequence 3–4 Answer demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding that is relevant to the question

Students may progress from a basic explanation by simple reasoning of **one** of the identified consequences, supporting by factual knowledge and understanding.

For example, the Normans used castles to control England they were a base from which to patrol the area and protected them from hostile locals. The Normans built wooden castles until the 1070s after which they added stone keeps.

Level 1: Basic explanation of consequence(s) 1–2 Answer demonstrates basic knowledge and understanding that is relevant to the question

Students identify consequence(s), which are relevant to the question. Explanation at this level is likely to be implicit or by assertion.

For example, the Normans built motte and bailey castles as they conquered the country. These were made of wood and then stone.

Students either submit no evidence or fail to address the question 0

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Student responses

Response A

Castle building was important for a variety of reasons. One main reason was for the protection and a way for the Normans to take over.

Castles were usually built in the Mott and Bailey type style. This was so if the castles were attacked it was more difficult for the opponent and would be extremely hard to get in. Mott and Bailey castles were built on hills and had a draw bridge to get in. There was a mott, a deep dredge around the castle walls that were usually full of water. This stopped or slowed down the opponent.

Since William had become King of England after being the Duke of Normandy, not everyone agreed. William decided to take over and let people know they didn't have a choice. He built Norman Castles all over England, most consisted of having Normans living inside with Norman guards.

This is a Level 2 response

The response addresses more than one aspect of importance, showing some knowledge, particularly in relation to the features of motte and bailey castles. There is an attempt to link this to importance, but this requires further substantiation. The response is credited at Level 2, at the higher mark in the level.

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Response B

Castle Building in Norman England was important because it showed the power William had. The people could see how wealthy and resourced he was. Castles were a permenant and constant reminder that William and his advisors were very much in charge. Castles were also a reminder to the people of England of how William won the wars such as the Battle of Hastings. With his flat-pack castles.

Castles were also important in control of the people. William faced many revolts such as the Harrying of the North which also included some Earls so he needed a way to bring peace to his land. By building almost 500 castles he ensured that knights could go out and sort any trouble and be less than a days ride from a castle. These castles helped William to stop the people from rising up, ensuring he stayed in control.

Castles were also as good form of protection for the country. He was trying to stop any invasions and castles could make this possible as they were so well resourced. By having castles they ensured William to stay in charge and control from anyone,

This is a Level 3 response

The response addresses more than one aspect of importance and demonstrates developed explanation. The strongest point comes in the 2nd paragraph about control, where contextual knowledge is used to support a developed explanation. Other aspects of importance are also identified, with some repetition. An imbalanced response, credited at Level 3 at the lower mark in the level.

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Response C

Castles in Norman England were a way for William to assert his control and dominance over England and also protect himself and his country.

The castles were large intimidating structures having a psychological impact on attackers and rebels, highlighting how powerful William was and he was not to be messed with. The castles were also built using English forced labour and often destroyed English lands and housings to make them – another to show off William's control of England. The castles were built in the area's of frequent revolt to put the area under surveillance and control and example of this being the Harrying of the North after frequent uprisings William built castles to protect himself and his reign and to retain control. The Welsh border was also a volatile region so William appointed Marcher Lords who could build castle's freely to protect and secure the border from attack.

William introduced a new style of Motte and Bailey castles to England. The strategic layout was quick to assemble and was extremely effective in protecting from attackers. The 'keep' was placed on top of a large mound of earth called the 'motte' and the 'bailey' below was surrounded by a strong 'palisade' and ditch. Access to the castle was limited by the gatehouse and archers could fire arrows from the keep to stop enemy attack and protect inhabitants. The style highlights the castle's importance for protection and ultimate retention of William's control as he was always under threat of exterior attack and revolt.

This is a Level 4 response

The response addresses more than one aspect of importance. It shows a complex appreciation of the symbolic importance of castles in the first paragraph, supported with impressive contextual knowledge and understanding. There is further complex thinking shown in the final lines, as the response is able to place William's introduction of a new style of motte and bailey castles in a broader context. It is credited at Level 4, at the top mark in the level.

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Question 3

Write an account of the ways in which the lives of English villagers were affected by the Norman Conquest.

