

# Form 6 History Revision

## Autumn Exams 2019

### Key dates to learn (month and year)

- The Battle of **Hastings** – **October 1066**
- Edward the Confessor's death– **January 1066**
- The Crowning of William I in London – **Dec 1066**
- The Battle of **Fulford** Bridge – **September 1066**
- The Battle of **Stamford** Bridge – **September 1066**

### **What you will be tested on in the exam:**

- The **key dates** of some of the main events we have studied.
- The **key words and definitions** of some of the key things we have studied.
- You will need to **analyse some sources** about **The Battle of Hastings** (a photograph and a written passage). No revision needed.

### **Write a short essay on ONE of the following;**

- What **Motte and Bailey** castles looked like and their strengths and weaknesses.
- How **William gained control** of England after the Battle of Hastings.
- Was William a **good King**?

### Key words and definitions (you don't need to have exact definitions to get the marks).

- **Feudal System** – the structure of medieval society, where land was exchanged for service and loyalty.
- **The Witan** – a collection of Anglo-Saxon noblemen and clergy who advised the king.
- **Shield Wall**– putting the shields of foot soldiers together in battle to make a strong barrier.
- **Barons** – the highest rank of medieval society, ruling land directly on behalf of the king.
- **Motte and Bailey Castle** – A simple fortification with an artificial hill and a defensive courtyard.

### Famous people and events

- **Harald Hardrada** – a fierce Viking warrior, who made a claim to the English throne in 1066.
- **Edgar the Atheling** – An Anglo-Saxon prince who was Edward the Confessor's nephew.
- **Harold Godwinson** – The last Anglo-Saxon King of England who led the Saxons at the Battle of Hastings.
- **Edward the Confessor** – An Anglo-Saxon King of England whose death triggered the Norman invasion.
- **Tostig** – Harold Godwinson's exiled brother who supported the Vikings.

We have completed all these history topics in class. **Everything you need to know is included here.** You may use other sources of information but there is no requirement to. **Good luck, try your best and don't worry!!!**

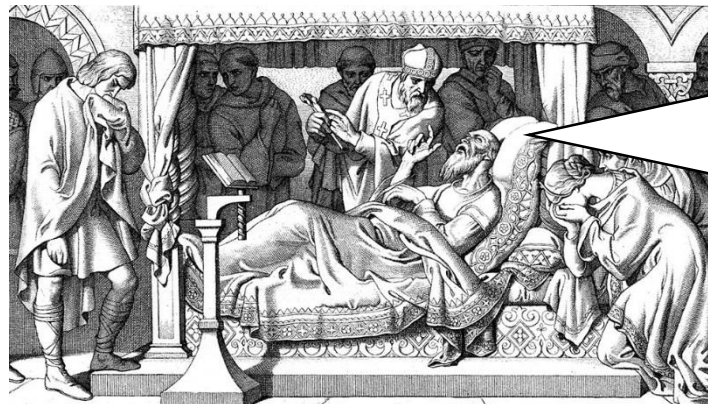
# The 4 Claimants to the Throne

At the start of 1066, King Edward the Confessor was a sick old man. He would not live long. **Who would be the next king?** This would not normally be a problem – it would go to his son. However, Edward had no son. **When there is no son, the throne is up for grabs and anyone with any power can stake a claim.**

**There was no natural successor so the Witan (Council) had to choose from 4 candidates.**



I am **Harold Godwinson, the Earl of Wessex**, the most powerful nobleman in the country! I have run England for Edward, and have been a **loyal warrior**, and I am even his **brother-in-law**. But if you want more evidence, listen to what was written down about Edward's last words...



"On his deathbed that wise King [Edward] had promised the Kingdom to Harold, a great noble. This was because Harold had always been **loyal**." See! That was written by monks about my right to the throne!

Harold! That man has no right to be king! Edward promised the throne to me, **William, Duke of Normandy** in 1051 after I sent troops to England to help Edward fight Earl Godwinson (Harold's father). Edward even lived in Normandy until he was made king. **Edward did promise me the throne.**

