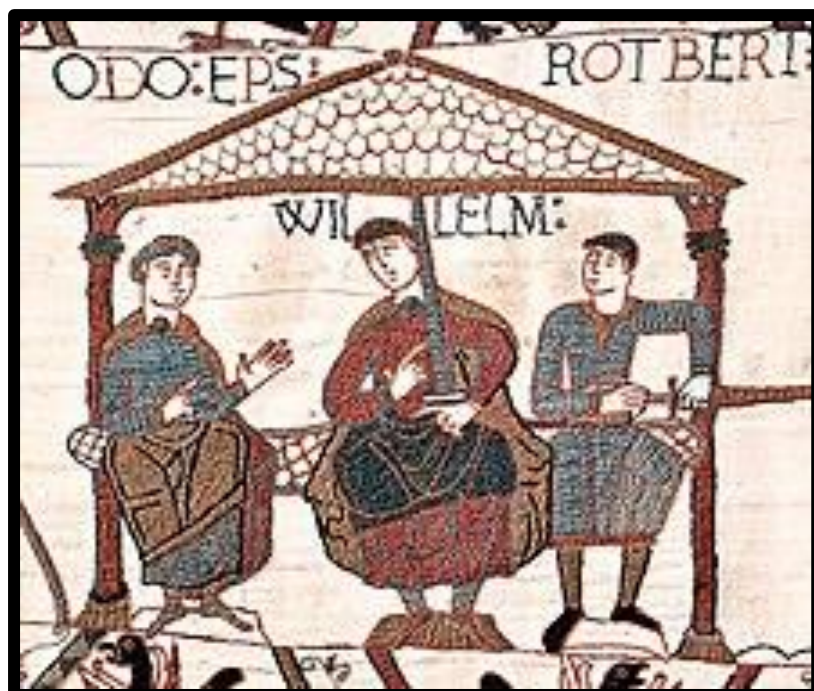


GCSE Independent Study Guide Historic Environment

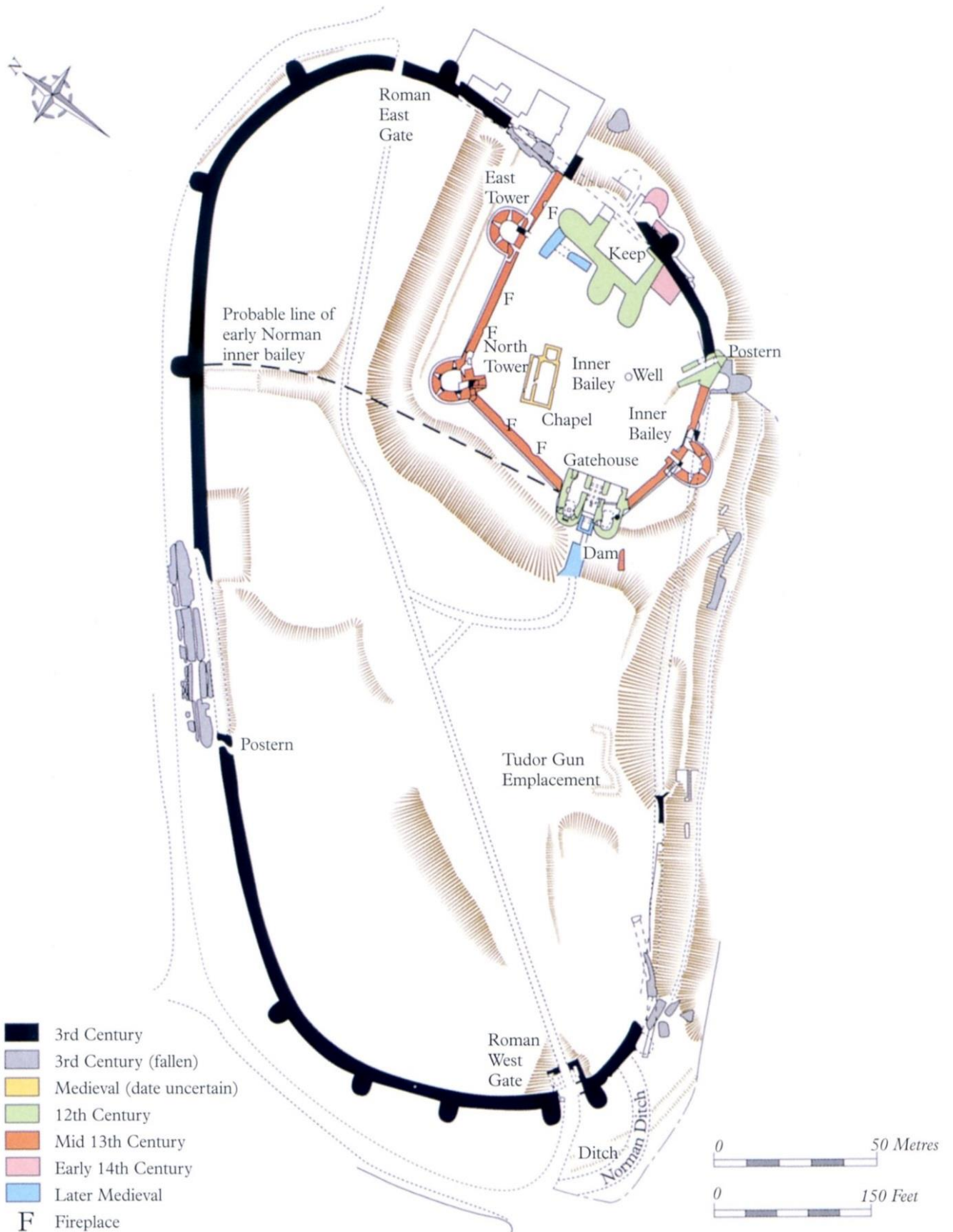
Pevensey Castle

Name:

