
Revision Checklist

- Below is a list of topics and questions to guide your revision for the exam.
- Tick the boxes when you have revised the topic. When all the boxes are ticked your revision is complete!

	Medieval Life	✓
1	Who were the three claimants to the throne in 1066?	
2	What were the good and bad points about their claims to the throne?	
3	What were the main events of 1066?	
4	Why did William win the Battle of Hastings?	
5	What were the Domesday Book and the Feudal System?	
6	Why was religion important in the Middle Ages?	
7	How could you get to Heaven?	
8	Why did Henry II and Thomas Becket quarrel?	
9	What were the events leading to the murder of Becket?	
10	Why did people go on Crusades?	
11	What did the crusades achieve?	
12	Why did King John grant Magna Carta?	
13	Was King John a good or a bad king?	
14	What was life like in a Medieval Town?	
15	What was life like in a Medieval Village?	
16	What were Trial by water, hot iron and battle?	

The Exam

The summer exam will last for one hour and contain two sections:

Section 1

This will contain three source based questions:

1. **What can you tell from Source A about**
 - If it is a picture you must describe part of the source and explain what you can tell from it.
 - If it is a written source you must quote part of it and explain what you can tell from it.

2. **How far do Sources A and B agree?**
 - Explain *both* how the sources agree with each other and how they disagree with each other
 - Make sure you describe or quote parts of each source and explain how they agree or disagree.

3. **How reliable is Source C?**
 - First consider the content of the source - does it agree with what you know? Is the language or style of drawing exaggerated?
 - Then consider the provenance of the source - who created it, when, for what purpose, do they have a reason to be biased?

Section 2

In Section 2 you will have a choice of questions. Each question will have three parts:

- a) **What ...?**
 - This question is asking you what you know - you need to give at least 4 facts.

 - b) **Why ...?**
 - This question is asking you what you understand - you need to explain two or three reasons.

 - c) **Which do you think was the most important?**
 - This question is asking you to explain a number of reasons for an event, and to explain which you think was the most important.
- or*
- c) **How far do you agree with this statement?**
 - This question is asking you to explain what agrees with the statement, what disagrees with the statement, and reach a conclusion.

The Norman conquest

In January 1066 King Edward the Confessor died. There were three possible successors to the throne:

	Strengths	Weaknesses
Harold Godwineson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was English. • He was the most powerful nobleman in England and had been helping Edward to rule the country for years. • He was married to Edward's sister. • Edward chose Harold to succeed him as he was dying. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1051 he had rebelled against Edward and been exiled abroad. • In 1065 Harold visited Normandy and swore an oath to accept William as king of England.
Harald Hardraada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was King of Norway and a Viking - his family had been kings of England before Edward the Confessor. • Many of the population in the north of England were Vikings. • He had the support of Tostig, Harold's brother. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was not English and people in the south of England did not want a Viking king.
William, Duke of Normandy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He helped Edward when Harold rebelled against him in 1051 and was promised the throne by Edward. • Harold promised to accept William as king of England when he visited Normandy in 1065. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was not English.

The Witan (council of earls and bishops) chose Harold Godwineson to be king. He knew that both William and Harald would try to take his throne. He believed that William would invade first so he stationed his army along the south coast. However, in September 1066 Harald's army arrived in the north of England and defeated the English earls. Harold had to march his army hundreds of miles north.

The Battle of Stamford Bridge

When he reached the north Harold immediately attacked the Viking army, taking them by surprise. Harald Hardraada was killed along with Tostig and most of his army. Only 24 ships returned to Norway of the 300 that had invaded. However, only three days later Harold heard that William had landed on the south coast. He now had to march his exhausted army hundreds of miles south and give battle.

