Population (approx) 2,000,000

KING
Anglo-Saxon descendant Edward takes the throne in 1042 after 26 years of rule by Danish kings.

EARLS
Chief advisers to Edward own vast areas of land and act as king’s agents. Just five earls control all of England in 1065.

THEGNS
Landowning class who carry out duties for king, such as collecting taxes.

PEASANT CLASSES
Ceorls - Mostly very poor peasant farmers who paid rent while working on thegn land. ‘Free’ in the sense they aren’t anyone’s property.
Thralls (or slaves) - Slavery is widely practiced. Thralls are treated as property by their owners. They can be sold and beaten, even branded.

Anglo-Saxon women have the legal right to own land and property

London
A growing, thriving city of more than 10,000 people, London is probably the country’s biggest trading hub.

Evidence of traders from Germany, France, Normandy and Flanders.

By 1065, England is one of Europe’s wealthiest kingdoms. It boasts trusted coinage. Wool is England’s main industry and export. Trading partners include Scandanavia and mainland Europe.

London
In 1067, William I grants London a charter allowing it to run its own affairs.

Like all English towns, London grows steadily. Guilds are set up from 1130, including weavers, cloth workers and butchers.

KING
William I becomes the first Norman king in December 1066.

TENNANTS-IN-CHIEF
Nearly all Anglo-Saxon lords lose their lands. William I distributes it among a loyal Norman aristocracy. Some English lords fall into poverty.

UNDER-TENNANTS
Landholding vassals and knights owe military service to the king.

PEASANT CLASSES
Freemen - Free peasants who pay rent to lord for their land. Increased taxes cause number to fall significantly from 1066-86 and many become villeins.
Villeins - Work on the lord’s land for no pay. No freedom, eg, cannot leave the village.

Thralls (or slaves) - William I bans the slave trade. By 1087 the number of slaves falls by 25%. By the early 12th century, slavery ceases in England.

Women lose the right to own land and property

Scandanavian influence looms largest. Fortified towns (‘burhs’) are established as a form of defence against Danish invaders.

INFO BANK: CONQUEST CONTEXT

foreign relations

Anglo-Saxon women have the legal right to own land and property

INFO BANK: CONQUEST CONTEXT

foreign relations

Norman rule strengthens economic and cultural ties with mainland Europe. It provides security from further invasion.

More than 100,000 lose their lives as a result of the Norman conquest, and particularly due to William I’s ‘Harrying of the North’ in 1069 (see source G on reverse).