[8 marks]

Mark scheme

Target

Explain and analyse historical events and periods studied using secondorder concepts (AO2:4)

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key features and characteristics of the period studied (AO1:4)

Level 4:

Complex analysis of change(s)

7-8

Answer is presented in a coherent narrative/account that demonstrates a range of accurate and detailed knowledge and understanding that is relevant to the question

Extends Level 3.

Students may progress from a developed narrative of change(s) with complex reasoning supported by a range of accurate and detailed factual knowledge and understanding. For example, an explanation of different impacts/ consequences of change in the broader historical context.

For example, one change that happened for many English people in the villages was that slavery decreased under the Normans. The Norman lords freed slaves and gave them small plots of land in return for large amounts of labour, making their estates more like those of northern France. However, freedom was a matter of interpretation and the bulk of the peasants existed between the freemen at the top and the slaves at the bottom. These became the villeins and were the largest group in the Domesday book, but they were still considered the property of the Lord.

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Level 3: Developed analysis of change(s)

5-6

Answer is presented in a structured and well-ordered narrative/account that demonstrates a range of accurate knowledge and understanding that is relevant to the question

Extends Level 2.

Students may progress from a simple narrative of change(s) with extended reasoning supported by a range of factual knowledge and understanding.

For example, 90% of the population lived in the countryside. Little changed unless you lived near a forest. There was no new manorial system imposed on England after the conquest and the traditions and organisation stayed the same. But the Normans enjoyed hunting and created lots of royal forests which spread by the late 12th century over one third of England. These areas were subject to Forest law and the English hated it because they were no longer rich Normans enjoyed the sport of hunting. To create the New Forest, 500 families were driven off their land.

Level 2: Simple explanation of one change(s)

3-4

Answer is presented in a structured account that demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding that is relevant to the question

Students may progress from a basic narrative of change(s) by showing a simple understanding of consequence(s) with supported with factual knowledge and understanding.

For example, things stay the same for the mass of the peasantry who made up most of the mediaeval village. They had to work their holdings in the open field and on certain days of the week, work for the Lord on his land which was 'week work' and then at busy times like harvest do 'boon-work'.

Level 1: Basic explanation of change(s)

1-2

0

Answer is presented in a straightforward account that demonstrates basic knowledge and understanding that is relevant to the question

Students identify a basic narrative of change(s), which is relevant to the question.

For example, the lives of many ordinary people did not greatly change after the conquest. The name of the Lord of the Manor may have changed but that did not change the everyday farming work that most villeins did.

Students either submit no evidence or fail to address the question

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Student responses

Response A

The lives of English Villagers were not effected to much in the way they lived them as they still had to provide food for the lords and had poor accommodation but you could say life worstenned for English Villagers the Norman Conquest due to the constant rebellions and Williams retaliation with harrying certain areas the most notable being harrying of the north with salt being ploughed into the ground making it difficult to grow any crops there and with Williams forestry laws banning everyone but him from hunting made food scarce with many northern villagers fleeing down south causing villages to expand

This is a Level 2 response

The response demonstrates a simple analysis of change arising from the Norman Conquest. It demonstrates knowledge and understanding of the events of the Harrying of the North, but the link to change for English villagers is implicit. As such, it remains in Level 2.

Response B

Lives of the English Villagers were affected much. Many things such as where they stood in the pecking order changed. Many of the population was slaves before William but due to his religious believes he did not enjoy having slaves so many turned into villeins. There was three types of peasants. These were serfs, villeins and freemen. Villeins were people who had to farm and provide food for their family and the King. Serfs were peasants who worked for the chief of the manner. Freemen were people who were free to the village and rarely had to work. The change to the feudal system didn't change much for peasants.

Many other things were changed as well. The Normans had to implement their own day to have a market as English were not happy with foreigners ruining their market. Also most peasants had to attend church. This was now located at the centre of every village as the Normans believed their religion should be at the middle of everything you do. Their was a change to language bit this did not change much. Finally, their was one slight change to the law. The Normans liked the way the English handled law so they only implemented trial by combat. This is where if someone disagreed they could fight them to decide the winner as they believed God would protect them if they were truthful. This was mostly used by knights and barons.

This is a Level 3 response

The response demonstrates developed analysis. It explored how the Norman Conquest led to a change in status in a developed, substantiated manner. Other points are also explored, though these fall short of developed explanation. As a result, the response is credited at Level 3, at the higher mark in the level.