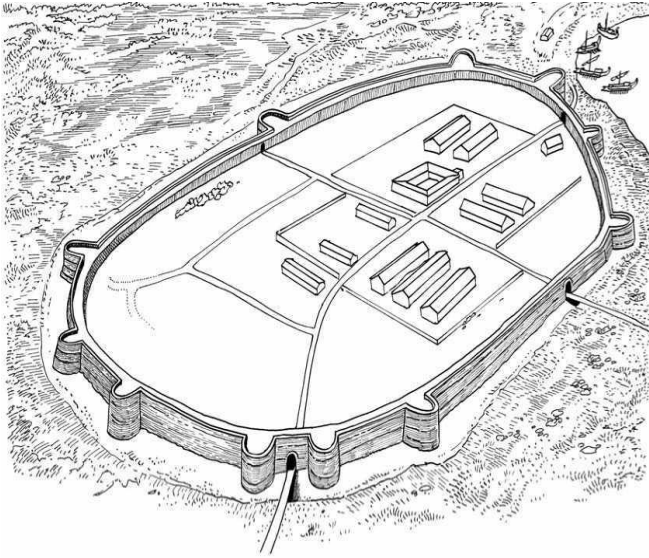
History Teacher:



A plan of Pevensey Castle.

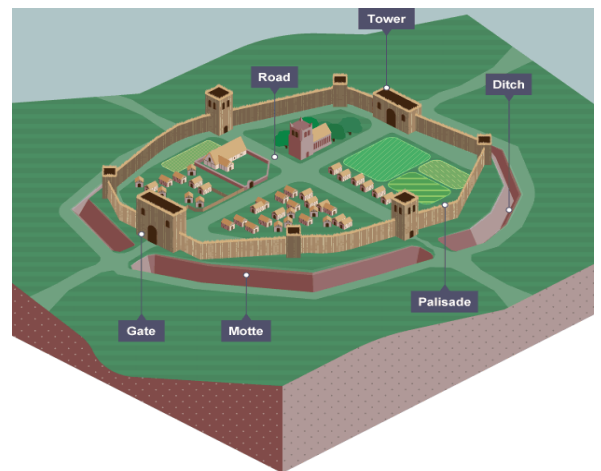


How did Pevensey Castle develop over time?



