

Key Dates:

- 954—England unified under one King**
- 1066—Battle of Hastings**
- 1072—The Forrest Laws are introduced**
- 1086—The Domesday book is completed**
- 1194—Coroners introduced**
- 1215—Trial by Ordeal ends**
- 1348—Black Death reaches England**

Key Skills:

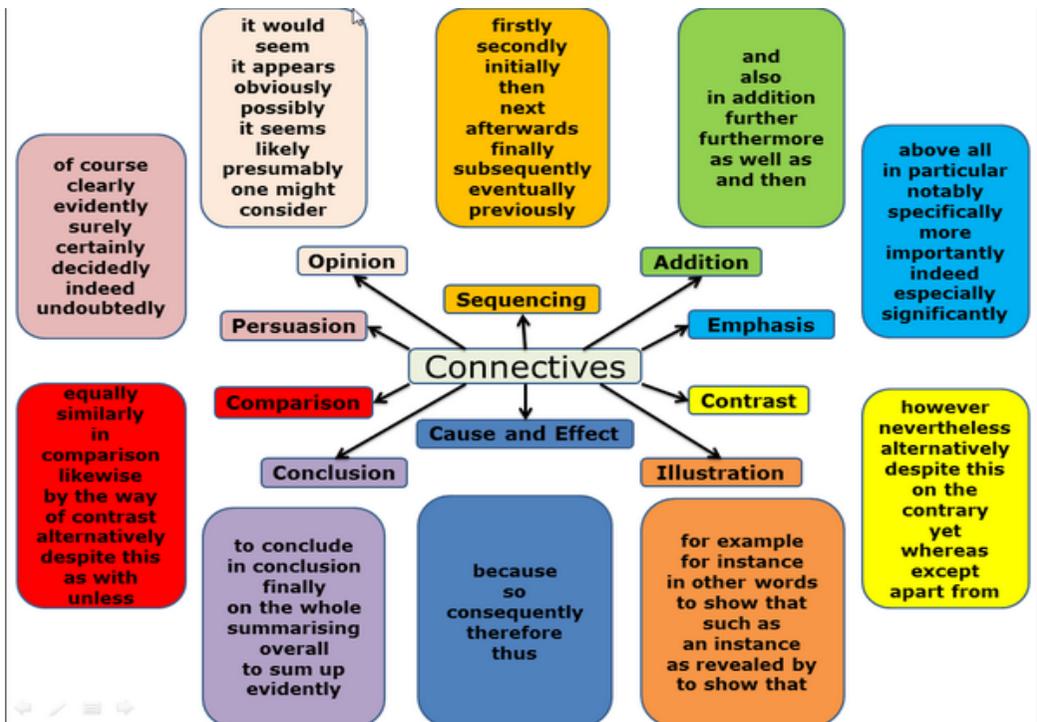
- AO1—Knowledge & Understanding
- AO2—Second order concepts
- Assessment—Paper 1—Section B**
- Q3—Explain one way... (AO1, AO2), 4 marks.
- Q4—Explain why (AO1, AO2), 12 marks.
- AQ5/6—How far do you agree? (AO1, AO2), 16 marks plus 4 SPaG.

By the end of this Half Term I should know:

- What types of crimes were committed during the day Saxon and Norman times.
- How law and order worked under the Anglo-Saxons as a starting point for our course.
- How the Normans changed law and order.
- Why the Normans changed Crime and Punishment in England after the Saxons.

Key Terms

- Blood feud** — a cycle of retaliatory killings between families.
- Feudal System** —A way of organising the running of the country based on land and titles with the King at the top and peasants at the bottom.
- Hue & Cry** — When a call for help is made all bystanders have to assist in catching the criminal or they could themselves be punished.
- Murdrum Law**—A whole village would be held responsible if a Norman was found dead in their village even after they caught the killer.
- Tithings**—Groups of up to 10 males (over 12) who were responsible for each others behaviour.
- Wergild**—A fine paid to a family for causing death or injury.





Y10—History Knowledge Organiser— Crime and Punishment—Anglo Saxons & Normans.



Anglo-Saxon Crimes

Crime can be split into 3 categories. Crimes against people (murder), crimes against property (arson) and crimes against authority (rebellion). For something to be a crime it has to be against the law, so the definition of crimes change as the law changes. Murder is one of the oldest crimes and has always been viewed as a serious crime. Other Anglo-Saxon crimes include theft and moral crimes such as having sex outside of marriage. Towns were growing through trade and coined money but most people still lived in small villages.

Anglo-Saxon Law Enforcement

The Anglo-Saxons relied on collective responsibility within communities. Villages were divided into hundreds and ten into Tithings. It was deemed that the victim would seek justice themselves with the help of the community. There was no police force. If a hue and cry was raised then the whole community had to help to catch the criminal. The Church was key in deciding guilt and many people would take oaths to protest their innocence. Trial by Ordeal was also used in which God would decide whether the person was guilty or not.

Anglo-Saxon Punishments

At the start of the Anglo-Saxon period Blood Feuds were used to settle disputes. If a member of your family was killed you could kill a member of the perpetrators family in return. However, this process could be never ending. A system of fines was introduced called Wergilds which would value a person's life based on their status or their injuries based on how it affected their ability to work or to have a family. Corporal punishments involved physical retribution e.g. beatings whereas Capital Punishment is the death penalty.

Norman Crimes

When William the Conqueror came to power in 1066 who started to change how England was run starting with the Feudal system. The King started to take more control over law and order and wanted to ensure people were loyal to him. Punishments were harsher. William brought in the Forest laws which forbade hunting in the King's forests and the Murdrum Law which valued the life of a Norman above the life of anyone else. The Forest laws especially impacted the way many people lived and led to new crimes such as poaching.

Norman Law Enforcement

Much of Law Enforcement remained with the community but later the Government would start to appoint local officials making law enforcement more consistent across the country. Tithings and Hue and Cry still remained from Saxon times. The Normans brought in Trial by Combat where you could fight your accuser to prove your innocence. Coroners were introduced to investigate suspicious deaths and they still exist today. By 1361 Justices of the Peace were eventually appointed by the King to oversee Law & Order in England.

Norman Punishments

The Normans kept a mixture of physical punishments, fines and execution but with some slight changes. Fines were now paid to the King instead of the victim's family and the Murdrum law meant that if a Norman was killed an entire community could be held responsible. A higher number of crimes were punishable by death or mutilation (branding or chopping off a body part) including social crimes such as poaching. This made many of the Norman rules very unpopular as people felt they were too strict. The power lay with the King.