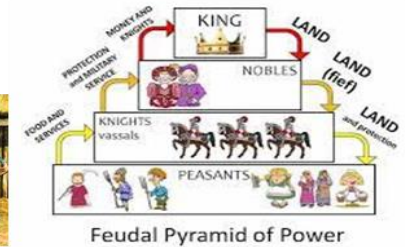


## How did England change under Norman rule? – Knowledge Organiser

### 1. How controlling was the Feudal System?

- The Feudal system developed as a way of ensuring that kings had troops without having to pay for them. William granted land to his tenants in chief for their loyalty, but they had to provide troops. The tenants-in chief granted land to followers in order to reward them for their loyalty, but also had to provide service obligations (e.g. Knight service – 40 days). The King had ultimate power. The tenants-in –chief answered to the King. The under tenants were less powerful and answered to tenants-in-chief and also swore to be loyal to the King. The peasants farmed and had little power.
- William’s idea of feudalism made things simple – it was a new system, it had not been brought over from Normandy. In Norman England, when a landholder died, their heir had to prove his or her loyalty to the king before they were allowed to reclaim it, as well as paying the king for the right to use the land (relief). The relief system encouraged loyalty to the king. Reliefs were a key part of William’s strategy for reducing the power of potential challengers for the throne.
- Homage** – tenants-in-chief placed hands on the Bible and promised to remain faithful to the King for the rest of their life.
- Labour Service** – working the lord’s lands in return for the use of land. Peasants could farm the land for their own benefit.
- Forfeiture** – if a land user did not provide the service required of them, they could forfeit their land or have to pay a fine.



### 2. Did William improve or destroy the English Church?

**Social roles of the Church:** The Church was a major landowner and managed many estates. The Church also collected taxes to pay the King. It was able to interpret laws and Bishops and abbots could act as judges in shire courts. Church leaders owed William Knight service – it was responsible for providing land for knights and ensuring they were available to serve the King. Bishops were also the heads of Cathedrals, with each cathedral having control of churches in an area (diocese).

- The Church was closely connected to Norman government. Bishops and abbots were valued advisers to the King. Church clerks issues the King’s writs and kept charge of the royal seal. Archbishops could also act as the King’s representative in negotiations.
- After the rebellions of 1068-170 William appointed Church leaders. In 1070 Stigand, the Archbishop of Canterbury was replaced by Lanfranc.

**Lanfranc’s reforms:** Lanfranc was heavily involved in religious reform to separate the Church from money, gaining power etc. He wanted those that worked for the Church to lead a spiritual life and serve God. He banned marriage for the clergy and made celibacy compulsory. He also made sure that court cases that involved the clergy were tried in church courts. Anglo-Saxon cathedrals were knocked down and rebuilt. Archdeacons became more common. Lanfranc also oversaw a revival in monasteries in England and promoted spiritual dedication, study and prayer as well as rooting out corruption of the Church.

- With 50 years of 1066 every English church, cathedral and most abbeys had been demolished and rebuilt by Normans. Normanisation meant that the church was used to strengthen Norman control. Norman bishops and archdeacons influenced the messages people received about the King. It was a major landowner, which stopped possible Anglo-Saxon rebellions.
- The Normanised church also enhanced the king’s power as new bishops did homage to the king. The King was also in charge of appointing a successor when a bishop died. William also controlled communication between Church leaders and the Pope in Rome.



### 3. How far did England change under the Normans?

Continuity	Change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lives were still dominated by agriculture and surviving disasters and bad harvests.</li> <li>The royal household were the king’s personal servants and bodyguard as well as personal advisers.</li> <li>William continued to impose heavy geld taxes and levied it more frequently than before. He used this wealth for Normandy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Castle-building and re-building of churches and cathedrals in stone – they symbolised the power of the Normans</li> <li>Scandinavian trade was broken off – this had an economic impact. Trade with Normandy increased and big English cities, apart from York grew rapidly under the Normans.</li> <li>Tenants-in-chief had same role as Earls but the King had stronger control over tenants-in-chief.</li> <li>Many thegns had been replaced by Knights as they were involved in resistance to the Normans. Tenants-in-chief had control over the Knights if they did not fulfil their obligations (knight service)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gaining control over England’s economy reduce the chance of resistance to Norman control. The Normans did at the same time adopt lots of English ways of doing things as it was regarded as rich and sophisticated.</li> </ul>	

### 4. How did Norman aristocrats show off their wealth?

- They showed off their wealth through buildings. Within 50 years of 1066, every church and most abbeys had been rebuilt – Norman aristocrats were interested in making them bigger (Winchester Cathedral, White Tower, Westminster Great Hall).
- Norman aristocrats shaved the backs of their heads. They also introduced a ceremonial way of butchering the animals they caught. They also brought with them the idea of chivalry.
- They prayed, did penance and gave money to the Church to avoid eternal damnation
- They also brought with them the culture of a single heir inheriting an estate, keeping it all together to preserve family lands.
- Many could speak both French and English
- They often went hunting and admired their kills – showing them off publicly