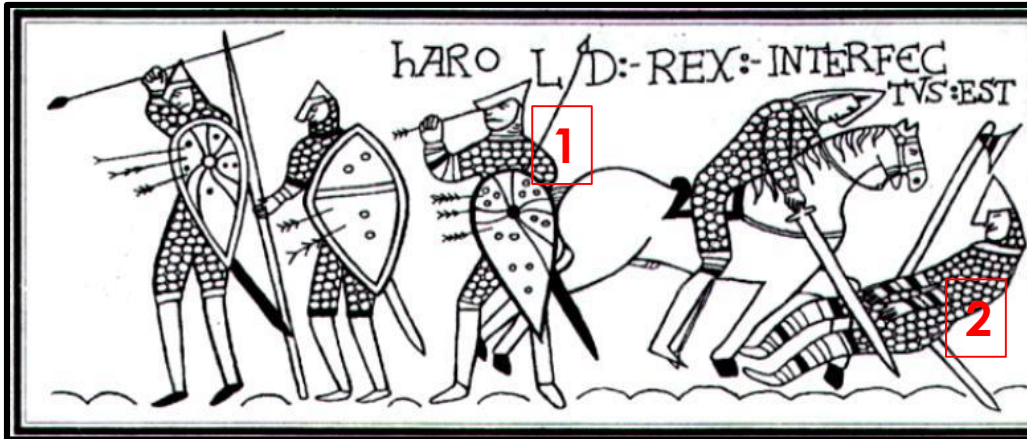


I am the other Harald! **Harald Hardrada**. Of course I should be king! Harold is only a earl, William is a duke but me, I am a king!

I am a **Viking king** and we used to run England. I have support in the north and I have a strong army of soldiers, think carefully!

# The Battle of Hastings – 14<sup>th</sup> October 1066

On 14 October 1066, William marched his army inland to where Harold was camped. Harold held a good defensive position on top of **Senlac Hill**. The well armed **housecarls** seemed to be in the centre protecting Harold. It is believed he had about 6,000 fighting men, all on foot.



Above – The death of Harold Godwinson, depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry (note the 2 possible causes of his death).

## The Normans

**Archers** – men who fired arrows into the air.

**Cavalry** – men on horseback, armed with swords.

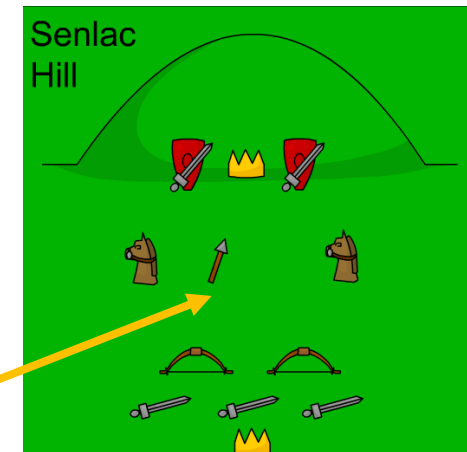
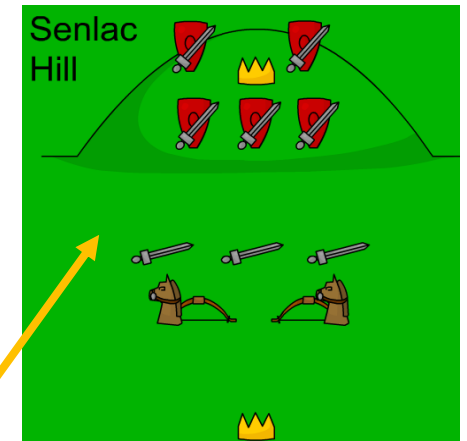
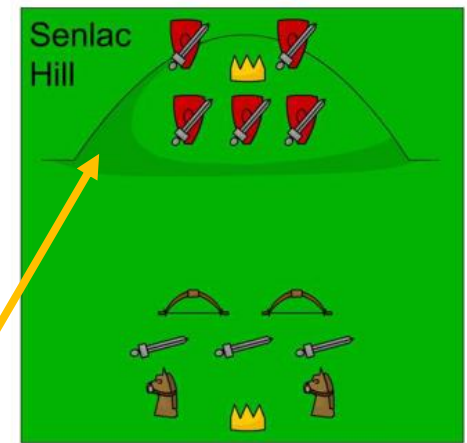
**Foot soldiers** – men on foot, armed with spears.

## The Saxons

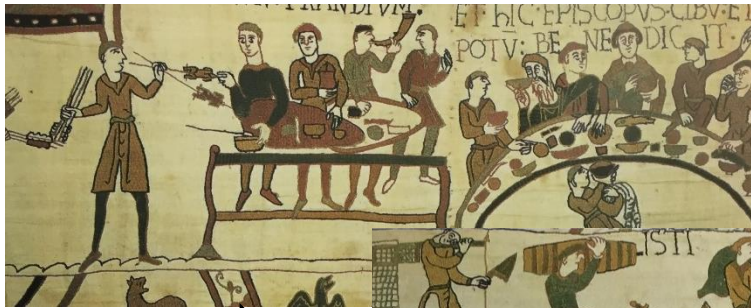
**Housecarls** – professional soldiers, often armed with a battleaxe.

