## Scheme of work

**Norman England, c1066–c1100**

We have worked with subject experts to review our existing resources and made some changes. These changes will support you in delivering our current specifications in a way that maximises opportunities for breadth, diversity and inclusivity in the curriculum as well as improve the accessibility of our resources.

In this scheme of work (SOW) we have:

* removed tables so that it is easier to use with assistive technology
* tried to keep to a specification point per page to make it easier to navigate and more convenient to use
* made the contents page into clickable links.

Introduction

This SOW offers a route through the Norman England, c1066–c1100 depth studies topic for the AQA GCSE in History.

It covers the specification in a logical order and suggests possible teaching and learning activities for each section of the specification.

The specification references are shown at the start of each section, whilst the learning outcomes indicate what most students should be able to achieve after the work is completed.

Timings have been suggested but are approximate. Teachers should select activities appropriate to their students and the curriculum time available.

The order is by no means prescriptive, and there are many alternative ways in which the content could be organised.

The resources indicate those resources commonly available to schools and other references that may be helpful. Resources are only given in brief and risk assessments should be carried out.

This SOW enables your students to understand Norman England, focusing on the major events and developments from economic, religious, political, social and cultural standpoints, and arising contemporary and historical controversies. It includes details of how the specified site for the historic environment in 2025 can be incorporated into your teaching of this unit. The specified site for 2025 is Durham Cathedral.

Assumed coverage

This teaching and learning plan is intended for 30 classroom lessons, each of one hour. It does not include homework learning time, but it covers three revision and assessment lessons.

**Assessment**

Assessment points in the learning activity column indicate possible assessment opportunities. These could be short tests of about ten minutes (exam-style questions, short factual tests, source evaluation) or longer assessments (exam-style questions).

Resources

Research exercises assume students have access to a textbook(s) and/or internet. You can supplement textbook(s) by other sources.

Please note that when accessing clips from the Education Recording Agency (ERA)a licence from them is required in order to view this clip for educational purposes. To check your school’s status, contact ERA [era@era.org.uk](mailto:era@era.org.uk).

When considering primary and secondary evidence, it’s worth remembering that the assessment covers students’ ability to analyse and evaluate an interpretation (AO4); however, as part of your teaching may wish to look at contemporary sources (AO3) as well.

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Part one: The Normans – conquest and control

Lesson 1: The death of Edward the Confessor

Specification content

* Causes of the Norman Conquest, including the death of Edward the Confessor.
* The claimants and claims.

Learning outcomes

Your students need to understand the key events of the reign of Edward the Confessor in stabilising the Government of England after the reigns of Cnut’s sons. They need to consider the role of the key earls, especially the power of the Godwin family. An appreciation of the growing threat from abroad Normandy and Norway/Denmark is crucial.

Possible teaching and learning activities

Enquiry question: What was the impact of the death of Edward the Confessor?

* Students research the reign of Edward the Confessor and produce a timeline of the key events. Your students should include the role of the Godwin family.
* Class debate on the actions of Godwin senior in Dover and Harold, son of Godwin in Normandy.
* Each student completes a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis of England in January 1066.

Resources

* Textbook.
* [Bayeux Tapestry.](http://www.bayeuxtapestry.org.uk/)
* [Edward the Confessor](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/edward_confessor.shtml).
* The [Witan](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ST1pW3b7pWM&list=PLSegY__gUYIcCN8HoE3rHwsuL6fAS3XIv&index=3) and government in Anglo-Saxon England – 4.04 minute video.

Lesson 2: The claimants and claims

Specification content

The claimants and claims.

Learning outcomes

* Your students need to understand the strength of the claim for the main protagonists. It’s also important for your students to realise that there were no established patterns for inheriting the crown as it didn’t automatically go to the eldest son. You should explore other ways someone could place a claim using the main protagonists. Students should consider factors such as:
* the wishes of the king (including his last words)
* the selection/election of the leading nobles
* the armed strength of a claimant.
* You should cover the following protagonists:
  + Hardrada (his link the claim through Harthacanute’s promise to Magnus of Norway)
  + William (his link to the claim through family, papal support and Harold’s promise)
  + Harold (his link to Edward’s death-bed choice and support from Witan)
  + Edgar Atheling (his link to the claim through Edmund Ironside).

Possible teaching and learning activities

Enquiry question: Who had the strongest claim to the crown?

* Students select who they believe had the best claim to the crown using a biography of each claimant. They should use the biography to make notes for the class debate.
* Divide your class into four teams, each representing one of the claimants. Students collate their arguments and present their views to the other teams.
* As a class, end with a simple table to collect information on each claimant – use key criteria in ‘guidance’ column.

