



History

Revision guide

In History, we aim to inspire within all students a love of historical learning. At GCSE level, we follow the Edexcel exam board, where we study the topics Weimar Germany, Early Elizabethan England, Medicine through time (Crime and Punishment for the 2018 examination) and the American West.

You are able to purchase revision guides for a discounted price of 5£ per guide through ParentPay.

You can find the Specification for the GCSE course here:
<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.html>

This revision booklet focuses upon the Crime and Punishment module. It includes the necessary subject knowledge needed for the exam and also a range of possible examination questions.

Make your own revision cards for each topic, test yourself and then complete an exam question in timed conditions.



Laws and Crimes

Saxon period, c.1000 - 1066.

- Crimes against the person, e.g. assault / murder
- Crimes against property, e.g. theft
- Crimes against authority, e.g. treason
- Moral crimes (links to Church / religion), e.g. drunkenness, adultery, etc.

Normans, 1066 - c.1200, continuity and change.

- William generally retained Edward the Confessor's laws.
Continuity: stressed continuity and that William was Edward's true heir
- Murdrum law - Saxon community collectively responsible for murder of a Norman: catch murderer or face fine.
Change: Normans a tiny minority (7000 among 2m Saxons); deterrent through community pressure; placed responsibility for order on whole community.
- Forest Laws - banned hunting / collection of firewood / grazing of animals in forests; heavy punishments included blinding and execution for repeat offence.
Change: to protect William's hunting which he loved. Seen as unfair 'social crime'
- Wergild abolished; replaced by concept of the 'King's Peace'.
Change: crimes were against king so compensation paid direct to the king.

Later Medieval, c.1200 - c.1500, continuity and change.

- Murdrum fine abolished c.1350.
Change: Social/racial differences between Normans and Saxons faded over time
- Heresy Laws introduced from 1382 to deal with challenges to Church beliefs.
Change: increasing challenges to the Church in England (Lollards) and over Europe. Increased focus on treason
- Statute of labourers 1351: Maximum wage introduced for workers and movement to other towns or villages.
Change: After the Black Death epidemic in 1348, peasants could demand higher wages so the ruling classes were worried about losing money.

Policing - community based:

Saxon period, c.1000 - 1066.

- Hue and cry - witnesses/whole village expected to chase suspect; fines if failed to do so: no organised police force
- Tithings - all males over 12 in a group of 10 - responsible for each other's behaviour.



Normans, 1066 - c.1200, continuity

- Very little change after Norman Conquest (1066). Constables voluntarily organised
Continuity: system cheap and reasonably effective.
- Introduction of voluntary constable to organise Hue and Cry.
Change: To organise hue and cry

Later Medieval, c.1200 - c.1500, continuity and change

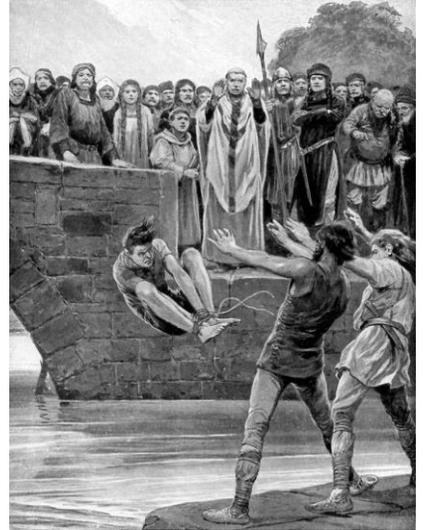
- Sherriff and Posse- take over hunt for criminals when the hue and cry failed
Change: increased power of Shire-Reeve to bring criminals to court and 1190
- Coroners- identify cause of death and report back to Sheriff or JP
Change: Increased use of Trial by Jury meant more evidence was required to secure a just verdict
- 1195 Justice of the Peace- Richard I appoints knights and barons to rule over lawless/rebellious areas
Change: Tighter control on England required whilst on the Crusade and reconquering lands in Europe.
- 1285, Parish Constable introduced (2 constables in every country).
Change: link with county Sheriff for more important crimes / crimes outside village boundaries
- Tithings fade out by the 1400s.
Change: looser feudal ties of peasants after Black Death (1348/50)



Trials - community-based plus religious influence:

Saxon period, c.1000 - 1066.