**Fyrd** – men who were 'volunteered' to Harold's force. They had little or no training and were unpaid.

1. Harold and Williams armies met on **Senlac Hill**, 7 miles from Hastings.
2. Harold's armies set up camp on the top of the hill, a good position for the battle.
3. The Saxons had a far larger army of **housecarls** and **peasants**.
4. William had professional soldiers and **cavalry** (knights on horses).
5. The Normans ran up hill to attack but the Saxons threw axes and stones.
6. For 6 hours the Saxons seemed to be winning. The Normans **charged** but could not break the **shield wall**.
7. Then the Saxons broke the wall as they thought the Normans were **retreating**.
8. The Norman cavalry rode through the Saxons hacking them to bits! The **archers** supposedly shot Harold in the eye and **William won** the battle.



# Why did William win the Battle of Hastings?



William's men have time to relax in Hastings



William's men preparing their weapons

Harold's movements leading up to the battle	1066	William's movements leading up to the battle
Harold wins at Stamford Bridge.	25/09	
	27/09	Wind changes direction and Williams fleet leaves France.
	28/09	Williams fleet land early in the morning.
	29/09	Williams forces occupy Hastings preparing for battle.
Harold marches south (50 miles a day) leaving many archers behind.	02/10	
Harold reaches London and gathers together a new army of mainly foot-soldiers.	06/10	
Harold leaves London and marches 58 miles to Hastings.	11/10	
Harold arrives at Hastings during the night with 7000exhausted men.	13/10	

William, Duke of Normandy		Harold Godwinson (King of England)	
Well prepared because....	Not well prepared because....	Well prepared because....	Not well prepared because....
He had a great many fresh soldiers, horsemen and archers. They had very good armour and weapons.	He depended on the wind changing direction. He was lucky it changed so he could sail early.	He had just won a great battle at Stamford Bridge- this gave Harold and his men a lot of confidence.	Harold had to leave some of his archers behind up north.
William had arrived in Hastings early. He had been able to prepare his solidiers, relax and eat well.			Harold's men have marched over 200 miles to get to Hastings. They are very tired.
William was a good leader with very good tactics. He tricked the Saxons down from the hill (fake retreat).			Harold and his men arrive in the middle of the night and have to be ready for battle at 9am.



# How did William get control of England after the Battle of Hastings?

William was **crowned King of England** on Christmas Day 1066 in Westminster Abbey. London and the South East of England had **surrendered** to the new King but much of the rest of England lay out of his control. William's main problems were how to **keep control** of what he had and how to **gain control** of the rest of England.

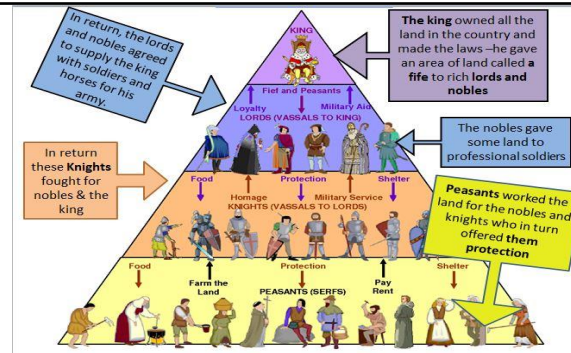
William has many problems: 1. He **does not trust the English** who do not like him. 2. He has to force the English people **to accept him** as King. 3. Many of the English are **rebellious** and fighting against William. 3. He has to **pay the French Knights** who helped him win the throne.

## The Harrying of the North



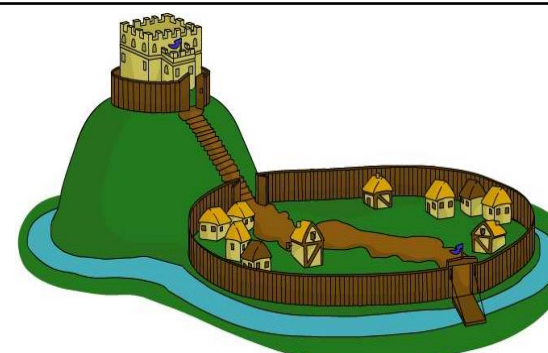
Some English people rebelled against William. The biggest rebellion was in the **north of England in 1069**. William defeated the rebellion but he still didn't trust the English people. In the north-east of England, from **1069 to 1070**, he ordered villages to be **destroyed and people to be killed**. Herds of animals and crops were **burnt**. Most people who survived **starved to death**; there were even stories of people turning to cannibalism. William did not care if they had rebelled or not. Not only was the population reduced by 75% but land was **salted (poisoned)** to prevent people growing crops in the future. This is called the **Harrying of the North**.