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Response C

When Normans came to power, not many things changed in villages however there was some crucial changes which impacted them. One of these is the new forest laws which prevented people from hunting int the forest. This meant that villages could not hunt for animals for them to eat, instead they would have to rely on their own farming of food to keep them alive. The main source of meat for villages was in the forest hunting for things such as deers, without this their diet was mainly rye bread, grain, vegetables and fruit they grew themselves. This impacted their diet and health massively. This allowed the rich to eat well and have nice meat to themselves, specially the Norman Lords. However, villages weren't really affected altogether. Many things remained the same, One of these was their family life. The Normans never stopped their way of living, they still had the open field systems where they had a strip of land for themselves to grow crops on. The survived into the winter. In spring they sowed seeds to grow and for summer. In summer they harvested their crops and in the autumn they ploughed their fields. Another thing which remained the same was their housing. They were called cruck houses. They were made through wattle and daub walls and thatched roofs. Very basic housing. William never really affected lives of villages as they were no major threat to him as they were all very poor and peasants. None of them would rebel as they don't have enough power to do so.

This is a Level 4 response

This complex response shows a developed explanation on the impact of Forest Laws. It is credited at Level 4 as it goes on to explain how the farming year was unchanged for the majority of villagers, with strong supporting contextual knowledge and understanding in evidence.

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Question 4

'Religious belief was the main reason for building monasteries in Norman England.'

How far does a study of the **Castle Acre Priory** support this statement?

Explain your answer.

You should refer to **Castle Acre Priory** and your contextual knowledge.

[16 marks]

Mark scheme

Target

Explain and analyse historical events and periods studied using secondorder concepts (AO2:8)

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key features and characteristics of the period studied (AO1:8)

To support their answer students could include aspects of the site such as: location, function, structure, design, people connected with the site, how the site reflects culture, values and fashions of the time and how the site links to important events and/or developments of the specified period.

Level 4:

Complex explanation of causation leading to a sustained judgement

13-16

Answer demonstrates a range of accurate and detailed knowledge and understanding that is relevant to the question

Answer demonstrates a complex, sustained line of reasoning which has a sharply-focused coherence and logical structure that is fully substantiated, with well-judged relevance.

Extends Level 3.

Students may progress from a developed explanation of causation by analysis of the relationship between them supported by factual knowledge and understanding of the site.

For example, religious reasons were important but as the conquest was not secure a Castle was the first thing to be built by de Warenne. When the first monks came over from Lewis and Cluny they had a site close to the castle, they then moved in the 1080s to the current site of the Priory to the south-west of Warenne's Castle. The castle and Priory symbolised the real military power and the spiritual authority of the Normans. At Castle Acre within the walled town the Normans could economically prosper as well. In all of de Warenne's properties – in Yorkshire, at Lewes and Castle Acre he increased the economic value of his estates. So, there were good religious, political and economic reasons for monastic building.

Level 3: Developed explanation of causation

9-12

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Answer demonstrates a range of accurate knowledge and understanding that is relevant to the question

Answer demonstrates a developed, sustained line of reasoning which has coherence and logical structure; it is well substantiated, and with sustained, explicit relevance.

Extends Level 2.

Answers may suggest that one factor has greater merit.

Students may progress from a simple explanation of **causation to** a developed explanation of causes by extended reasoning supported by factual knowledge and understanding of the site.

For example, the main reason for finding a Monastery or Priory was religious because de Warenne was impressed with the elaborate ceremonies of the Cluniacs when he visited them at Cluny in the 1080s. He knew that he could be buried in his Priory and the prayers of the monks there would help his soul get to heaven. Their prayers would help him atone for all the killing involved in the conquest. The Cluniacs also liked elaborate churches so the West front of the church at Castle Acre Priory is beautifully decorated and impressive.

For example, the site at Castle Acre Priory is part of a walled town that William de Warenne built in the 1080s along with a castle. This fortified unit of town, Priory and Castle symbolised the Norman conquest and their control of England. It showed that the Normans had military power and spiritual support. So, a main reason for building monasteries and priories was to make clear if anyone rebelled against the Normans they were rebelling against not only a real military force, but also against God.