The Battle of Hastings

Harold attempted to take William by surprise but was spotted and instead drew up his army in a strong position on top of Senlac Hill, awaiting William's attack. On 14th October 1066, after a day of fierce fighting, Harold was killed and his army defeated. There was several reasons for this:

- **Harold's mistakes:** Harold rushed back from the north of England and immediately tried to launch a surprise attack on William. When it failed he was left with a small, exhausted army. He would have been better to have taken more time and gathered a larger army.
- **William's leadership:** William was a brilliant leader. During the battle when he was feared to have been killed he lifted up his visor and rode around inspiring his men. He used very clever tactics such as encouraging the Saxons to leave their impregnable shield wall and chase his men down the hill where they were easily killed, and using his archers to shoot arrows over the shield wall where they caused great damage and killed Harold.
- **Luck:** If the weather had not prevented William from sailing in September Harold's army would have been waiting for him and he would have been defeated. During the battle Harold was hit by an arrow in the eye - if he had survived his army might have held out until night when he could have got reinforcements.

William then marched his army around London killing people and destroying villages until London surrendered. On Christmas Day 1066 William was crowned King of England in Westminster Abbey.

How did William control England?

When William became king he had only a small number of Normans to control a large number of Saxons. He used several methods to do this:

- **The Feudal System:** William gave large amounts of land to his barons, in return for which they had to fight for him. The barons gave out land to the knights, who had to fight for them. The knights gave out land to the peasants, who had to farm for them. This system meant that William always had an army available if needed, and ensured that everyone was kept under control.
- **Domesday Book:** In 1069 William began a survey of every town and village in the country to find out how much people owned. He could then use this information to collect taxes which made him rich and powerful.
- **Sheriffs:** William appointed sheriffs to ensure that taxes were collected and laws enforced. They punished people who disobeyed and helped William control the country.
- **Castles:** William built castles throughout the country which protected his men and gave them a base from which they could control the surrounding area.

Religion

In the middle ages religion was very important in people's lives. Life on earth was short but after you died you would spend eternity in heaven or hell - it was very important to people to make sure they went to heaven, and there were several ways to achieve this:

- **The priest:** Everyone had to go to church every Sunday and confess their sins to the priest. He would then forgive them in return for a penance (punishment). He also administered the last rites before death. If you were a good member of the congregation you would go to heaven.
- **Pilgrimages:** People undertook long, difficult journeys to the shrines of saints in England or abroad in order to show how sorry they were for their sins. This would help people obtain forgiveness and to get to heaven.
- **Buying your way to heaven:** People believed that after death you went to Purgatory where you were punished until you had paid for your sins, and then you went to heaven. You could shorten the time you spent in Purgatory by leaving money to the Church to pay for prayers to be said for you after you died. Rich people could even buy a pardon which got them straight into heaven after they died.
- **Becoming a Monk or a Nun:** Monks and nuns devoted their lives to god - they took vows not to marry, to have no possessions and to obey the rules of the monastery. They attended several church services each day and worked on the land. Monasteries often provided education and charity to the local community.

Life in a Monastery

In 1300 there were 12,000 monks in England. They lived hard lives and had to follow the rules of the monastery. They had to wear a habit (rough wool robe) and remove the hair from the crown of their heads, known as a tonsure. Children as young as 7 could train to become monks, and were known as novices. Daily life followed a strict routine:

2 am	Prayers
6am	Prayers
7am	Breakfast
8am	Prayers
9 am	Work
11 am	Prayers
12pm	Lunch
1pm	Prayers
2pm	Work
6pm	Prayers
7pm	Dinner
9pm	Bed

Work in the monastery could include copying out manuscripts, tending the crops or animals, or helping to look after the sick.

Thomas Becket

Henry II became king in 1154 after a period of civil war and was determined to control the country firmly. Thomas Becket was his close friend and Chancellor (chief minister). In 1162 Henry appointed Becket Archbishop of Canterbury because he thought he would help him control the church. However, Becket became very religious and instead defended the church against him. Henry wanted to get rid of the Church courts which were outside of his control and which he thought didn't punish people harshly enough. Becket refused. Henry was furious and Becket fled to France. In 1172 he returned to England but continued to argue with Henry. Henry flew into a rage shouting 'Will no one rid me of this turbulent priest?'. Four knights rode to Canterbury and killed Becket in the Cathedral. Henry regretted what he had done and did penance by being whipped by the monks of Canterbury. Becket was made a saint in 1173, and many pilgrims visited his tomb.