## The Feudal System



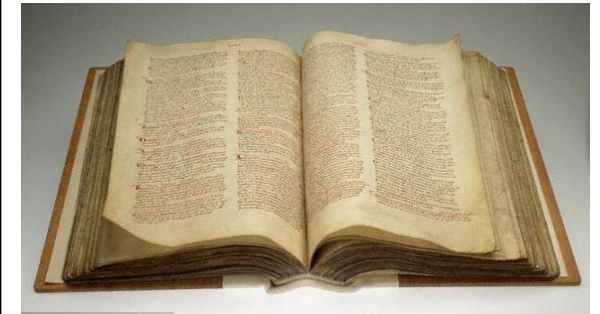
William could not be everywhere at the same time. To solve this, he lent pieces of **his new lands** to nobles, or **barons**, as they were called at the time. In return for **loyalty and taxes**, they could use the land. The barons then loaned the land to **knights** who in turn loaned it to **peasants** who then did all of the hard farming work! If the barons betrayed William, they would **lose their land**, and the wealth that came with it.

## Building Castles



William had new, loyal **nobles** from Normandy build over 100 castles all over England. They were built extremely **quickly**, some in just eight days! From their castles, the new Norman lords could **control the local area**, and the sight of them made it clear who was now in control. The need for quick constructions meant materials such as **earth and wood** were used but it meant they didn't last very long. Over time, the more important ones were **rebuilt from stone**.