Resources

* [Harold Godwinson.](http://www.normaninvasion.info/biography-king-harold-ii-godwinson.htm)
* Textbook.
* The character of [William the Conqueror](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SiE8-a2W5g&list=PLSegY__gUYIcCN8HoE3rHwsuL6fAS3XIv&index=2) – 2.35 minute video.

Lesson 3: Important battles

Specification content

* Battle of Stamford Bridge.
* Battle of Hastings.
* Military tactics.
* Military innovations, including cavalry.

Learning outcomes

* This lesson gives you an opportunity to develop your students’ understanding of the Battle of Stamford Bridge and to explore military tactics and innovations. You can also use this lesson to provide greater context to the Battle of Hastings.
* Your students need to understand who supported Harold Hardrada, his previous military experience, and therefore the fact that victory for Godwinson at Stamford Bridge ended the Viking threat to England for good.
* Students must appreciate the tactics used by both armies so they can compare them with tactics at Hastings.
* You could compare and contrast Stamford Bridge with the Battle of Gate Fulford to deepen your students’ understanding of why Stamford Bridge was an Anglo-Saxon victory.
* Develop your students’ appreciation of the distances travelled by Godwinson’s army as this will help their understanding of the Battle of Hastings.

Possible teaching and learning activities

* You should start the lesson by revisiting Harold Hardrada’s claim to the throne of England.
* Students use a copy of a map to place notes on Harold’s allies and his plan.
* They should record the events of the Battle of Gate Fulford in sequence around the map and do the same for the Battle of Stamford Bridge.
* Students should identify the differences between the two battles (worksheet) and why Stamford Bridge was an Anglo-Saxon victory.
* To end, explain the outcome of the battle (worksheet).

Resources

* Battle details worksheet.
* [Battle of Fulford.](http://www.battlefieldstrust.com/resource-centre/viking/battleview.asp?BattleFieldId=52)
* [Battle of Stamford Bridge.](http://www.battlefieldstrust.com/resource-centre/viking/battleview.asp?BattleFieldId=41)
* Textbook, map and internet research.
* [BBC collections of clips about the 1066 era.](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08h7zl8/clips)

Lessons 4 and 5: Important battles continued

Specification content

* Battle of Hastings.
* Anglo-Saxon and Norman tactics.
* Military innovations, including cavalry and castles.

Learning outcomes

* This is an opportunity to explore:
  + the key events and developments of the Battle of Hastings
  + to identify key military tactics and innovations
  + to understand the reasons why the Normans won the battle.
* Students should understand the differences between William’s army of Normans and mercenaries and Harold’s fyrd and the impact this had on the outcome.
* Students should begin to try to understand the significance of key features of the battle in determining the outcome of the battle, such as:
  + size of the two armies
  + size of the battlefield, topography and distinctive features
  + luck/accident
  + position of the armies in relation to the features of the battlefield
  + leadership
  + communication
  + tactics.
* Students may be asked to consider whether a more appropriate question is, ‘Why did the Anglo-Saxons lose the battle of Hastings?’ rather than ‘Why did the Normans win the battle?’

Possible teaching and learning activities

**Enquiry question:** Why did the Normans win the Battle of Hastings?

* Start the lesson with a revision and walk-through of Harold’s journey to Hastings and the background to arrival of both armies at the battlefield.
* Brief video account of battle.
* Students can use a map of Hastings to record the positions and composition of each of the armies, ie William’s army had archers, infantry and cavalry against Harold’s shield wall, Housecarls and fyrd.
* Using images of the battle, for example Resources B–G from the 2020 Battle of Hastings Resource Pack, students can create a short, captioned PowerPoint presentation to explain key moments in the fighting.
* Students can construct a spider diagram to show the links between different factors determining the outcome of the battle.

**Enquiry question**: Why did the Normans win the Battle of Hastings?

* Class debate: Why did the Normans win the battle?
* Students might consolidate their understanding by writing a short essay of no more than 300 words to explain their view. This may be used as a revision exercise to be summarised in no more than 100 words.

Resources

* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2020 for The Battle of Hastings:Background information in resource pack, Resource A.
* Textbook.
* [Introductory brief clip to Hastings](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLy1LskT6Y8) – 7.26 minutes video.
* [The Battle of Hastings](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kc5EKDyRVp8&list=PLSegY__gUYIcCN8HoE3rHwsuL6fAS3XIv) – 2.26 minute video.
* [Description of the Battle of Hastings and a map marked with the location of the battle site.](http://www.battlefieldstrust.com/resource-centre/viking/battleview.asp?BattleFieldId=17)
* [The Hastings battle site.](https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/1066-battle-of-hastings-abbey-and-battlefield/)
* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2020 for The Battle of Hastings:Resources B–G, I, K, and L.
* Contemporary Norman accounts, popular representations of the battle.

Lessons 6 and 7: Military innovations, including castles

Specification content

Military aspects: military innovations, including castles.