The Crusades

The holy land, where Jesus had lived and died, was very important to Christians. Although it was controlled by the Muslims Christians were still able to visit. However, in the 11th century the Turks captured it and they prevented Christian pilgrims from visiting it. In 1095 Pope Urban II called on Christians to go to the holy land and win control of Jerusalem back from the Turks. People went on crusade for many reasons:

- **Religious belief** - some people were very religious and wanted to help win back the holy land for the Christians. Also, the Pope promised that all those who died on Crusade would go straight to heaven.
- **Greed** - some people went on crusade hoping to plunder the cities they captured and make lots of money.
- **Adventure** - some people went on crusade because their lives were boring and they wanted to experience an adventure.

The First Crusade - the first crusade set off in 1097. The crusaders sewed crosses on their clothes to show that they were fighting for God. In 1099 they captured Jerusalem from the Turks and established the Christian Kingdom of Jerusalem. Castles were built to defend the new kingdom, and the Knights Templar set up to protect pilgrims.

The Third Crusade - In the 12th century the Turks recaptured Jerusalem and a new crusade set off in 1189, led by Richard I (the Lionheart) and Philip of France. Although they won many battles and captured some cities they did not succeed in capturing Jerusalem. However, Saladin (the Turkish leader) promised to allow pilgrims to visit the holy land without coming to any harm.

King John

John became king in 1199 after the death of Richard the Lionheart. John has had a bad reputation for many reasons:

- When Richard died England accepted John as king, but his lands in France instead chose his 12 year old nephew Arthur to rule. John fought for his lands in France and captured Arthur in 1202. He put him in prison and he was never seen again. Many people believed he murdered him.
- John fought several wars against King Philip of France but was often unsuccessful and even lost Normandy to the French king - he was nicknamed 'softsword' because of it.
- In 1205 John quarrelled with the Pope over who should be Archbishop of Canterbury. The Pope closed all the churches in England for 8 years during which time no one could be baptised, married, or buried in holy ground. This made people very angry and eventually John was forced to give in.
- John treated the barons badly imposing large fines, and making them pay heavy taxes to inherit their land. In 1215 they rebelled against him John was forced to sign Magna Carta, the Great Charter, which stated that no free man should be imprisoned without trial and that the king should not interfere with the Church. Magna Carta was important because it established the idea that kings cannot just do what they want and that people have rights which the king must respect.

Despite all these problems John did many good things:

- He wanted to make sure justice was fair and often sat in court trying cases. He travelled round the country and worked hard at ruling the country well.
- On feast days he paid to feed paupers who had nothing to eat - in 1209 100 were fed in Newcastle.
- John was interested in learning and carried a library of books with him everywhere.
- John built up the navy, strengthened Portsmouth's defences and established a new port at Liverpool.
- John has a reputation as a poor king, but many of his problems were due to the situation he inherited from Richard the Lionheart, who had spend fortunes fighting the Crusades, and meant John had to charge heavy taxes to make up for it.

The Medieval Village

Most people in the Middle Ages were peasants and lived in villages. There were two main types of peasant:

- **Freemen:** they were independent farmers who either worked for the lord for wages, or owned a small amount of land themselves. However, they had to use the lord's mill to grind their corn and the lord's baker to bake their bread, and pay them for doing it.
- **Villeins:** they were not free. They had to work on the lord's land a certain number of days a week in return for a small amount of land to farm themselves. They had to use the lord's mill and baker, and they also had to have the permission of the lord to leave the village or to marry.

The land was divided into three fields, and each peasant farmed some land in each field - this was to ensure a fair distribution of the most fertile land. As well as growing crops peasants could graze animals on the common land, and collect nuts or berries from the woods. Apart from the peasants' houses the main buildings in the village were the Lord of the Manor's house, the Church and the Mill. The peasant's life was dominated by the farming year:

- Winter - little work on the land, people did domestic tasks (house repairs etc)
- Spring - fields were ploughed and crops sown
- Summer - fields weeded, sheep sheared.
- Autumn - harvest time - weeks of back-breaking work collecting and storing the harvest.

In the Middle Ages people ate what they grew, and if the crops didn't grow people starved. Once the harvest was safely stored in the barn the people would celebrate the harvest festival in church.

