Holland Park School | Year 7 History



Overview

7.1 Norman England

Year 7 provides a clear starting point for all our students irrespective of their KS2 experiences by looking at the most decisive and significant year in English history, the Norman conquest of 1066. Given that the English nation state can be traced back to William's centralisation of power, students will gain a sense of the Longe Durée of English History. This is done through a focus on three key questions. Firstly, why was William able to acquire the throne; secondly how did William use the feudal system, violence, religion, and castles to consolidate his power; and finally, how did the Normans change Anglo-Saxon England? This has been a contested history over time, with many radical political figures including Oliver Cromwell and Karl Marx viewing the Norman conquest as an abomination. This was because it replaced what they viewed as a protodemocratic and freedom loving country - in which kings had to be elected through the Witan and could only rule with the consent of their earls - with a tyrannical feudalism under the foreign control of 200 Norman barons.

7.2 Empire in the East

We then move to the continent to introduce students to the concept of Empire. Using the Chinese, Byzantine and Abbasid Empires as our case study, students will be explore the interconnectedness of the Far-, Middle-, and near East along the Silk Roads.

7.3 Medieval Church

Following this students will move onto the medieval world to consider the concept of significance. Initially, our focus will; be on the church and how it transformed in this period, before we develop our understanding of the challenges faced by monarchs in England. In this breadth study of England between 1100 to 1500, students will consider the importance of the

	Magna Carta, the death of Thomas Becket, the Black Death, and the Peasants Revolt. This will cultivate an appreciation of
7.4 Medieval	why historians chose to remember certain events, ideas, and people over others, and how their importance might shift over
Monarchs	time. For example, knowing about the Black Death (1348) enhances our understanding of the Peasants' Revolt forty years
	later, but also the Covid-19 pandemic seven centuries later. History doesn't repeat itself but it does rhyme, and students
	may reflect on the similarities (and differences) between the two.
7.5 England	We then turn our focus to England's neighbours in this era, and how the nation's relationship with countries such as
and its	Scotland, Wales, Ireland and France has developed over time.
neighbours	
	Year 7 will then study pre-colonial Africa focusing on the Benin and Mali Empires. By exploring the orientalist biases
7.6 Mali	exhibited by European written sources such as the Catalan Atlas, this will challenge contemporary understandings of pre-
	colonial Africa. In addition, by reading oral histories including British spoken word artist George the poet, students will
	widen their appreciation of the different ways historians know about the past. Finally, a clearer grasp of pre-colonial Benin
	and Mali will also broaden students' geographic field of inquiry through study of the transcontinental connections that
	existed between the Sahara and the Middle East which transferred not only cargo, but also the ideas of some of the world's
	leading Islamic intellectuals.
	reduing islamic intellections.
7.7	We will conclude the academic year by considering the birth of the Renaissance period and the impact that it had on Europe,
Renaissance	which will set students up to continue their studies with the Tudors in Year 8.
Assessment	Students will sit a knowledge test every half-term that tests them on their understanding of key facts and key concepts.
	They will have the information required to revise in advance.
	Students will also be assessed on their writing every half-term. Each written assessment will focus on a specific second-
	order concept. These are:
	Cause and Consequence
	2. Similarity and Difference
	3. Change and Continuity
	4. Significance 5. Interpretations and Sources
	5. Interpretations and Sources

Glossary	See workbook
Knowledge	Knowledge organisers will be provided at the start of every module and will include all content that is assessed in the
Organiser	factual knowledge test.
Additional	N.A.
key terms	
Additional	See knowledge organiser
Resources	

TOPICS	KEY CONTENT
7.1 Norman England - How did William conquer and control England?	 Migration and Diversity in Medieval England Anglo-Saxon England Death of Edward the Confessor Norman Conquest: 1066 Norman Conquest: Sources and Interpretations Norman Control: Castles and Terror Norman Control: Peaceful Methods Answering the Enquiry Social Change under the Normans Political and Economic Change under the Normans How far did England change after the Norman Conquest? Thematic lesson
7.2 Empire in the East	 The World c.1000 Chinese Dynasties Islamic Empire Byzantine Empire Rome c.1000
7-3 The Medieval Church	 Power and Hierarchy of the Church Medieval Places of worship Life after Death Monasteries and Medicine Crusades Jews in Medieval England

	7. Answering the Enquiry
7.4	1. Challenges to Medieval Monarchs
	2. Stephen and Matilda
Medieval	3. Henry II and Thomas Becket
Monarchs	4. Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine
	5. King John and the Church
	6. King John and Magna Carta
	7. Thematic lesson
	8. Henry III and parliament
	9. The Black Death
	10. The Peasants Revolt
	11. The Peasants Revolt 2
	12. The Wars of the Roses
	13. The Wars of the Roses 2
	14. Answering the Enquiry
7.5	1. England and Wales
	2. England and Scotland
England and its	3. England and France
Neighbours	4. England and Ireland
7.6 Mali	1. Mansa Musa
,	2. The Hajj to Makkah
	3. The Mali Empire 1325-1337
	4. The Legacy of Mansa Musa: Answering the Enquiry

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Glossary Links	See workbook
Knowledge	Knowledge organisers will be provided at the start of every module and will include all content that is assessed in the factual
Organiser	knowledge test.
Additional key	N.A.
terms	
Additional	See knowledge organiser
Resources	