

Name: _____

History

Homework Booklet



Year 9

Term 2: Anglo-Saxon England Topic 1

Homework 1	Learn keywords	Due date:	Completed?
Homework 2	Exam Skills	Due date:	Completed?
Homework 3	Prepare for knowledge test	Due date:	Completed?

History Homework Tasks Term 5

Homework 1 - Learn the keywords below for a mini test at the start of next lesson. You could read through the words, write them out, create a match up activity or get someone to test you.

Keyword	Definition
1. Witan	A group of advisors who would help an Anglo-Saxon monarch make decisions. They would also be responsible for choosing the next King (usually the oldest soon of the previous king)
2. Earls	A powerful landowner who would control a part of England called an Earldom. On average there were only 5 or 6 of them in the country.
3. Thegns	A warrior class of lesser land owners. Very similar to a medieval knight, but fought on foot, rather than a horse.
4. House Godwin	One of the most powerful families in Anglo-Saxon England. Frequently argued with King Edward, who needed their support.
5. Shire Reeve	The old word for Sheriff. Shire Reeves would travel England collecting taxes and settling legal disputes on behalf of the King.
6. Burh	A fortified town designed to keep people safe from Viking raiders. Anyone could seek shelter here and had a similar role to a castle.
7. Shield Wall	A military tactic common in Dark Age/ Early Medieval Europe. Soldiers would link shield together to form a protective barrier.
8. Housecarl	Trained soldiers similar in rank to a Thegn. Would form bodyguards to the rich and powerful. Often used huge two-handed axes.
9. Dane Law	The old North of England that used to be controlled by the Vikings. Once they left, it kept many of the their laws and customs.

Homework 2 — Exam practice question:

Describe two features of an Anglo-Saxon King. (4)

You may include:

- Military Leader
- The ability to raise certain taxes e.g Geld Tax
- Diplomacy and foreign trade.

Try to write 3 PEEL paragraphs.

Homework 3 — Revise and prepare for your end of topic assessment using Seneca and other online resources such as BBC Bitesize.

Use the knowledge organisers and online websites to revise the following topics below are a few ways you could prepare:

Teacher email containing resources for study

What was life like in Anglo-Saxon England?

- Things had taken a big step back after the Romans left. Many cities abandoned, technology and learning far worse than before.
- Life was based around having enough food to survive. Most people were farmers and lived in the countryside.
- Population of England only around 2 million.

Burhs

- Fortified main town of each shire. Strong walls gave shelter in case of attack. 10% of the population lived in Burhs.
- Significant trade through the Burh which was then taxed.

Law and order

- Blood Feud- right to revenge if family member killed.
- Wergild – compensation to avoid blood feud.
- Shire Reeve (sheriff) - helped to run each shire as well as collecting taxes and enforcing the law.

Religion

- Almost everyone would have been Christian. Other religions not tolerated.
- Bishops were rich and important, controlling church districts, also could be members of Witan.

War

- The fyrd = all men in military service. 'General fyrd' that represented anyone who could fight and 'select fyrd', the best warriors.

Danelaw

- North of England had been controlled by Vikings.
- Part of England but, had its own laws and customs.
- Very independent, usually chose its own leaders.
- Had more Cerols + paid less tax.

What was Anglo-Saxon Society like?

- Society was divided up into different classes depending how rich/powerful someone was.

The King

- The King was the most powerful man in the country.

Powers of the King

- Made **laws** for everyone to obey.
- Controlled minting of **money**
- Decided **taxes**
- Chosen by **God** to lead.
- Raise **Army** and fleet
- Grant and take away **land**.
- **Writ** a written order from the King.

The Rise and Fall of House Godwin



The Earls

- Under the king were a small number (around 5 or 6) of Earls. Each one controlled a large area of land (Earldom) based roughly on one of the old Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms.

Earls:

- governed land for King
- Collected taxes and protected Earldom.
- Overseeing law and order – judges
- Military power (could raise their own armies)

Thegns

- Under the Earls were the thegns. They local lords and would run a community, by there were 4-5 thousand in England. Anyone could become a thegn if they owned 5 hides of land (1 hide = 120 acres).

- Thegns had to have weapons and armour and formed a warrior class.

- Royal/kings thegns held their land directly from the king and would help him run the country.

Cerols

- These were free peasants. As the land was owned by nobles, you had to work for them if you wanted the right to farm.

- However, Cerols could choose who they worked for and leave if they didn't like their lord.

- They would also fight for their lord if needed.

Peasant farmers

- Tied to the land, these farmers rented land from a lord to provide food for themselves. Unlike the cerols they couldn't leave.

Slaves

- Around 10% of the population were slaves. They were seen as property to be bought and sold.

The Witan

- Group of noblemen and church leaders that gave the king advice and help running the country.

Housecarls

- Elite warrior bodyguards who protected the king (Royal Housecarls) and important nobles.

- Each had chainmail armour and a helmet. They would fight with spears/shields/swords/javelins.

- Many would carry a huge two handed Dane axe

- 6th of January Harold crowned King (same day as Ed is buried!)



were
1060



-The Romans leave Britain ~400AD

-The Anglo-Saxons arrive in Britain ~450AD



-Edward the Confessor becomes King of England 1042

-Earl Godwin Dies 1053

- His son Harold Godwinson becomes Earl of Wessex

-Godwinson's brother Tostig made Earl of Northumbria 1055

- Godwins control 4 of the 6 earldoms by 1057

1062 Harold Godwinson defeats the Welsh King Gruffudd ap Llywelyn

-Harold goes to Normandy as part of an embassy 1064.