- Local manor courts for most cases; King's Court in London existed for most serious cases
- Local jury (knew accused); made judgement based on witnesses / evidence and their knowledge of the character of accused / accuser
- Religious influence:
 - accused / accuser / witnesses / jurors took oath to ensure honesty
 - Trial by ordeal (hot / cold water, iron, consecrated bread): where jury could not reach verdict: 'God decides'.



Normans, 1066 - c.1200, continuity and change

- Trials essentially as before including trial by ordeal:
Continuity: court / jury system effective; trial by ordeal due to Normans' deep religious beliefs
- Addition of trial by combat to 'trial by ordeal'. Accuser to fight criminal
Reason for change: linked to traditional warlike Norman customs



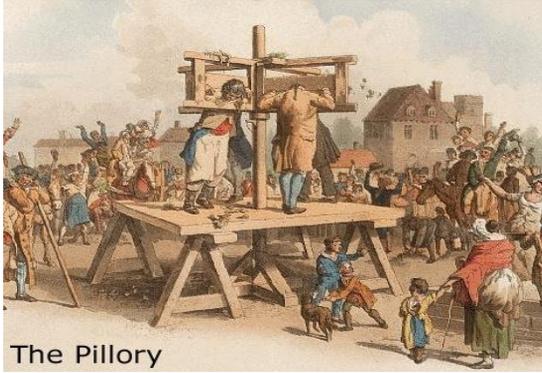
Later Medieval, c.1200 - c.1500, continuity and change.

- 1166 creation of Assize / Circuit courts where Royal judges tried more serious crimes
Change: Population growth in larger towns and cities leads to more crime
- 1215 abolition by the Pope of Trial by Ordeal
Change: considered irrational by governments across Europe who wanted more authority
- 1361, Justices of the Peace Act - centrally appointed local judges (magistrates) to serve justice on behalf of the King.
Change: Kings needed to concentrate on Crusades and re-conquering Europe

Punishments

Saxon period, c.1000 - 1066.

- *Early-Saxon Blood Feud* - where victim's family took revenge - replaced by following punishments
- Wergild - paid to victim's family; amount varied according to importance of victim; types and extent of damage done = compensation
- Corporal punishment - stocks, pillory, whipping, maiming = retribution/deterrent
- Capital punishment - hanging. Used mainly for treason = retribution/deterrent



The Pillory

Wergild 'Blood Price'

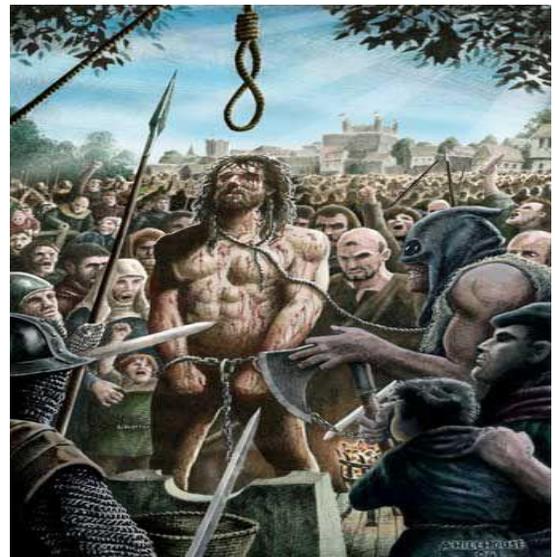
Relatives of a victim could claim compensation called wergild.

If a freeman is killed, 100 shillings wergild to be paid.
300 shillings for a rich nobleman.
Only 20 for a slave.
Ethelbert, King of Kent

The value of wergild depended upon the status of the victim

Normans, 1066 - c.1200, continuity and change.

- Wergild abolished.
Change: fines paid to the king for breach of 'King's Peace'. Raises money for Govt.
- Increase in crimes punishable by death or mutilation (e.g. Forest Laws).
Change: Normans felt they needed to crush possible lawlessness through fear of rebellion = deterrent
- Outlaws no longer protected by the government e.g. Robin Hood
Change- those who do not turn up to court are isolated by society and deters others from refusing to surrender to the authorities.
- Assize of Clarendon 1166- Prisons used for debtors and those awaiting trial
Change: Henry II wanted to reorganise the court system and make it more consistent across England



Later Medieval, c.1200 - c.1500, continuity and change.