## How did William centralise the power of the monarch?– Knowledge Organiser

### 1. How much did William centralise government?

- Norman government used the hide (and the wapentake) for working out tax obligations and kept the shire and the hundred. William also maintained the Witan, or a royal council that worked in similar ways. The Norman economy used the Anglo-Saxon system of silver pennies and the royal treasury remained at Winchester, although William kept a tight control.
- William reduced the power and number of Earls. He made Earldoms smaller and more compact. Earls were tenants-in-chief and subject to the same requirements as Williams barons.
- William only used his most trusted followers as his regents (e.g. Lanfranc, or his wife Matilda)

### Ways in which William centralised Norman England:

- **Fiefs and Homage**– he used grants and forfeits to ensure his supporters remained loyal
- **Royal Demesne**(lands that were held by the crown at the time of the Domesday Book) and forest – to bring in an income and for personal hunting.
- **Feudal system**– everyone who used land depended on the King
- **Knight Service**– tenants-in-chief had bands of troops, but these troops owed loyalty to the King
- **The Domesday Book**– a complete guide to what his tenants-in-chief were worth and so what they could be expected to pay the king
- **Economy**– Geld tax was paid to the King. The King also used reliefs to gain more revenue and ensure loyalty from his tenants-in-chief
- **The Church**– the King owned all Church land too and had the right to appoint bishops. Lanfranc’s reforms centralised power in the Church.



### 2. How much did William centralise law enforcement?

- In Edward the Confessor’s reign, the shire reeve, or sheriff had two main roles – they were the King’s representative – they collected revenue owed to the King from the shires and towns including the geld tax. They also administered justice and ensured the shire met its military obligations.
- After the Norman conquest, the sheriff’s two roles stayed similar, but William changed the people doing the job – replacing Anglo-Saxons with Normans. William did keep some of Edward the Confessor’s sheriffs at first, but replaced them all by 1071.
- Some Anglo-Saxon sheriffs had joined the rebellions against Norman rule, so replacing them with loyal followers was a priority for William in maintaining control.
- Norman sheriffs answered to nobody but the king. The King required them to keep close control of their shires and those who failed had to forfeit their role.
- The Normans kept the same legal system, but added new laws to punish rebellion against Norman control. Norman sheriffs lost some responsibilities when Church courts started to judge religious cases and when the feudal system led to manorial and baronial courts taking over legal issues.
- Sheriffs kept their role of organising the defence of the shire and gathering the fyrd, but this now ran alongside Knight service, which the sheriff was not responsible for. The sheriff’s main military role was usually as custodian of the King’s castles in the shire.
- Sheriffs were entitled to a share of the revenues they collected. They also kept some of the money paid in fines and some of the geld tax. Sheriffs also paid a set sum to collect revenues, but could keep any profits. They were also at the forefront of land grabs
- Forest Laws were introduced, protecting animals for the king to hunt. It was an offence to carry hunting weapons in the forest. It became difficult for those that depended on the forest for timber and food. There were harsh punishments for those in the King’s forest. Foresters patrolled the land. With time, the forest became a source of income for the crown.

### 3. Why was the Domesday Book significant?

- William ordered a survey of England in 1085. Men investigated the landholdings of each shire: who held what land, what taxes they owed the King and whether they could pay more. It was mostly completed by August 1086 and was called the Domesday Book.
- It was significant to Norman government for financial, legal and military reasons. No other European country had such a detailed survey of landholding. The Domesday Book provided a highly detailed survey of almost the whole of Norman England.

**Financial significance**– tenants-in-chief did not pay geld tax on some of their land. It is possible that William had a plan to reverse some of these privileges as way of extracting more money. The Domesday book was an ideal guide for working out what financial opportunities were whenever a tenant-in-chief died or forfeited their fief.

**Legal significance**– the book included many cases of Anglo-Saxons claiming that land of theirs had been taken from them. Surveys were made as fairly as possible, with everyone in each hundred having a say who really owned what. The Domesday Book therefore had a role in sorting out legal disputes over land.

**Military significance**- the council that William held about the Domesday Book was primarily called to discuss ways to counter a new Viking invasion threat in 1085. Although problems in Denmark meant the invasion never happened, William took the threat seriously, bringing thousands of soldiers in from Normandy. Although the Domesday Book did not record Knight Service, it may have been connected to this preparation, seeing how many extra soldiers each tenant-in-chief could provide.