## The Domesday Book

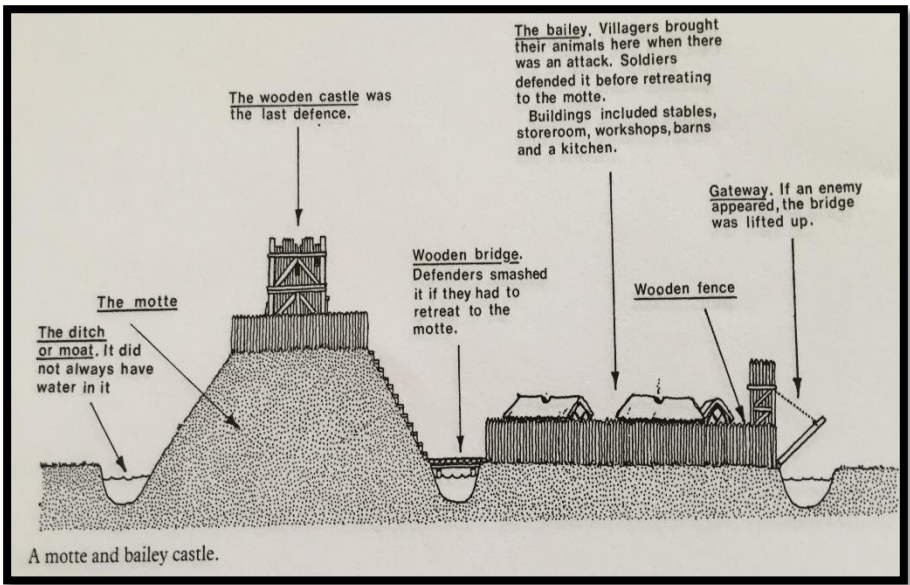
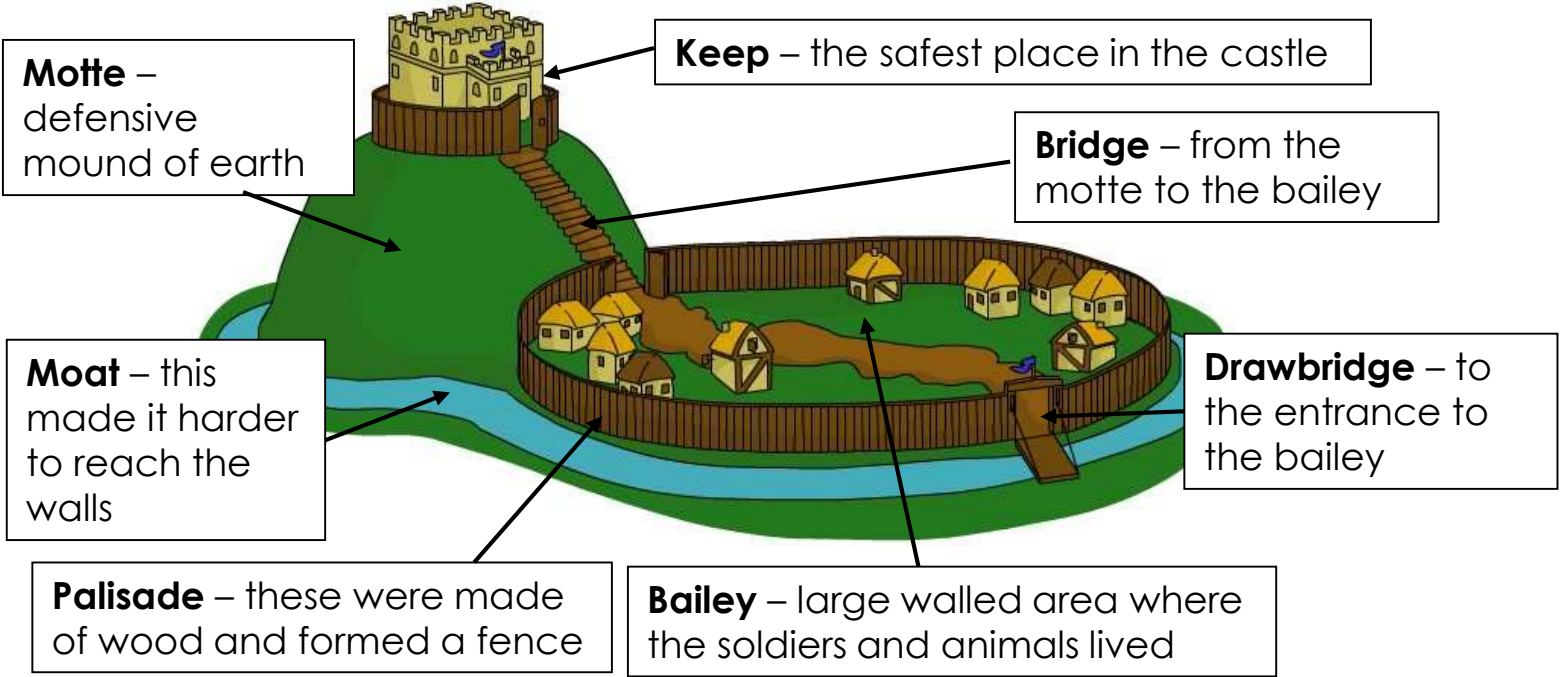


By 1085, William decided to make a **listing of property and goods in England** to ensure that everyone was **taxed fairly**. Large numbers of men were sent out throughout the land. Counties were measured, and the amount of livestock (animals) was recorded. Nearly the whole country was surveyed. The information collected was taken to Winchester where it was put together to form the **Domesday Book**.

# Motte and Bailey Castles

The **Normans** built the first proper castles in England. They needed bases from which to control the countryside, and strongholds to protect them from Saxon attack. The castles had to be built in a hurry, so they were originally built of timber on an earth mound (a **motte**). The **bailey** was the living area for the soldiers.

When William invaded England he quickly set about building **castles**. The reason was simple – he knew he had nowhere near enough men to run England. So William built castles at important places – hills, rivers, towns – so that if the English tried to control the country they'd be forced to attack a castle – a bad move!



Advantages of the Motte and Bailey Castle	Disadvantages of the Motte and Bailey Castle
<p>1. The castles were <b>quick to build</b>. A motte and bailey castle could be up in a <b>few weeks!</b> This was a huge difference compared to the years it would take to build a <b>stone castle</b>.</p>	<p>1. The biggest weakness was the material they were made of – <b>wood</b>. Wooden buildings can be burnt down by fire. They can also be affected by rot.</p>
<p>2. They <b>protected the soldiers</b> that William used to <b>control the country</b> and were easy to defend. Small numbers of Norman soldiers could <b>hold off rebellions</b> or attacks by being in a castle.</p>	<p>2. Because the castles were not built to last, they were only a <b>temporary</b> solution. Many were later replaced by <b>stone keep</b> castles.</p>