- 1305, introduction of 'hung, drawn and quartered' punishment for treason. Body parts displayed in town of offender and major castles/towns across the country.
Change: retribution / deterrent - hideous punishment to stress enormity of crime

Key things to consider

Saxon period, c.1000 - 1066.

Society:

- Agricultural: vast majority lived in small villages. = Massive importance of community in policing, trials and public punishment.
- Growth of towns during Middle Ages reduced effectiveness of community.
- Importance of Church / religion in all areas of life (and death)

Institutions - government

- Saxons - slow growth of royal power.
- Normans, 1066 - . increased harshness of laws and punishments, e.g. brutality (Harrying of the North); Forest Laws; Murdrum Law; castles, etc. Particularly linked to deterrence as Normans a tiny minority of c.7000 among 2m Saxons. Castle built to deter crime and strengthen defensive positions.
- Later Middle Ages: Norman / Saxon divisions faded; development of government institutions seen in courts / coroners, etc.

Institutions - Church / religion

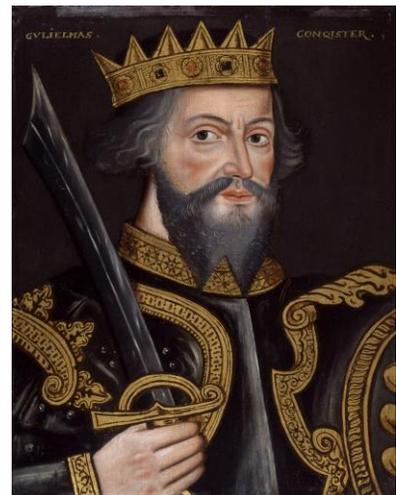
- **Society:** profound belief in God; massive wealth and influence of Church; tension between Church and government (Thomas Becket - Church Courts)
- **Crimes:** Religious influence on moral crimes e.g. drunkenness, adultery, failure to attend church; Heresy - crimes against Church beliefs especially after 1382.
- **Policing:** Sanctuary linked to concept of mercy. Certain holy places left the criminal immune from arrest: had 40 days to decide whether to stand trial or go into exile.
- **Trials:** Oaths to 'prove' honesty of accused / witnesses / jury; Trial by Ordeal - 'God decides' until abolished in 1215; development of 'Church Courts' to try clergy:
 - The so-called 'Benefit of the Clergy' allowed those connected to the Church (or capable of reciting the 'neck verse' to be tried by Church Courts where sentences more lenient and excluded capital punishment.
- **Punishment:** mercy, especially in relation to crimes committed by the clergy.

Individuals

- William the Conqueror - Norman laws, harshness, personal love of hunting.

Attitudes

- Importance of religion for explanations about the world (no science).
- Development of concept of 'social crime' under Normans. Unfair 'crime', e.g. Forest Laws.



Questions to consolidate your knowledge

Try and attempt these without looking at your notes and in timed conditions.

4 marks = 5 minutes

12 marks = 15 minutes

16 marks = 20 minutes

Strengthen your knowledge

- 1) What does 'wergild' mean? Why was it used?
- 2) Describe two ways the community took part in enforcing the law...
- 3) Give an example of how Nobles and Villeins were punished differently under the Saxons
- 4) Why did Normans build castles?
- 5) What legal obligations did peasants have to their Norman lords? Which courts dealt with these matters if these obligations were not met?
- 6) Why were the forest laws seen as social crimes?
- 7) How did the statute of labourers restrict peasants
- 8) What was the job of the Justice of the Peace?
- 9) When were coroners called upon?
- 10) Which King brought in coroners and Justices of the Peace?
- 11) How did church sanctuary work?
- 12) Why was benefit of the clergy easy to claim if you were not a priest?