A part of the Saxon shore forts, Pevensey, then named Anderida, was egg-shaped in plan and quite untypical of Roman fortification, in which the rectangle was the usual pattern. The fort was built in 290 AD and the site was well-chosen, approachable by land only from the southwest. There was an east gate, which led to the harbour where a squadron of galleys or other scouting boats was stationed. The enclosed area is about 8 acres with walls 25 feet high and 12 feet thick; the rubble core was faced with green sandstone and iron-stone. Anderida was probably connected with its neighbouring Saxon forts by a series of signal towers. The interior of the Roman fort was filled with rows of barracks, a supply store, and administrative buildings, all presumably of timber construction since no trace of stone foundations has been found.

When the Romans left the native Britons moved in! The Anglo-Saxon kingdoms faced a major threat from Viking invasions and as a result many towns were fortified against attack. These fortified towns, known as burhs, were not very sophisticated but they were effective. Inside the walls the burhs were not very different to any other town except for the large gates on either end of the town that controlled who came in and out. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records that in AD 491 the fort was besieged and its population slaughtered by Saxon raiders. The site was abandoned until the Summer of 1066 when the forces of Harold II camped within the old Roman walls whilst they waited for the arrival of Duke William of Normandy.



After landing, William immediately built a temporary fortification, almost certainly within the walls of the Roman fort, to shelter his troops. He used prefabricated parts which had been prepared in Normandy. He cut a ditch across the peninsula to isolate the ruins from the mainland and repaired the walls to create a castle.

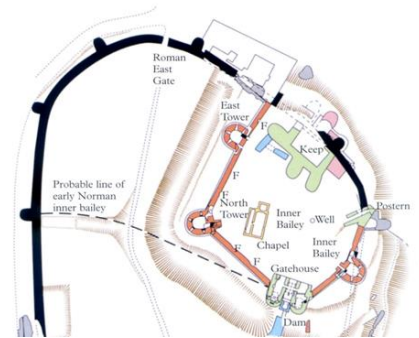
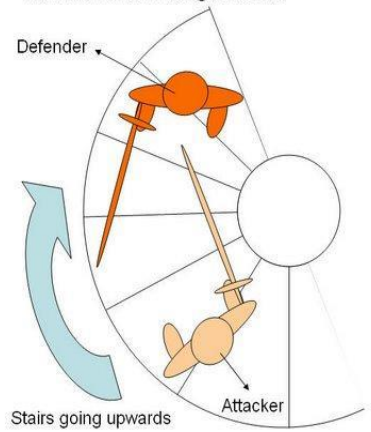
When William left England in 1067 to make a triumphal tour of Normandy, he chose to sail from Pevensey. He seems to have made a show while at Pevensey of distributing lands to his victorious followers, before a collected body of defeated Anglo-Saxon nobles. It was probably on this occasion that he gave the castle with its hinterland, known as the 'Rape' of Pevensey, to his half-brother Robert, Count of Mortain (d.1095).

Robert created the first permanent defences, refortifying the Roman perimeter wall and creating two enclosures (or baileys) within it, divided by a ditch and a timber palisade. Robert also founded a small borough outside the Roman walls which was recorded as having 110 burgesses and a mint by the time the Domesday Book was compiled in 1086.

In around 1100 Robert built a stone keep and bailey fortress in one corner of the Roman fort and repaired the walls where necessary. The exact height of the keep is unknown but it may have stood to a height of about 25 metres. Like most Norman keeps, the entrance was situated on the first floor.