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Level 2: Simple explanation of causation 5–8 Answer demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding that is relevant to the question

Answer demonstrates a simple, sustained line of reasoning which is coherent, structured, substantiated and explicitly relevant.

Students may progress from a basic explanation to a simple explanation of **causation** by simple reasoning supported with factual knowledge and understanding of the site.

For example, Castle Acre Priory was set up by William de Warenne and finished by his son. De Warenne was religious because he had been to Cluny in the early 1080s and was impressed by how pious the monks were. When he returned to England he founded a Priory at Lewes and then one at Castle Acre where the monks could pray for his soul.

Level 1: Basic explanation of causation 1–4 Answer demonstrates basic knowledge and understanding that is relevant to the question

Answer demonstrates a basic line of reasoning, which is coherent, structured with some substantiation; the relevance might be implicit.

Students recognise and provide a basic explanation of causation

For example, people were very religious in the Norman times and the Pope had told them to say masses for all the people are killed in the Battle of Hastings. Setting up a Priory was a good way of saving your soul.

Students either submit no evidence or fail to address the question 0

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Student responses

Response A

Castle Acre Priory was mainly a Religious building since monks would live there and prey and so practises of god. We also know that Castle Acre Priory was a strict monestry since it was a cluniac monestry and it followed the Benedictine Rules. They used these rules because when William DeWarrenne and his wife visited this monestry in France there saw how strict it was an how they were following the rules William wanted for his monestry so he also introduced these rules since during the saxon rule monks were doing what they like, so now there were under more control and the rules were much stricter.

We also know it was a Religious belief because of the style it was painted in bright colours praising god and uses Roman sque architequture which was popular at the time, it was also it the shape of a cross and pointing the way to where Jesus was killed to show there respect for god. It was a sacred place to worship god and it was respected. Monestres were also built around England after Hasting to give back to god after all the deaths and sins, they wanted him to forgive.

Since William DeWarnner fought alongside William in the battle of Hastings he was awarded land and built Religious Relics upon it to show god that this was a gift to him. He also used strict Benedictine rules to show the seriousness that god should follow the rules. The monerstries was known as a place of worship. Also because it is a Cluniac monestry shows that religious title that it holds because it was a rule taken from France where they took Religion very seriously.

I agree with the statement because Religious beliefs were the main reasons the monestries were built for a place for the monks to live and worship god and also they were built to give back to god. We know that the monks pray a lot since there first prayer of the day is at midnight and then the last one at 9am at night showing there commitment and strict religion for god.

This is a Level 2 response

This simple response focuses entirely on the given reason (religion). Knowledge of Castle Acre Priory is evident, though this remains at a simple level. In order to progress to the higher levels, at least one other reason should be explored. As it stands the response remains in Level 2, towards the middle of the level.

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Response B

Before the Norman conquest, monasteries were on the downfall in England. Viking raids had destroyed some monasteries and Anglo-Saxon the monks followed the rules of St Benedict. St Benedict monks were self sufficient monks who grew their own food and did labour around the monasteries. They spent their other time praying and studying. However, these monks started to disobey the rules and started eating meat, wearing luxurious clothing, not fasting when they were supposed to. William and Archbishop Lanfranc wanted to revive monasteries as these were not how monks should act.

Due to William taking throne through bloodshed and sinning, he wanted to repent his sins by building monasteries in glory to God. William believed that by building monasteries around England was a way to allow God to forgive him of his sins and to allow God to forgive him of his sins and still send him to heaven. William de Warrenne was one of Williams most trusted men who had fought in battle with to take the English throne. He had the plan to build Castle acre Priory in remorse for his slaughtering. He wanted God to forgive him of his killing so monasteries highlight the importance and significance of God.

Castle Acre Priory was however, not in the rule of St Benedictine but in the rule of Cluny. William de Warrenne went on a Pilgrimage to Italy but was un unbale to reach Italy and found themselves in Cluny. There, they found cluniac monks and liked their ways of living. He persuaded the Abbet to send 3 cluniac monks and a prior to the monastery to have them settle there. Cluniac monks relied on other people to keep them alive and the monastery working. They did not have time to do any labour, instead they spent all their time praying to God and studying. They are a lot more strict and believed that spending all your time praying would allow them to get to heaven. The reason William de Warrenne brought these monks over was to dedicate their time to God and help pray for the acts that had gone on. They were so strict on their vows of chastity, poverty, obedience and silence which was unlike the times before. William de Warrenne heavily believed that the way to get to heaven was through this full time effort of praying to God and showing him off.