Challenge Questions

- a) Explain what part did Saxon nobles play in enforcing the law?
- b) Explain what role religion played in trial by ordeal?
- c) Give an example of a Saxon punishment which acts both as a deterrent and retribution...
- d) Name one aspect of law enforcement which did not change? Why did this stay then same?
- e) How was trial by combat different to trial by hot iron?
- f) What was the punishment for high treason and what was it's purpose?
- g) Give three examples of law enforcement that was more centralised during the later Middle Ages
- h) Explain the impact of the Crusades on law and order in England
- i) What was the purpose behind most church administered punishments

Exam questions

3. Explain one difference between Anglo-Saxon and policing in the later Medieval period. (4)

One way in Anglo-Saxon policing was different to policing in the later Medieval period is the role of the village community. In the Anglo-Saxon period, the village was solely responsible for catching criminals using systems such as the Hue and Cry or Tithing. In contrast, by the later Medieval period, collective responsibility (the community looking out for each other) was still important but the government took a larger role in policing. For example sheriffs were appointed by the king to pursue criminals if the Hue and Cry failed. This change took place because Kings such as Richard wanted to concentrate on wars in Europe. rather than enforcing the law in England

Try one of these 4 markers for yourself

- 3a) Explain one difference between policing in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period (4)
- 3b) Explain one similarity between the role of religion in the Saxon period and the Norman period (4)
- 3c) Explain one similarity between the treatment of criminals in the 14th century and 20th century (4)

4. Explain why William I changed law and order after the Norman Conquest. (12 marks)

You may use:

- Forest Laws
- King's peace
- Own Knowledge (remember the 3rd PEE)

Student uses the wording of the question in their first statement

One change that William brought in was the forest laws. He made it so that people could not hunt in the forests or kill deer. He did this so that he could protect the animals and his land. Before William made this change, people could hunt freely food therefore people were either forced to farm or buy food which would have benefitted William in the long term with taxes. More importantly William did this because he wanted to show the people of England that he had full control over their lives by imposing harsh punishments for anyone who broke these laws.

Student uses more causal language to develop their explanation e.g. 'more importantly'

Student uses words like 'because' and 'therefore' to show that they are explaining links

Try one of these 12 markers for yourself- Remember 3x PEE

- 4a) Explain how the church sometimes hindered justice in the period c1000-1500. You may use Trial by Ordeal and Sanctuary (12)
- 4b) Explain the role of the community Saxon law enforcement. You may use Tithings and Juries (12)
- 4c) Explain how Robin Hood is useful evidence about life after the Norman conquest. You may use outlaws and shire reeves (12)

Exam questions- Use the following plans to write conclusions or model answers

5a. The system of law and order became harsher after the Norman conquest. How far do you agree? (16)

You may use

- Public execution
- Benefit of the clergy

The system of law and order WAS harsh	The system of law and order WAS NOT harsh
Death and mutilation replaced the wergild	Benefit of the clergy
People outlawed if they didn't attend court	More use of stocks and fines
More public executions	Trial by ordeal dropped
Harrying of the North	Pregnant women not hanged
Murdrum fines (Normans more valuable)	Rich could buy pardons
	Become king's approvers

5b. Religion played a larger role than government in law enforcement during the period c1000-1500. How far do you agree? (16)

You may use

- Trial by Ordeal
- Hue and Cry

Religion	Government
Trial by Ordeal (inc. combat)	Trial by jury
Sanctuary	Outlaws
Benefit of Clergy (Beckett vs Henry II)	Assize courts, manor courts, royal courts
Church Courts	King's Peace
Oath swearing (tithes)	Hue and Cry

5c. Government law and order saw considerable change after the Norman conquest. How far do you agree? (16 marks)

You may use

- Execution
- Trial by jury

Considerable change	Limited change
William executed rebels and left many innocent people to starve after the Harrying of the North	Rebels were also executed by Anglo-Saxon rulers, just not as frequently
The king gave new Norman nobles land under the feudal system and ensured they were protected	Power was in the hands of the few under the Saxons too e.g. Heads of household
Murdrum fines demonstrate that Normans were more important than Anglo-Saxons	Under the Wergild, damage caused to noblemen or their property incurred larger fines
Constables were brought in to voluntarily lead the Hue and Cry	Heads of the household or local thanes would have led community policing before 1066
Many new courts were introduced to keep law and order e.g. manor courts	The main evidence used in courts would have been witness testimony judged by local juries.

6) The purpose of punishment in the Medieval period was deterrent' How far do you agree? (16 marks)

You may use:

- **Wergild**
- **Execution, capital punishment**
- **Your own knowledge**