- Supposedly agreed to help make William King.

-Tostig exiled as Earl of Northumbria 1065.

1066 Year of crisis in England

- King Edward dies with no heir. 5th Jan

- Harold crowns himself king. 6th Jan

- Harald Hardrada invades England.

- Wins Battle of Fulford Gate 20th September

- Loses Battle of Stamford bridge to Harold G 25th Sept

- William invades England 28th Sept

- Battle of Hastings (William beats Harold G) 14th October.

Key people

<p>-Godwin made Earl of Wessex in 1018 by King Cnut. -Godwin quickly builds up his family's power. Helps Edward to become king in 1042. Edwards marries his daughter Edith in 1045. -Godwin dies 1053, his son Harold Godwinson becomes Earl of Wessex. Tostig Godwinson – Earl of Northumbria 1055 Gyrth Godwinson – Earl of East Anglia 1057 Leofwine Godwinson Earl of smaller Shires Mercia was the only Earldom not controlled by Godwins. Godwin family now richer and more powerful than the King. Edward reliant on Godwin family for their support to stay in power. Harold's embassy to Normandy 1064 -King Edward sent Harold we are not sure of the message. -Harold was taken prisoner and rescued by William. -Harold fought for William and was given gifts of armour and weapons. -Harold swore an oath but it is unclear to what this was. Why was the embassy important? -Normans claim Harold promised to help William become King. -Anglo-Saxons claim William made him do this before he could leave. -When Harold declares himself King, Normans claim he broke his promise (oath breaker). Tostig is exiled 1065 Harold's brother Tostig is removed as Earl of Northumbria and exiled for misrule. Locals angry about excessive tax + harsh rule. 5th Jan 1066. Edward the Confessor dies without an heir. -Edward the confessor had no children, so Harold claimed that he agreed to make him King instead. Witan goes along with this and...</p>	<p>Rivals for the throne -William Duke of Normandy: Claims Edward and Harold had both promised to make him King. Readies an army to invade England. -Harald Hardrada: Viking king of Norway. Claimed the throne through the old line of Viking Kings of England. Harold's brother Tostig agrees to help him in exchange for getting his earldom back. -Edgar Aethling: Edward the Confessor's nephew. Had royal blood, but only a teenager and no real experience. Battles of 1066 -Hardrada strikes first. Invades England with 300 ships + 15,000 men. Beats the Earls Edwin and Morcar at battle of Fulford Gate (20th sept). -Harold now marches the royal army North. Vikings not expecting another battle so soon. They capture York and make camp, leaving their armour at their ships. Tostig helps them. -Harold surprises the Vikings at battle of Stamford Bridge (25th Sept). Vikings defeated, Hardrada + Tostig killed, but royal army weakened. Hastings -William lands in England with an army 28th September. Attacks local towns, forces Harold to march all the South to fight him. -Each side has between 6-8000 men, with mix of trained and untrained. -Both armies arrive at Hastings. Harold takes up position on Senlac Hill. -Harold's army weakened and tired after long march but, William can't shift them from the hill. Fighting lasts 8 hours, unusual for a medieval battle (both sides evenly matched). -William uses a fake retreat to lure Anglo-Saxons off hill. This breaks up the shield wall and allows William's archers + Knights to do more damage. Harold is hit in the eye by an arrow and killed. Anglo-Saxon army collapses. William wins the battle and can go on to claim the crown of England.</p>	<p>Cnut the Great- Viking king who conquered England. Edward the Confessor-Anglo-Saxon King from 1042 (after the Viking kings ended). Earl Godwin- Made an Earl by Cnut, helped Edward become King. Harold Godwinson- Earl Godwinson's son. Harald Hardrada – Viking King of Norway. William Duke of Normandy. Norman Duke with claim to English crown. Edger Atheling – King Edwards nephew Edwin and Morcar –Brothers, Northern English Earls Tostig Godwinson –Harold's brother. Edith of Wessex – King Edwards's wife + Harold's sister.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Key Words</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Key Words</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Skills</p>
<p>Earldom- A large unit of land ruled by an Earl. England was made up of around 5 or 6. Burh- A large fortified trading town. Shire-Part of an earldom. Still use this term today (Northamptonshire) Hundreds-Area of land. Groups of Hundreds made up a shire Tithings- Group of 10 households. Tithings made up a Hundred. Blood Debt- Right to revenge against someone who killed a family member. Wergild- Compensation payment to end a blood debt. General Fyrd- Anyone who could fight drawn together to make an army. Select Fyrd – The best warriors brought together to make an army. Embassy – Mission to another country to make an agreement /deal Heir- the successor to someone e.g the kings children.</p>	<p>King- Ruled the country, most important person. Earl- Very important noble. Ran an Earldom Thegns- Lesser land owner. Housecarls – Warrior bodyguard for a King or Earl. Ceorl – Free peasant. Could work for whom he liked. Peasant – Rented land from a noble, had to stay and work on it. Slave – 10% of population, traded like property. Witan – Council of advisors who helped the King. Also helped to pick the next king once the current one died. Danelaw- The Viking North of England. Had its own laws and customs but, answered to the King. Shire reeve- Sherriff, kept the law and helped collect taxes.</p>	<p>-Chronology -Inference -Providence -Historiography</p>