

SUBJECT: History

UNIT: Y11 Norman England-Religion & Education



What were the roles of the church in Norman England?

Religion – To ensure that people demonstrated their belief in God.	Economic – The church was a major landowner and collected a tax.	Law – The church heard court cases for crimes on church land.	Politics – Leading members of the church advised the king.	Education – The church produced books and controlled what books were published.	Health – People believed illness was a punishment from God.
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Area	Reform
Bishops	Anglo-Saxon bishops and archbishops were removed and replaced with Normans. By 1080, there was only one Anglo-Saxon bishop left.
Architecture	At first Normans stole treasure of many of the English monasteries and took the Church's land. However, the Normans soon began rebuilding churches and cathedrals in the Romanesque style. The style favours clean lines, with a simple but impressive design.
Organisation	After 1066, the church became better organised. Dioceses were divided into archdeaconries, which were then furthered into deaneries. New cathedrals were built in important towns and cities such as Salisbury.
Legal Issues	1076 – the Council of Winchester ordered that only the church courts could try the clergy. William also adhered to the Papal law and reintroduced a tax on 1p, which every household had to pay the Pope.
Parish Priest	Peasants did not experience changes to their religious experience under the Normans. Local priest were poorly educated and some were married.

Relationship between the Norman kings and the Catholic Church



- 1066 - Although William had enjoyed the support of Pope Alexander II to fight at Hastings in 1066, Pope Alexander ordered King William and his men to do penance for all of the killing and destruction that had happened during the BOH. As a result, King William built Battle Abbey. William used a geld (tax) to extract money from religious houses to do this and was continued by his son.
- Both William I and William II used religious positions to promote or reward people-this led to disagreements.
- Both William I and William II used the church for their own personal gain.
- Normans often stole from English churches.
- When Archbishop Lanfranc died in 1089, William II did not replace him, but instead took money from church property while he managed the area himself.

How did William use monasteries to increase his authority?

By the end of the 11th Century there were 36 Cluniac monasteries in England. Monks were brought from Normandy to run the new abbeys and monasteries. Abbots became tenants and governed large area of land, so they had to provide knights as part of the feudal system so monasteries were under William's influence. What religious order did the monasteries follow? St Benedict
What did the order of St Benedict include? Monks and nuns trained for four years as novices. Then they agreed to live by four vows, and many took an oath of silence.

Education Reform

43AD – The Romans introduced schools in major towns. Latin was the language used.	400AD – As towns decline and schools close down monks take over the teaching role and church schools open in monasteries. The vernacular is used to teach.	600-1000AD – Monks and Nuns continue to teach pupils. Lessons are taught in English.	1066< - Towns increase in size and Norman barons want their children educated. Reforms in monasteries meant that schools moved out of religious buildings into separate buildings or towns. French was spoken but Latin was used for writing. Grammar schools were developed. Students stayed at grammar schools for 4 years. They learnt Latin grammar in detail as well as how to write and speak the language. Successful students moved on to university where all books and lectures were in Latin.
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