William the Conqueror's chief stone castle architect and builder was called Robert, Lord of Belleme. The castles are all built from a roughly uniform plan. Each of the main faces of the castle has a flat buttress running up the centre of the wall for extra strength. The only parts that have decoration are usually the main doorway at the entrance and the chapel. At the centre of the keep are large halls. Access to different levels and sections of the castle are by passages and spiral staircases built into the thick walls. The stair cases were built with defence in mind, being steep, narrow and in a clockwise direction. Clockwise stairwells were used because they allowed defenders a greater range of movement if they wielded their swords with their right hands. Some steps would vary in size. While the castle's inhabitants would be familiar with the smaller and larger steps, invaders could easily lose their footing and slip during battle if they misjudged a step.

Plan View of a winding staircase



As time went by, the Normans began to include more defensive features to the castle, including three guard towers which were added to the keep. A postern gate was added to the southern side of the castle. Arrow loops and murder holes were also developed as part of the castle's design.

KEY

EUS Pevensey

HCT

- Castle
- Church/churchyard
- Inland water
- Irregular historic plots
- Lane/road
- Market place
- Quay/wharf
- Regular burgage plots



The Siege of Pevensey Castle

Read through the account of the siege and complete the tasks on the following page.

After the death of William the Conqueror in 1087, there was a problem about who would succeed him. Despite a preference for his second son, William Rufus, William I divided his enormous empire between the elder two of his three sons. He gave the throne of England to William Rufus, who became William II. He bequeathed Normandy to Robert his eldest son, and made a large settlement of treasure on his youngest son, Henry.

As most important barons held land on both sides of the channel they now owed feudal service to William Rufus for the lands in England, and to Robert for those in Normandy. The division of William the Conqueror's empire was a recipe for conflict and a serious mistake.

To make things worse, the dying William, making his peace with God, had also ordered the release from prison of a number of his political opponents including his half-brother, Odo, held since 1082 for conspiracy. Odo, Bishop of Bayeux in Normandy, was also Earl of Kent, and lord of the very importantly placed castle of Rochester. He was a dangerous man and quickly became central to a revolt of the Anglo-Norman barons against the new King of England, William II. The aim of their revolt was to replace William with Robert on the English throne. Fighting occurred in several parts of England during 1088, but the real threat was in Kent and Sussex where Odo and other rebels held lands.

Pevensey had a strategic importance in the conflict as there was a real danger that Robert would invade England from Normandy as his father had done. Pevensey lay in the Rape given to Robert, Count of Mortain, also a half-brother to Odo, and another one of the rebels against the new English King, William II. After taking the great motte and bailey castle at Tonbridge in Kent by siege, William spent 6 gruelling weeks besieging Pevensey Castle from land and sea. He was supported by his father's friend, William de Warenne, who had been created Earl of Surrey early in 1088. Warenne, had fought with William the Conqueror at Hastings, and controlled the adjacent Rape of Lewes. In 1088 the rebels in Pevensey Castle were finally forced to seek a truce when they ran out of food.

Despite this rebellion the Count of Mortain was allowed to keep Pevensey but his son then lost it, along with the other family estates in England, as a result of his opposition to William Rufus' successor and younger brother, Henry I.

Henry granted most of the confiscated lands of the Pevensey Rape to a Norman lord, Gilbert Laigle. However, Henry recognised the importance of Pevensey Castle for his security and kept it under his own direct control. In 1101, when Duke Robert again threatened to invade England, Henry I spent the summer at Pevensey in anticipation of an attack.

