

# Option B1 scheme of work



**Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88**  
GCSE (9-1) History

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Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in History (1HI0)

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# Introduction

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This document provides a sample outline scheme of work for **Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88**.

This is intended as an example approach only and is not prescriptive: it should be adapted by schools to fit their timetabling and staffing arrangements.

The scheme assumes 12 teaching weeks for the British depth study.

The separate **Course planner** document provides a range of examples of delivery options that can be used for planning alongside this document.

The separate **Topic booklet** for Option B1 includes illustrative exemplification of content.

In adapting this scheme of work, teachers might find it useful to consider the following:

- What, and how much, background and contextual material needs to be covered as an introduction and overview before starting the main specification content. This is likely to depend on the school's KS3 programme of study and the extent to which students have already developed some familiarity with this period.
- The focus of the question types in the assessment of the British depth study:
  - Describe two features of...
  - Explain why...
  - '[statement]' How far do you agree? Explain your answer. (Any second-order concept.)

Week	Specification content
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Introduction and overview of Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Norman England, 1060–1088.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Key topic 1.1 Anglo-Saxon society</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monarchy and government. The power of the English monarchy. Earldoms, local government and the legal system.</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The economy and social system. Towns and villages. The influence of the Church.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key topic 1.2 The last years of Edward the Confessor and the succession crisis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The house of Godwin. Harold Godwinson’s succession as Earl of Wessex. The power of the Godwins.</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harold Godwinson’s embassy to Normandy. The rising against Tostig and his exile. The death of Edward the Confessor.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key topic 1.3 The rival claimants for the throne</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The motives and claims of William of Normandy, Harald Hardrada and Edgar.</li> <li>• The Witan and the coronation and reign of Harold Godwinson.</li> <li>• Reasons for, and significance of, the outcome of the battles of Gate Fulford and Stamford Bridge.</li> </ul>
4	<p><b>Key topic 1.4 The Norman invasion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Battle of Hastings.</li> <li>• Reasons for William’s victory, including the leadership skills of Harold and William, Norman and English troops and tactics.</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Key topic 2.1 Establishing control</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The submission of the earls, 1066.</li> <li>• Rewarding followers and establishing control on the borderlands through the use of earls. The Marcher earldoms.</li> <li>• Reasons for the building of castles; their key features and importance.</li> </ul>

Week	Specification content
6	<p><b>Key topic 2.2 The causes and outcomes of Anglo-Saxon resistance, 1068–71</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The revolt of Earls Edwin and Morcar in 1068.</li> <li>• Edgar the Aethling and the rebellions in the North (1069).</li> <li>• Hereward the Wake and rebellion at Ely (1070–71).</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>Key topic 2.3 The legacy of resistance to 1087</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The reasons for and features of Harrying of the North (1069–70). Its immediate and long-term impact, 1069–87.</li> <li>• Changes in landownership from Anglo-Saxon to Norman, 1066–87.</li> <li>• How William I maintained royal power.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key topic 2.4 Revolt of the Earls, 1075</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasons for and features of the revolt.</li> <li>• The defeat of the revolt and its effects.</li> </ul>
8	<p><b>Key topic 3.1 The feudal system and the Church</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The feudal hierarchy. The role and importance of tenants-in-chief and knights. The nature of feudalism (landholding, homage, knight service, labour service); forfeiture.</li> <li>• The Church in England: its role in society and relationship to government, including the roles of Stigand and Lanfranc. The Normanisation and reform of the Church in the reign of William I.</li> </ul>
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent of change to Anglo-Saxon society and economy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key topic 3.2 Norman government</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes to government after the Conquest. Centralised power and the limited use of earls under William I. The role of regents.</li> <li>• The office of sheriff and the demesne. Introduction and significance of the 'forest'.</li> </ul>

Week	Specification content
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domesday Book and its significance for Norman government and finance.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key topic 3.3 The Norman aristocracy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The culture and language of the Norman aristocracy.</li> </ul>
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The career and significance of Bishop Odo.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key topic 3.4 William I and his sons</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Character and personality of William I and his relations with Robert. Robert and revolt in Normandy (1077–80).</li> <li>• William’s death and the disputed succession. William Rufus and the defeat of Robert and Odo.</li> </ul>
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Review and assessment of Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88.</i></li> </ul>