



6th Form 2026 Summer Transition Work

SUBJECT:

History

Paper 1 and 2: Conquest, Control and Resistance in the Medieval World:

Topic One: The Crusades, c1095-1204:

The crusades were a series of holy wars fought between the three great powers of Europe and the Mediterranean during the Middle Ages: Latin Christendom, the Byzantine Empire, and the Muslim states of North Africa and the Middle East. Initiated by the pope and the Latin Church in the late 11th century, the crusades saw Christian warriors from across western Europe travel to the Holy Land. Their intention was to win control of the holiest places in the Christian universe from the Muslims who had ruled over them for four hundred years.

This is a story of brutal violence. However, it will also allow us to explore the rich and complex history of the medieval world. We will encounter the societies, beliefs, and practices of a world very different from our own. Above all, we will wrestle with one of the most compelling and disturbing questions in the history of world religions: how has it been justified to wage war in the name of God?

Topic Two: Anglo-Saxon England and the Anglo-Norman Kingdom, c1053-1106:

In 1053, Anglo-Saxon England was an ancient and well-governed society. Its rulers passed laws and collected taxes over perhaps the most stable kingdom in western Europe. Yet within twenty years this prosperous state had been shattered. Furious at being denied the English throne, William of Normandy destroyed Harold

MRS D. LENNON
HEADTEACHER

St. John Fisher Catholic
Comprehensive School,
City Way, ME1 2FA.

t 01634 543123
e headteacher@stjohnfisher.school
w www.stjohnfisher.school

f @StJohnFisherMedway
t @St_JohnFisher



Godwinson and his Anglo-Saxon army at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Over the next twenty years, the Normans spread fear and terror across England. The Anglo-Saxons were reduced to a servant class to be exploited by their new masters. Vast regions were burned and depopulated. Anglo-Saxon language, culture, and tradition were uprooted and replaced with those of the Normans.

Yet from the ashes of the Norman Conquest a new and vibrant kingdom would emerge. William and his sons gradually replaced colonisation with co-operation. Saxons and Normans worked together to build an England very different from that which went before, but which also combined the achievements of both peoples. The Anglo-Norman kingdom which they created was one of the most impressive of the whole middle ages. Its legacy can still be felt in the imposing walls of Rochester castle, and the towering spires of Rochester cathedral. We will follow the story of the making of this Anglo-Norman world, and explain how one of the most savage conquests in the history of Europe led to the creation of a flourishing, peaceful realm.

Paper 3. Poverty, public health and the state in Britain c1780-1939

Topic 1: Lives in peril-the health of the nation

This is the story about what brought about change in the way people lived. The industrialisation of Great Britain caused mass migration into towns and cities, causing overcrowding and pollution. What impact did such conditions have upon the public health of the nation?

What was the impact of epidemics such as smallpox and cholera? What did people understand about such diseases and how did knowledge, technology and government intervention bring about changes to public health?

Changes did not just happen, there were incredible individuals who worked hard for change, such as Edward Jenner, Edwin Chadwick, John Snow, Joseph Bazalgette and Marie Stopes.

This is a story that played out across the nation and can also be seen in our own area of Medway.

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t 01634 543123
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f @StJohnFisherMedway
t @St_JohnFisher



Topic 2: Poverty, the People, and the Law

The question of the causes of poverty and how best to help the poor has long troubled politicians and society.

Even today there are arguments about how much help should be given and who should pay for this help. Paupers were people who needed help but could not support themselves. Should the poor of the industrial revolution be given help in the form of money? Food? Housing? What if they were really just lazy, rather than sick, elderly or unable to find work?

The provision for paupers and the poor has always aroused debates. Many methods have been used, from outdoor relief, to indoor relief in workhouses, which were like prisons for the poor. Where the government would not or could not help, individuals and groups tried to support themselves by such means as setting up cooperative shops and friendly societies. Wars have played their role too, Britain could not expect to defend itself if the working classes were unhealthy and malnourished. Gradually, the welfare state was created, but there are still many problems to be solved, such as how to pay for the cost of growing need.

Listed below are the pre-reading and preparatory tasks you should complete prior to commencing your 6th form course. These tasks are designed to help you transition smoothly and succeed academically and personally in your new environment.

Task	Resources or Guidance
<u>Conquest, Control, and Resistance in the Medieval World</u> <u>Topics</u> <u>The Crusades, c1095-1204</u> <u>Key Questions:</u> 1. What were the crusades? 2. What were the motivations of the first crusaders?	

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3. How did the Church justify the crusade?

4. How did the crusades shape relations between Christian Europe and the Muslim world?

Anglo-Saxon England and the Anglo-Norman Kingdom, c1053-1106

Key Questions:

1. What were the main features of Anglo-Saxon society?
2. What challenges did Edward the Confessor face to his rule?
3. How did the Normans conquer and control England?
4. What was the role of the Church in Norman England?
5. What were the main characteristics of the Normans?

Poverty, Public health and the State in Britain c1780-1939

Key Questions:

1. What were the problems of public health caused by industrialisation?
2. What was the significance of advances in technology for improvements in the provision of systems for drainage and water supply.
3. How did the government's role grow in the nineteenth and early twentieth century?
4. How did Edward Jenner, Edwin Chadwick, John Snow, Joseph Bazalgette and Marie Stopes bring about change?

Poverty and the Poor Laws:

1. How did the parish-based relief system work?
2. What were the conditions like in poorhouses, workhouses and houses of correction?
3. How was the poor law reformed in 1834?

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t 01634 543123
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t @St_JohnFisher



"Deo Reddite Dei"

"Give back to God what belongs to God"

4. What was the importance of charity and self-help in dealing with poverty? 5. What were the pressures for reform? 6. Explain the impact of the Jarrow March and hunger marches; the role of Ellen Wilkinson. 7. What were the Government measures in the 1930s?	

Summer Project / Activity	Resources or Guidance
<u>Paper 1: The Crusades, c1095-1204</u> Pick one of the key questions above and carry out some reading and research about the question you have chosen. Bring the notes with you to class after the summer holidays. <u>For example:</u> 1. What were the crusades? A documentary about the crusades has been linked in the adjacent column. You might think of using this documentary series as the basis of your research. <u>Paper 2: Anglo-Saxon England and the Anglo-Norman Kingdom, c1053-1106</u> Pick one of the key questions above and carry out some reading and research about the question you have chosen. Bring the notes with you to class after the summer holidays. <u>For example:</u>	<u>The Crusades:</u> The First Crusade - Epic History Series (All Parts) <u>Anglo-Saxon England and the Anglo-Norman Kingdom:</u> The Norman Conquest - BBC Teach Series (Playlist) <u>The Workhouse:</u> www.workhouses.org.uk/

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t @St_JohnFisher



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3. How did the Normans conquer and control England?

A series of videos about the Normans has been linked in the adjacent column.

You might think of using this series as the basis of your research.

Paper 3: Public health and poverty

Pick one of the key questions above and carry out some reading and research about the question you have chosen. Bring the notes with you to class after the summer holidays.

For example:

2. What were the conditions like in poorhouses, workhouses and houses of correction?

A clip about workhouses has been linked in the adjacent column.

Watch the clip and make notes about workhouses.

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