* *The word, 'Rape' in this context probably comes from Normandy and an old Norse word for 'rope' as there are cases of the Normans measuring and allocating land 'by the rope'*

A map showing the division of Sussex into Rapes or territorial strips





William Rufus –
William II
RED



Robert of Normandy –
Robert Curthose
BLUE



Henry I
GREEN

Task

1. In the story about the Siege of Pevensey Castle, using three coloured pencils, highlight anything linked to William II in RED. Colour in anything to do with Robert of Normandy in BLUE, and finally any information about Henry II in GREEN.
2. Why do you think the death of William the Conqueror caused such problems in England?
3. Look at the map of the south coast of England. Explain why there was a castle in every rape there, based on what you have found out so far.
4. Using the diagram on the next page, draw, or write a brief description of what happened at every stage of the Siege of Pevensey and why it was important.

Death of William

William's
commands on his
death bed

William Rufus
becomes king

Threat of Robert
invading England

Rebels in Pevesney
Castle want a truce

Henry controls
Pevensey

Threat of Robert in
1101

How did Pevensey Castle affect the people who lived nearby?

Read through the story of William the conqueror's son, Robert of Mortain, to understand why Pevensey became so important.

The link between castle and town was important when the Normans took over England and this can clearly be seen at Pevensey where Robert of Mortain, who was one of William's half-brothers, or his officials, wanted to make it a really important area in terms of buying, selling and trading. Pevensey was a small centre in 1066, which began in Anglo-Saxon times. In 1066 there were 24 burgesses¹ and they and the borough belonged to the King. Edward I received £1 per year from them, and almost another £3 from tolls² and from taxes on boats coming into the harbour. In addition there were a further 28 burgesses who were the men of other Lords. When Robert took over the town only 27 were left as, most of them had run away because they were worried about what would happen when the Normans invaded.

By 1086 the situation in Pevensey had drastically changed. Robert had 60 burgesses and from them he received nearly £3 in rent, £4 came from tolls, and a further £1 from the mint³. There were another 51 burgesses who held their land from the men who paid homage to Robert. Eight of these were the men who belonged to Robert's own religious group that were from Mortain. These men paid rent totalling more than £2 10s. This was not all, as Robert also received £1 from the town mill. The Domesday Book shows Pevensey to have been a flourishing local centre which, though not as large as nearby Lewes, dominated the land around it.

The town served as a market for the thriving local industry of salt making, which Robert had control over, again something that was making him a lot of money! There were 24 salt works on Robert's property, and together they brought him over £5 per year. Robert's vassals⁴ were important for making sure his land and money were being looked after well in England, especially since he didn't really spend much time here, and most of it travelling around Europe. Walter de Ricarville, who came from near Dieppe in northern Normandy, was important enough to be made Sheriff of Pevensey. Men like Walter were rewarded with large estates and were, in some cases, able to establish English baronies of their own.

Like many Anglo-Norman magnates⁵ Robert took control of English monastic lands but was generous to Norman monasteries. He gave large gifts of land to the Benedictine monastery at Grestain in Normandy, along with houses, pannage and pasture rights in Pevensey Forest with the use of building materials for the monks' churches and houses included. The Priory of Mortain also owned English estates concentrated in the Rape of Pevensey and in Dorset. However, Robert made sure that none of the English manors given as a gift to the religious orders were better, or more expensive than the manors he kept for himself so they were often isolated and at a distance from the main areas of Robert's interest and control.

When Robert died he chose to be buried with his father and first wife in the family monastery at Grestain. He may have been amongst the great magnates of England, but he was a Norman not an Anglo-Norman. He came with his Norman vassals to help with his brother's conquest of England. He stayed to help consolidate⁶ the victory and was duly rewarded, but probably spent little time in his new possessions. Robert was essentially an absentee landlord.

¹ Burgess = a freeman of the town or borough

² Toll = an amount of money which is paid for services given to someone to allow them to do something e.g. hold land

³ Mint = the place where coins are made in England

⁴ Vassal = a servant, or someone who works in your service

⁵ Magnate = a wealthy and influential person in business

⁶ Consolidate = to become secure and strong

How did Pevensey Castle affect the people who lived nearby?