Learning outcomes

* Overall, students should consider the following aspects:
  + What were the key features of a Norman castle?
  + Why were they built?
  + What were their short and long-term roles or function in Norman England?
* This lesson will consider early Norman castles. Contrast them with castles in the Anglo-Saxon period so they can appreciate the impact Norman castles had on England.
* Introduce students to a changing role for Norman castles. Simple Motte and Bailey castles were used during the early phase of the conquest as safe places for Norman troops and later as a way of impressing Norman authority on the local population. Consider the location of Norman castles, where they were built initially and later on.
* How the Normans used castles in the early conquest of England. For example:
  + used in southern England to secure Harold’s land
  + the role of castles in the Sussex Rapes to secure communications with Normandy
  + construction of Hastings Castle (evidence in Bayeux Tapestry).

Possible teaching and learning activities

**Enquiry question:** Why did the Normans build castles? And/or what role did castles play in Norman England?

* Revisit knowledge of medieval castles from KS3, with focus on Motte and Bailey castles. Use an image of Motte and Bailey castle to show the main features.
* Students to research the similarities and differences of Anglo-Saxon and Norman castles. Students may construct a simple table which compares the features of Anglo-Saxon with those of Norman castles.
* Give your students a map of castles before and after 1066. Where did the Normans build castles? What does the map tell us about the changes brought about by the Normans?
* Students consider a series of statements about the reasons for the location of castles.
* Students must find evidence to prove or disprove the statements.

**Resources**

* Useful material is included in the AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2021 for the White Tower.
* [The purpose of castles](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WwlPffoXH84) – 6.09 minute video.
* [Norman castles.](https://spartacus-educational.com/NORcastles.htm)
* [Castle design](https://www.exploring-castles.com/castle_designs/).
* [White Tower, Tower of London.](https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/whats-on/white-tower/)
* Textbook.
* [Norman castles and control.](https://www.historyextra.com/period/norman/castles-of-the-conqueror/)
* [Burh map](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burh).
* [Norman castles map (pdf).](https://www.hrp.org.uk/schools/learning-resources/norman-castles-map/)
* [Locations of castles](https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryMagazine/DestinationsUK/CastlesinEngland/).
* Statement worksheet about the location of castles.
* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2019 for Pevensey Castle also has useful material.

Lesson 8 and 9: Norman control

Specification content

* The Harrying of the North.
* Revolts 1067–1075.

Learning outcomes

* This lesson helps develop students’ understanding of how the Normans established and maintained control. It also allows students to consider the nature and success of the resistance to the Norman conquest.
* Students should be able to locate where the major rebellions took place, who was involved and what the outcome was.
* They should also be able to form an opinion on why William was ultimately successful.
* Reasons will include:
  + lack of unified opposition
  + methods used by William
  + quality of opposition.
* Regarding the North of England, it can be instructive to study the reign of King Malcolm III (Malcolm Canmore) of Scotland (1058–1093) to understand Scottish ambition and recognise the Scandinavian threat. (Canmore translates from the Gaelic as Great Chief). It’s important that students understand:
  + the connections between Malcolm and the North of England
  + the leading English/Norman/Scandinavian families
  + his role in revolts against the Normans.

Possible teaching and learning activities

**Enquiry question:** How did William establish control of England?

* Start by assessing the position William was in after the Battle of Hastings. As a class make a list of his strengths and weaknesses, where any threats may come from and any opportunities that you can see.
* Students should record what happened in each revolt, using a map of England with the appropriate regions marked on it. You can give them the following revolts:
  + 1067 Hereford
  + 1068 Exeter
  + 1068 Mercia
  + 1068 York
  + 1069 York
  + 1069 Harrying of the North
  + 1069 South West
  + 1069 East Anglia
  + 1072 Scotland
  + 1075 Revolt of the earls.
* Remind your students to consider:
  + Who was involved?
  + How did William subdue the revolt?
* As a class, conclude by assessing William’s position in 1075 compared to his position in 1066.

Resources

* The [aftermath](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/normans/after_01.shtml) of the battle.
* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2023, for Yorkshire after the Norman Conquest: Background information and timeline.
* Textbook.
* [Background clip to the Harrying of the North](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNWoXlAZdkM) – 5.50 minute video.
* [Revision clip on the Norman Conquest](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEU_xPJd7Yo) in ‘Rulers and Ruled’ – 7.34 minute video.
* Resources relating to each revolt.
* [Hereward the Wake](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zsb7frd/revision/2).
* Timeline of Norman Britain.
* [Newspaper templates](https://makemynewspaper.com/templates/free) are useful.
* [Malcolm III](https://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/history/articles/malcolm_iii/) or [Malcolm Canmore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malcolm_III_of_Scotland#Depictions_in_fiction).