A slight other reason for building these monasteries was for terror and to show Norman power. The monasteries were built in a Romanesque style which corresponded with the catholicism in Rome and the Pope. However, the style was not just to show off the beauty of God, but to inflict terror into people who good see them. Castle Acre Priory was near a village and a colossal monastery just highlighted the vast power Normans had as the monastery was like a blockade. William the Conqeror, put monasteries everywhere which showed Norman power due to them being so big.

In conclusion, a main reason for building monasteries was for religious beliefs. They believed that by building there God would forgive them and send them to heaven. William and Archbishop Lanfranc also wanted these as they had close relationship with the Pope, therefore showing their religious spirit.

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This is a Level 3 response

The majority of this response is devoted to exploring religion, where developed explanation supported with knowledge of the site is demonstrated. On the final page there is reference to other reasons (inflicting terror and showing Norman power). These are not clearly expressed, but they are valid alternative reasons. As a result it is credited at Level 3, towards the bottom of the level.

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Response C

The reason of Religious belief is a major factor of the building of monasteries in Norman England. Battle Abbey at Hastings is a prime example of religious belief, as it has a show of penance to the bloodshed during the conquest, they believed that God would forgive them, it was considered by William I after the Pope called on him to repent. Castle Acre Priory on the other hand, was commissioned in 1089 by William de Warenne and his son. He built it in Acre in Norfolk in East Anglia. This was built specifically as a Cluniac order priory, which monks from Lewes, who were from Cluny coming over during 1080's. It shows religions belief because after his pilgrimage to Rome which was not completed so he stayed at Cluny, France between 1081-1083 with his wife, he fell in love with the elaborate design + services and strict rules they obeyed. He came back constructed his first cluniac monastery in Lewes, his spiritual home and the next as his base of operation in Acre. He made the monks follow the order of Cluny, where the followed strict benedictive views, such as the vow of Chastity, Stability, Obedience, Poverty and Silence. This shows religious belief as it took Cluniac ideas, an order so strict, so religious in its beliefs. The Normans were also devout Catholics who feared hell and wanted to go to Heaven so followed the Pope. It can also be seen as religious belief as the Priory was connected to St. Marys Church.

On the other hand, it could be argued that Castle Acre Priory was built for the revival of monasticism, which I disagree with as it wasn't consecrated until 1146-48 and completed by 1160's. This shows that it may not of been specifically his goal to revive monasteries rather it was his legacy that his son William de Warenne II continued after his death in 1092. The revival of monasticism could be a reason as Archbishop of Stigand was corrupt, the whole Church was corrupt as they were following simony, pluralism, Nepotism and not following abstinence. Stigand was following all of this having higher power in the Church. So he was replaced under William I who refused to be crowned by him by Lanfranc. They tried to follow Europe's Romanesque architecture and following St Benedict's vows to be in line with Rome and the Pope, being closer to God.

However it could be argued that it was built to represent power and control of England, Which I again, somewhat disagree with as the last major revolt was the Earls revolt in 1075. Believing that all revolts were quelled so the people had submitted to William I, so the showcase of power and control was not necessary at Castle Acre Priory. However, it was still built next to a castle and was on top of an elevated piece of land. This could be for increased protection of the priory – moreover, it was near to a castle, which could show that Normans believed that it was their divine right to rule over the people. It shows power and control as they had now linked the Church with Castles emphasising their control through religion and military.

In conclusion, I believe that Castle Acre Priory was built out of Legacy for William de Warenne I, under his devotion and love to his religion of the Catholic Order, which 10% or 36 of monasteries in England joined. So, it was built out of religious belief. Also he was buried with his wife at Lewes in the Cluniac monastery he built over there, showing his religious beliefs again.

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This is a Level 4 response

The response addresses more than one relevant reason for building monasteries. It develops explanations of religious motivations, a revival of monasticism, and power and control. Very good contextual knowledge of the site is used in support throughout. While the conclusion is somewhat unconventional in structure, it shows enough reasoning to demonstrate a complex substantiated judgement. This means that the response is credited at Level 4, towards the middle of the level.

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