TASKS:

- ✓ Read through the story of Robert of Mortain again.
 - ✓ You will need **THREE** different coloured highlighters
 - a) Use **ONE** colour to highlight anything about Pevensey which was focused on the importance of the **LAND** and keeping control of it.
 - b) In a **SECOND** colour, highlight anything about Pevensey which was linked to **RELIGION**
 - c) In a **THIRD** colour, highlight anything about Pevensey which showed Robert's opportunities to make **MONEY**.
- ✓ Now, in order to help you with revision and the essay question, put the points into the table below in the correct column. Use bullet point to help you, and use different colours to make the three headings stand out.



LAND

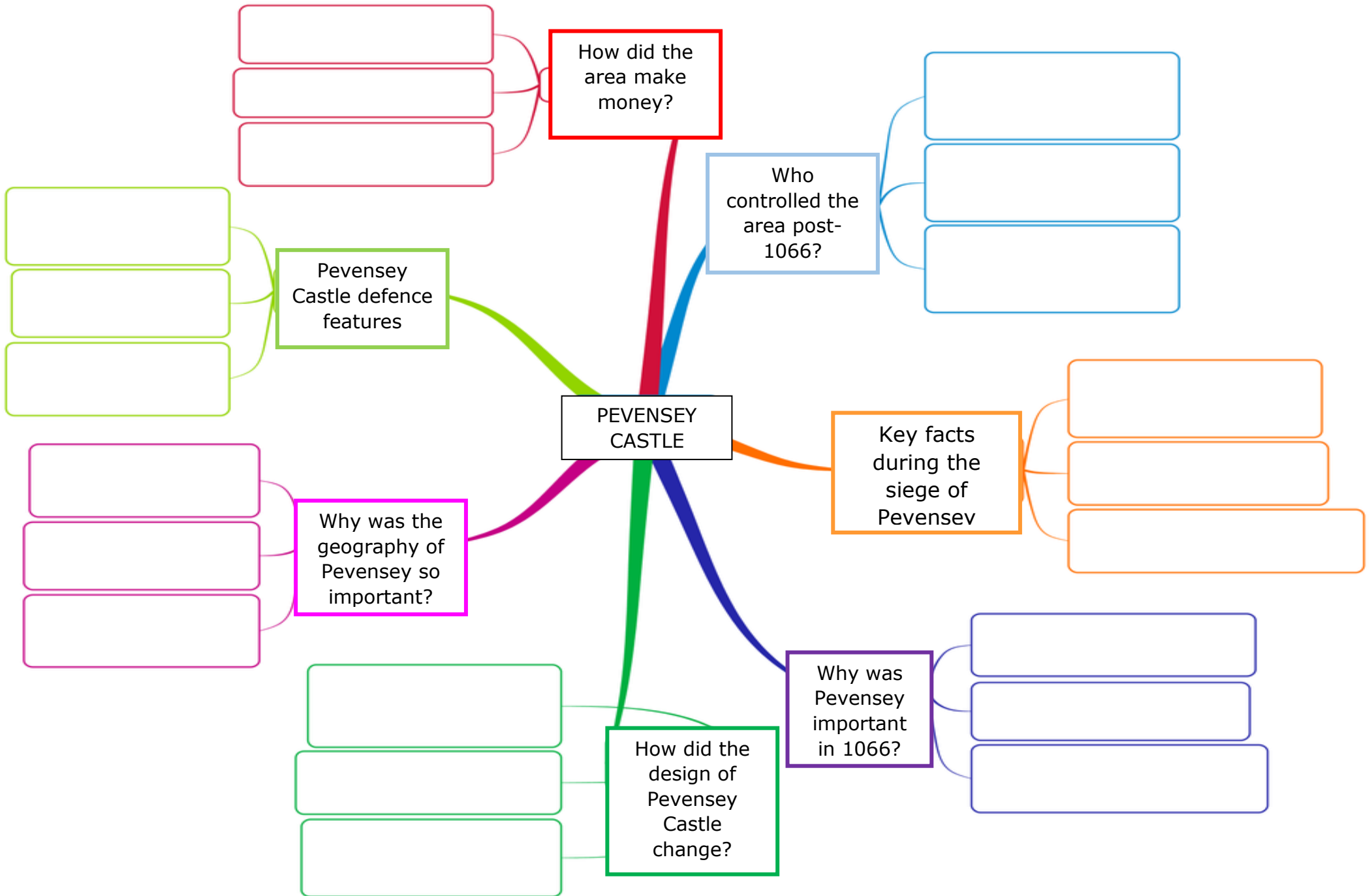


RELIGION



MONEY

 <i>LAND</i>	 <i>RELIGION</i>	 <i>MONEY</i>



Sum up your learning about Pevensey Castle!

Question 4: Environment Study

Guidance:

- you will always have an essay question about the historical environment you studied
- it will link to themes you have studied e.g. political power, religious change, the role of the church
- you will be given a statement and asked to give an opinion of how far do you agree with it.
- you need to identify and explain **2/3 factors** about the topic given.
- you **must** evaluate the factors and reach a balanced and sustained **judgement** by comparing the factors
- you **must** discuss the factor given and include other factors from your own knowledge about which are relevant to the question.

SPaG

- you will be marked on your use of English and command of specialist **key terms**.
- you **must** at all times be specific and use as many key words as possible.
- you **must** always use the past tenses
- you **must never** use 'I' or talk about your opinion, instead you must reach a balanced judgement supported with evidence



Structure: 3xPEEL+ PEE

P	<u>Point:</u> ...was a significant factor because... Another important cause/ consequence/ change was...
Ev	<u>Evidence:</u> For example... This is evident from The evidence suggests...because..
Ex	<u>Explanation:</u> This meant that... Therefore...We can infer that...
L	<u>Link:</u> This lead to... In conclusion...

Mark Scheme