Lesson 10: King William II

Specification content

* King William’s leadership and government.
* William II and his inheritance.

Learning outcomes

* Bring together learning from Lessons 6–11. Your students should be able to explain or note something about the impact of the following factors had on establishing and maintaining control:
  + charters
  + marriages
  + the Treasury
  + surrender of London
  + restoration of order
  + harrying
  + castles
  + colonisers
  + border control
  + hostages
  + murdrum (Lessons 16 and 17)
  + Lanfranc and the church (Lesson 23)
  + foreign alliances.
* Point some of the factors out briefly and simply, eg murdrum and Lanfranc, as they’ll be covered in later lessons but deserve recognition here.
* You can give some consideration to what William I left for his children.

Possible teaching and learning activities

* Ask students to make a list of factors (like those listed in the guidance column) that contributed to William’s ability and success in establishing and maintaining control successfully.
* Students should record information against each heading, including dates.
* Students should plan an answer to the question: How did the Normans make sure of their control of England?
* A broad guide of 200–300 words works well. You can set this later to be written as a revision exercise. The emphasis here should be on how to plan an answer.
* Your students should then end the activity by commenting on:
  + the success of William’s actions
  + the position England was in at the time of William’s death.
* As a class revisit William’s family tree. Give your students some background information on William’s children. Ask them to decide who they think should inherit and why.
* Students may research what further action William II took to consolidate Norman rule and what challenges he faced.

Resources

* General textbook.
* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2024 for Wales and the Norman Conquest.
* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2023 for Yorkshire after the Norman Conquest: Background information, and Resources A–F, I and M.
* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2021 for the White Tower: Resource M.
* [William biography.](https://www.britannica.com/biography/William-I-king-of-England)
* Textbook.
* [Norman castles and control.](https://www.historyextra.com/period/norman/castles-of-the-conqueror/)

Lesson 11: Review and assess Part one: The Normans – conquest and control

Specification content

Part one: The Normans: conquest and control.

Learning outcomes

Assess students’ understanding of Part one and develop their exam techniques.

Possible teaching and learning activities

* You could give your students exam-style questions such as an interpretation question, a ‘write an account’ question and an explain question which covers Part one of the specified content.
* Class debate: students consider what they need to think about when answering interpretation, ‘write an account’ and explain questions.

Resources

Specimen paper or mock paper.

Part two: Life under the Normans

Lessons 12 and 13: Feudal system and government

Specification content

* Roles, rights, and responsibilities.
* Landholding and lordship.
* Land distribution.
* Patronage.
* Anglo-Saxon and Norman government systems.
* Anglo-Saxon and Norman aristocracies.
* Military service.

Learning outcomes

* Develop students’ understanding of the difference between Anglo-Saxon and Norman England. What changed under the Normans and what stayed the same?
* Students should understand the similarities and differences between:
  + Anglo-Saxon:
* kings
* earls
* thegns
* ceorls
* cottars and serfs.
  + and Norman:
* kings
* barons and bishops
* knights
* villeins.
  + explain terms such as:
* Curia Regis
* government by writ – the chancery system
* tenant in chief.

Possible teaching and learning activities

* Revisit prior learning from KS3 in order to establish what feudalism was.
* Students to compare and contrast Anglo-Saxon England to Norman England. Ensure students understand the definition of each ‘position’ listed in the learning outcome above.
* Ask your students to create a table to show the difference between Anglo-Saxon and Norman in the terms of:
  + laws and law-making
  + land control
  + land distribution
  + aristocracy
  + government.
* Students can investigate the reasons for changes in power and land distribution.

Resources

* Lordship and political control.
* Video on establishing Normand control of England – details castles, feudal system and Domesday Book.
* Norman control and rule.

Lessons 14 and 15: Justice and the legal system

Specification content

Justice and the legal system such as ordeals and ‘murdrum’.

Learning outcomes

* These lessons help you develop students’ understanding of the changes the Normans made to the justice and legal system. (Remind students about controlling England, see Lessons 11 and 12). It might be useful to compare Anglo-Saxon and Norman systems to highlight the extent of change. What were the reasons for change?
* You should also make students aware that:
  + Anglo-Saxon system was not uniform across country
  + trials already existed
  + Normans kept most of the system because it worked and gave legitimacy to Norman rule
  + the system became more uniform.
* Students should explore:
  + types of courts in Norman England such as:
* king (Royal)
* shire
* hundred
* manor
* lords (Honorial) – new
* church.
  + trial by:
* water
* hot iron
* battle
* description and effectiveness of ‘murdrum’ fine.