The Medieval Town

In the Middle Ages villeins were virtually slaves and many wanted to be free. Some decided to run away to a town, where, if they lived for a year and a day without being captured, they would become free. There were many opportunities to have a good life in a town:

- Work as a servant or labourer was often available. If you became an apprentice you were trained in a craft (blacksmith, cobbler etc) for 7 years, and once you were qualified you could earn a very good wage.
- Craftsmen belonged to guilds which regulated their trade, but which also looked after their members if they were sick. The guilds also provided entertainment on feast days.
- There was more entertainment available in towns - ale-houses, food sellers, plays and dancing bears. There were also lots of different people to meet.

However, there were also drawbacks to town life:

- Accommodation was often very poor - if you were a servant or apprentice you would only live in a room in your master's house.
- Houses were wooden and close together so often burned down in fires.
- Towns had lots of people living close together. There were no sewers and waste was thrown out into the streets. Diseases spread very easily.

Justice

In the Middle Ages the manorial court, presided over by the lord of the manor, heard most cases that people were involved in. It made sure that the peasants did the work for the lord they were supposed to, and it sorted out disputes between them. A jury of 12 villagers would collect evidence and decide upon punishments for the guilty. There was no police force so if a crime was discovered the 'hue and cry' could be called when everyone in the village had to hunt for the criminal.

Serious crimes were dealt with by the King's courts. If a jury could not decide on a verdict then the accused may be forced to undergo a trial in which God would reveal his guilt or innocence. There were several types of trial:

- **Trial by hot iron** - the accused had to carry a piece of red-hot iron three metres. Their hand was bandaged and examined after three days. If the burns were healing they were innocent, but if they were festering they were guilty.
- **Trial by water** - The accused was tied up and thrown into a river. If they floated they were being held up by evil spirits and were guilty. If they sank they were innocent (but often drowned!).
- **Trial by battle** - The accused and accuser would fight and the loser was guilty and would be punished.

Castles

The Normans built castles to help them control England. The earliest type were called motte and bailey castles. They were built out of wood. Their location was decided by a variety of factors:

- Some castles were built next to a crossroads or important river crossing to enable them to control where people could travel.
- Some castles were built next to or in major towns to control the population.
- Some castles were built to take advantage of natural features which could help protect them, for example hills, rivers or cliffs.
- Castles had to be built near a convenient source of wood or stone as it was too difficult to transport over long distances.

Over time the wooden motte and bailey castles were replaced with stone buildings, and the design of castles changed as new methods of attacking them were developed. It was recognised that the gate was the weakest point and this was reinforced with a barbican, which provided extra defence by using portcullises and murder-holes. Square towers could be collapsed by attackers digging tunnels under them - they were replaced by round towers which had no corners to undermine. The crusaders saw different types of castles in the holy land and introduced concentric castles to England - these had an inner set of walls protected by an outer ring. In the 14th century cannon began to be used and castle walls became lower to offer less of a target.

Revision Test

- 1. Who were the three claimants to the throne in 1066?**
- 2. Give two strengths of each person's claim.**
- 3. Give one weakness of each person's claim.**
- 4. What happened at the Battle of Stamford Bridge?**
- 5. Explain three reasons why William won the Battle of Hastings.**
- 6. When and where was William crowned King of England?**
- 7. Explain three ways William controlled England.**

8. Why was religion so important in the middle ages?
9. Explain four ways you could get to heaven.
10. Describe the daily life of a monk.
11. Why did Henry II argue with Tomas Becket?
12. What events led to Becket's death?
13. Why was the holy land important to Christians?
14. Which Pope called for the first crusade, in which year?
15. Explain three reasons why people went on crusade.
16. What happened in the First Crusade?

17. What happened in the Third Crusade?
18. Explain three reasons why John has a bad reputation.
19. Explain three ways John was a good king.
20. What were villeins?
21. What were freemen?
22. Describe the peasants' year.
23. Explain three benefits of town life.
24. Explain three drawbacks of town life.
25. Explain how justice was administered in the village.
26. Explain the three methods of trial used for serious crimes.
27. Explain three factors which determined the location of castles.
28. Explain how and why castles developed over time.