Complex explanation of given factor and other factors leading to a sustained judgement. (3xPEEL + PEE) Answer may progress from a developed explanation by giving detailed and sharply focused evidence relevant to the question Answer gives a well sustained evaluation of factors in every paragraph	Band 4 13 - 16 marks
Developed explanation of the given factor and other factors (3xPEEL+ PEE) Answer may progress from simple explanation by giving a range of evidence relevant to the question Answer gives a developed judgement	Band 3 9 - 12 marks
Simple explanation of the given factor and other factors (2xPEEL) Answer may progress from basic explanation by showing facts and specific knowledge. Answer gives basic explanation of which factor is more important	Band 2 5 - 8 marks
Basic explanation of one or more factors (1xPEEL) Answer shows basic knowledge and understanding that is relevant to the question	Band 1 1 - 4 marks

Model Plan:

MoLoFuPu
Motivation: Why did someone want to build this building?
Location: Why did they build it in this particular location?
Function: Why was it built in this particular way? Can you identify and explain the features of the building and the job they do?
Purpose: What would the building be used for? Who lived or worked there?

How does what you have been studying link to the exam...?

The exam board will ask you 16 mark essay questions about Pevensey Castle. The questions below are some of the things which could be asked. Now is your time to use the planning grid above, to start to write and plan out some answers to these questions.

1. **'The main change Normans brought about was that they increased the building of castles to prevent rebellion and being overthrown'**. How far does the study of Pevensey Castle support this statement? Explain your answer.

You should refer to Pevensey Castle. [16 marks]

2. **'The main change Normans brought about was that castles were key to controlling the population in England'**. How far does the study of Pevensey Castle support this statement? Explain your answer.

You should refer to Pevensey Castle. [16 marks]

3. **'The main change Normans brought about through their development of castle building was to ensure that barons made English towns profitable for the king'**. How far does the study of Pevensey Castle support this statement? Explain your answer.

You should refer to Pevensey Castle. [16 marks]