Possible teaching and learning activities

* Students should consider the following question: What was the justice and legal system like under the Anglo-Saxons?
* Ask students to make some points about what this system was like using images of Anglo-Saxon justice. How effective might it have been? Are there any problems that need sorting out?
* Students should then consider how people got justice in Norman England. They should make notes on the Norman system (a triangle would represent this well with royal court at the top, down to manorial court at the bottom).
* As part of the exercise they should consider:
  + What did each court do?
  + How often did they meet?
  + What sort of ‘crime’ did they deal with?
  + What did people think was fair in Norman England?
* Give your students some images of trials and ask them to identify key features.
* You can also give your students some typical ‘crimes’ and ask them place them in the correct court. Your students must be able to explain why they’ve placed them in that court and what the likely outcome would’ve been.

Resources

* [Anglo-Saxon law and order.](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/trail/conquest/wessex_kings/anglosaxon_law_05.shtml)
* [Trial by ordeal video](https://www.bbc.com/teach/class-clips-video/trial-by-ordeal/zbns382) shows Normans introducing trial by combat – 6.20 minute video.
* Textbook.

Lesson 16: Inheritance and the Doomsday Book

Specification content

* Inheritance.
* Domesday Book.

Learning outcomes

* Look at the role of the primogeniture and reasons for change. How did the Normans benefit from this? You should define ‘feudal incidents’ for your students.
* You can also cover the Domesday Book. Students should learn about:
  + what the Domesday Book was
  + its purpose
  + what it achieved.
* The 2023 Resource Pack about Yorkshire shows how interpretations of the Domesday Book can differ and why it’s so valuable to historians.

Possible teaching and learning activities

* Give students examples to show how Anglo-Saxons would split land between all sons. What would have been the consequences of this approach? Give your students the opportunity to explain why primogeniture could be beneficial.
* Use an image of the Domesday Book from local area (if possible) to generate discussion on what it was. Ask ‘Why might it be a good idea to know who owns what?’
* As a class, investigate areas not included in either book. What does this tell us? (Land not yet securely conquered, land under church rule or was it too complex?)
* Ask your students to investigate their local area (or alternative) through the Domesday Book.
* Class debate: what does the Domesday Book (and Little Domesday) tell us about the Norman Conquest?

Resources

* [A National Archives guide to the Domesday Book.](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/domesday/)
* Textbook.
* [Domesday Inquests](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0094gfz) ERA – 3 minute video.
* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2023 for Yorkshire after the Norman Conquest: Background information, and Resources K, L and M.
* [Summary of Norman conquest to Domesday Book](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PE0RAgHr06U) – 7.33 minute video.

Lesson 17: Economic and social changes and their consequences

Specification content

* Anglo-Saxon and Norman life including towns, villages, buildings, work, food, roles, and seasonal life.
* Forest Law.

Learning outcomes

* These lessons develop students’ understanding of the economic and social changes brought about by the Normans and their consequences for society.
* The lesson focuses on what life was like, how it changed and the consequences of change in villages.
* When exploring village life consider the following aspects:
  + key features
  + location
  + how did people live in them?
* You could also make students aware of the changes in some areas to the status of freemen and of enslaved people as a result of the Conquest.

Possible teaching and learning activities

**Enquiry question:** What was life like in a Norman village?

* Using a glossary of village terms and a generic or specific map of a village, ask your students to annotate the key features.
* Using a table students should note the continuities and changes between Anglo-Saxon and Norman life:
  + settlement
  + housing
  + diet
  + jobs.
* Give students a list of jobs/roles in village life and ask them to match the roles/jobs to a set of descriptions.
* Students can investigate the seasonal nature of the medieval peasant year by constructing a visual reminder of the jobs to their month.
* Class debate: To what extent did village life change under Norman rule?

**Resources**

* [Wharram Percy.](http://loki.stockton.edu/~tompkink/wharram/begin.htm)
* [Wharram Percy site.](https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/wharram-percy-deserted-medieval-village/)
* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2023, for Yorkshire after the Norman Conquest: Resource J.
* [General village life](http://www.timeref.com/life/countrylife.htm).
* [Medieval farming year.](http://www.witheridge-historical-archive.com/medieval-year.htm)
* [Jobs in the medieval village.](http://www.medieval-life-and-times.info/medieval-england/medieval-jobs.htm)
* Textbook.
* [The cultural changes brought to Britain by the Normans](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0099s2g) (ERA) – 4 minute video.

**Lessons 18 and 19: Anglo Saxon and Norman life**

Specification content

* Anglo-Saxon and Norman life including towns, villages, buildings, work, food, roles, and seasonal life.
* Forest Law.

Learning outcomes

* Lessons 18 and 19 focus on what life was like, how it changed and the consequences of change in towns.
* When exploring life in towns, consider the following aspects:
  + key features
  + location
  + how did people live in them?
* In future series, you could use this lesson as an introduction to a specified site.

Possible teaching and learning activities

**Enquiry question:** What was life like in a Norman town?

* Students note the differences between village and town life. Using the table from Lesson 17, they should add a third column for Normans towns and note the continuities and changes between Anglo-Saxon and Norman life in terms of:
  + settlement
  + housing
  + diet
  + jobs.
* Give students a list of jobs/roles in town life and ask them to match the jobs/roles to a set of descriptions. What differences and similarities can they identify about roles/jobs in towns and villages?
* Class discussion: How were towns and villages different?
* Students can research Forest Law. They should find out what Forest Law was and why it was implemented.
* Class debate:
  + to what extent did life in towns change under the Normans?
  + how different would everyday life have been for most people in England after the Normans took over?

Resources

* Textbook.
* [Medieval towns](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZimXhjGshI) – 5.19 minute video.
* Medieval daily life.
* [History of Southampton.](http://www.localhistories.org/southampton.html)
* [Forest Law.](https://www.sarahwoodbury.com/forest-laws/)

Lesson 20: Review and assess Part two: Life under the Normans

Specification content

Part two: Life under the Normans.

Learning outcomes

This lesson assesses students’ understanding of the content in Part two and develops their exam technique.

Possible teaching and learning activities

Students could complete exam-style questions which relate to content from Part two such as an interpretation question, a ‘write an account’ question or an ‘explain’ question.

Part three: The Norman church and monasticism

Lesson 21: The Church

Specification content

* The Anglo-Saxon Church before 1066.
* Archbishop Lanfranc and reform of the English Church, including the building of churches and cathedrals.

Learning outcomes

* This lesson helps you establish what the Church was like before 1066 and to develop students’ understanding of reforms made by the Normans. You could also explore the ways the Church helped the Normans to establish and maintain control.
* Explore problems with English Church such as simony, nepotism, pluralism, and clerical marriage.
* Develop students’ understanding of the changes brought about by the Normans such as:
  + replacement of Anglo-Saxon bishops with new, hardworking Norman ones
  + reorganisation of dioceses
  + raising the position of archdeacon
  + building of new cathedrals (Romanesque style). The move to a monastic structure.
* Students should consider whether the lives of the parish priests changed at all and how changes to the Church affected the lives of ordinary people.
* Look at Lanfranc’s role in:
  + primacy of Canterbury
  + his use of councils to impose his will
  + introduction of church courts.

Possible teaching and learning activities

**Enquiry question:** In what ways did the Church change under the Normans?

* Give your students an overview of the Church and its position in Anglo-Saxon society.
* Students can create a before and after table showing the Norman impact on:
  + bishops
  + dioceses
  + archdeacons
  + new cathedrals
  + monastic cathedrals
  + parishes and priests.
* Your students should then analyse how the changes would’ve affected the population.
* In groups, students investigate Lanfranc’s reforms:
  + primacy of Canterbury
  + councils
  + church and the law courts.

Resources

* [Norman church](https://schoolshistory.org.uk/topics/church-norman-england/).
* [Lanfranc and Norman reform of the English church](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KDmeJ1Zucd8) – 3.46 minute video.
* [Medieval Church in ‘Medieval Mind’](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9N3Jl5C5ZQ) – 5.55 minute video.
* Textbook.
* [Reading a Norman church](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p009nj1c) – 3 minute video.

Lesson 22: Lanfranc and reform

Specification content

Archbishop Lanfranc and reform of the English Church, including the building of churches and cathedrals.

Learning outcomes

* Lessons 22 to 26 focus on the specified site for 2025, Durham Cathedral. If you wish, you can embed these lessons into your teaching of ‘the Church’ to contextualise the changes to the Church under Norman rule.
* This lesson gives you the opportunity to provide a general introduction to Norman churches and cathedrals.
* Students should be able to understand and be able to answer the following:
  + What were the key features of Norman churches and cathedrals?
  + What was their role and function in Norman society?
  + What were the differences between an Anglo-Saxon church and cathedral compared to a Norman church or cathedral?
  + What went on in churches and cathedrals?
  + Where did their wealth come from?

Possible teaching and learning activities

**Enquiry question:** What were Norman churches and cathedrals like?

* Start with diagrams/floor plans of churches and/or cathedrals. Ask your students to label the key features. Have a variety of churches and cathedrals from a spread of locations and draw together the similarities and differences between them. Plot them across a map of the country and investigate whether this pattern has any meaning.
* Investigate the sources of church and cathedral income.
* Class discussion:
  + What were the similarities and differences between monasteries and abbeys compared to churches and cathedrals?
  + What can churches and cathedrals tells us about Norman reforms to the Church?
  + How did they contribute to Norman society?

Resources

* Information and resources relating to Durham Cathedral, such as the AQA Resource Pack 2025 for Durham Cathedral or other sources of information.
* [Durham Castle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Durham_Castle).
* [Cathedrals of Britain.](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/architecture_cathedral_01.shtml)
* [Map of cathedrals in Britain.](https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryMagazine/DestinationsUK/Cathedrals/)
* [Durham Cathedral](https://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/) and [information](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Durham_Cathedral).
* [Architecture and religious buildings.](http://englishbuildings.blogspot.com/p/english-architecture-c-600-1500.html)
* Durham Cathedral: a timeline of the development of Durham Cathedral.
* A short introduction to [Saint Cuthbert](https://www.lindisfarne.org.uk/general/cuthbert1.htm).
* Textbook.
* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2023 for Yorkshire after the Norman Conquest: Background information, and Resources E, F and M.

Lesson 23 and 24: Durham Cathedral

**Specification content**

Archbishop Lanfranc and reform of the English Church, including the building of churches and cathedrals.

Learning outcomes

* This lesson gives you the chance to introduce Durham Cathedral as the specified site for 2025. When developing your students understanding of the site, you should consider the following:
  + key features
  + location
  + function
  + structure
  + people connected with the site
  + design
  + how the design reflects the culture, values, and fashions of people at the time
  + how important events/developments from the specified content are connected to the site.
* With your students you should establish the location and background of Durham Cathedral and the reason for its existence (shrine to St. Cuthbert and home to Benedictine monks).

Possible teaching and learning activities

**Enquiry question**: What was Durham Cathedral like?

* Students use maps and biographies relating to Durham Cathedral to produce a timeline of its development.
* Students research Saint Cuthbert and write a short biography of him.

Resources

* AQA Resource Pack 2025 for Durham Cathedral.
* Plan/maps of Durham Cathedral.
* Durham Cathedral: a timeline of the development of Durham Cathedral.
* A short introduction to [Saint Cuthbert](https://www.lindisfarne.org.uk/general/cuthbert1.htm).
* [Durham Cathedral Building.](https://smarthistory.org/durham-cathedral/)

Lesson 25 and 26: Durham Cathedral

Specification content

Archbishop Lanfranc and reform of the English Church, including the building of churches and cathedrals.

Learning outcomes

* The focus of this lesson is to further develop your students’ knowledge and understanding of Durham Cathedral and how evidence can be used to further that understanding.
* Students should consider the following things:
  + What does the design tell us about the culture, values, and fashions of the time?
  + How does it show the Norman reforms of the Church?
  + What was its significance to the local area and to Norman England?

Possible teaching and learning activities

**Enquiry question:** What can we learn about Durham Cathedral and the Normans from the evidence?

* Students can use a range of resources relating to Durham Cathedral and document what they tell us about Durham Cathedral during the Norman period. They can find information from the sources to support a series of statements. Students then gather the sources to create a virtual museum ‘display,’ answering the question ‘What does Durham Cathedral tell us about the Norman period?
* Some of the statements refer to the important characteristics of Durham Cathedral, such as the design/layout, uses, quarters, decorations, location, windows, etc.
* Students can cut and paste images of these features to help them to deepen their knowledge understand them.

Resources

* AQA Resource Pack 2025 for Durham Cathedral.
* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2023 for Yorkshire after the Norman Conquest.
* Worksheet of statements about Durham Cathedral.
* Collection of additional images of Durham Cathedral.
* Durham Cathedral: a timeline of the development of Durham Cathedral.
* A short introduction to [Saint Cuthbert](https://www.lindisfarne.org.uk/general/cuthbert1.htm).

Lesson 27: William II and the Church

Specification content

* Church organisation and courts.
* Church-state relations.
* William II and the Church.
* Wealth of the Church.

Learning outcomes

* Develop your students’ understanding of key institutions:
  + bishoprics
  + monasteries
  + nunneries.
* Explore the character of William II and its impact on his dealings with the church and Papacy. Consider with your students the problems with the evidence in making a sound judgement on William II. You should also cover William II’s illness, Anselm, and the Council of Rockingham.
* Relations between the Norman Church’s and the Crown’s relations with the Papacy under William II may be contrasted with those of William I. You may want to consider the following aspects with your students:
  + the idea that William as a righteous King. What evidence for this do we have?
  + what were relations between William and Pope Gregory VII like?
  + William II and church vacancies.
  + the significance of the trial of William of Calais.

Possible teaching and learning activities

* Give your students an overview of how the Norman Church was organised and explain what key institutions did.
* Use the trial of William of Calais and ask your students to evaluate the strength of the new church courts. They should consider what the result was and who won.
* Ask your students to research and write a character profile of William II, highlighting the traits that might help or hinder his relationship with the Church.
* In groups, ask students to consider the following questions:
  + How far did William II’s ‘piety’ improve with Anselm as archbishop of Canterbury?
  + What resolved the conflict between king and archbishop?
* Provide the class with a definition of what the Investiture Controversy was.
* Give your class some basic information on the Investiture Controversy. You may choose to suggest that your students can select the key events and make their own timeline or living graph. They should place the events in England on the graph in a different colour.
* As a class, conclude with an assessment of the position of the Norman Church in England by 1100, and the English throne in relation to the Papacy.

Resources

* Textbook.
* [European context of the Investiture Controversy](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-D7tSogdwI) for teacher research.
* [Investiture Controversy.](http://www.faculty.umb.edu/gary_zabel/Courses/Phil%20281b/Philosophy%20of%20Magic/Dante.%20etc/Philosophers/End/bluedot/invest2.html)

**Lesson 28: Monasticism**

Specification content

* The Norman reforms, including the building of abbeys and monasteries.
* Monastic life.

Learning outcomes

* Lesson 28 will give you the opportunity to develop students’ understanding of what abbeys and monasteries were like. Much of the Reform of Monastic communities will have been covered in the lessons on the Norman reforms to the monastic communities at Durham Cathedral. It will be useful, when assessing the extent of the changes, for your students to understand what Anglo-Saxon monasteries were like.
* You should give students an outline of following:
  + the range of religious orders in England and their work/beliefs
  + the revival of monasteries in the North
  + the role of Cluny in reform of monasticism
  + Augustinians and Cistercians orders, and reasons for their success.
* Some summary work may be concluded in Lesson 29.

Possible teaching and learning activities

For the purposes of this lesson you could use a particular Norman abbey or monastery as a case study, such as Castle Acre Priory, or refer to the monastic community connected to Durham Cathedral.

**Enquiry question:** What was a Norman abbey or monastery like?

* Introduce and define key words.
* Give your students diagrams/floor plans of an abbey or monastery and have them label the key features.
* Students could use small thumbnail copies of parts of a monastery or priory adding them to a base map of the priory, labelling and annotating what can be seen in each image. Alternatively, in groups, ask your students to put together their own virtual tour, perhaps using PowerPoint.

OR

**Enquiry question**: How did monastic life change under the Normans?

* Students may conduct research into the range of religious orders and write short profiles of each order. They should include where they’ve settled in England and a recent history (pre and post-conquest).
* What was the role of a monk in each order? Students draw a comparison table to show differences and similarities between each order.

OR

* Students produce a ‘guide to being a Benedictine Monk.’
* As a class, focus on Cluny and assess the role of this order in the reform of monasteries across England.
* As a class, discuss the key features of monastic buildings and features of monastic life. Consider what changed under the Normans.

OR

* Students write a short essay of no more than 300 words on how monastic life changed under the Normans.

Resources

* Textbook.
* AQA Resource Pack 2025 for Durham Cathedral
* AQA Historic Environment Resource Pack 2022 for Castle Acre Priory: Background information, and Resources A, F, G, H and K.
* [Location and database of abbeys and monasteries.](https://www.britainexpress.com/Where_to_go_in_Britain/Abbeys_and_Monasteries/Abbeys1.htm)
* [Monasticism](https://spartacus-educational.com/NORmonasteries.htm).
* [Short clip on Changing Lives](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p10_OraOcnk) – references 12th Century but explains background purpose to monastic life – 6.17 minute video.
* Monastic Revival worksheet.
* [Castle Acre Priory](https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/castle-acre-castle-acre-priory/)
* [Isleham Priory.](https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/isleham-priory-church/)
* [Battle Abbey site.](https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/1066-battle-of-hastings-abbey-and-battlefield/)

Lesson 29: Learning and education

Specification content

* Learning.
* Schools and education.
* Latin usage and the vernacular.

Learning outcomes

This lesson helps students:

* understand the type of education in Norman England.
* understand who benefited from it.
* develop the idea that monasteries were centres of learning.

Possible teaching and learning activities

**Enquiry question:** What was education like in Norman England?

* Students complete a mind map showing:
  + What type of learning went on in Norman England?
  + Who was educated and in what?
  + Who did the teaching?
  + Who spoke Latin?
  + What other languages else were spoken?
* Class debate (which ties in with previous lessons about abbeys and monasteries). Students consider the following questions:
  + How did abbeys and monasteries contribute to Norman society?
  + If you were an Anglo-Saxon monk, what changes would you have experienced under Norman rule?

Resources

* Textbook and internet research.
* [The effect of 1066 on the English language](http://geoffboxell.tripod.com/words.htm).

**Lesson 30: Review and assess Part one, two and three**

Specification content

Review and assess Parts one, two and three of the specified content and the Historic Environment.

Learning outcomes

Assess students’ understanding of the specified content and develop their exam technique.

Possible teaching and learning activities

* You could give your students a specimen paper or devise your own mock paper.
* Alternatively, your students could write an essay to the following question: What difference did the Normans make to Anglo-Saxon England?