ANGLO-SAXON AND NORMAN ENGLAND PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

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How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

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Questions

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1. **Which group consisted of peasants who worked three days a week for their lord?**

   A. Peasants

   B. Ceorls

   C. Slaves

   D. Theynes

2. **One arrangement for Regents under Norman rule involved keeping one of them in Normandy, who was William's wife.**

   A. True

   B. False

   C. Regents stayed in England

   D. Regents were chosen by the Pope

3. **Which event occurred in January 1069?**

   A. Durham and death of Robert Cumin

   B. Uprising in York

   C. Anglo-Danish attack on York

   D. A new castle in Winchester

4. **Which reform centralized authority in the Church, aiding William's control?**

   A. Lanfranc's reforms

   B. William's forest policy

   C. Domesday Book

   D. The creation of earldoms

5. **What happened to Robert Cumin's troops in Durham?**

   A. They looted Durham and were killed

   B. They were welcomed by the Bishop

   C. They built a fortress

   D. They immediately returned to Normandy

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6. What was the main source of economic power for the Godwins?

A. Their extensive landholdings

B. Their control of the royal treasury

C. Their monopoly on trade

D. Their naval empire

7. Where did the Danish forces raid during these events?

A. The east coast of England

B. The west coast of England

C. Brittany

D. Ireland

8. Which of the following was NOT listed as a way William could take land from Anglo-Saxons?

A. Forfeit

B. New Earldoms

C. Land Grabs

D. Tax Relief

9. Which of the following accurately describes the outcome of the 1068 rebellion led by Edwin and Morcar?

A. They surrendered and lost land

B. They succeeded in reclaiming England

C. They destroyed all Norman castles

D. They formed a new Anglo-Saxon Parliament

10. What was a primary purpose of Motte and Bailey castles built by the Normans?

A. Symbol of Norman power

B. Religious center

C. Trade hub

D. Royal hunting lodge

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Answers

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1. A
2. A
3. A
4. A
5. A
6. A
7. A
8. D
9. B
10. A

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Explanations

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1. Which group consisted of peasants who worked three days a week for their lord?

A. Peasants

B. Ceorls

C. Slaves

D. Theynes

In the feudal system, peasants could be free or bound to the land. Those who were tied to the lord's land and had to work on his demesne for a set number of days each week are a peasant subgroup known as villeins. They're the ones who performed regular labor for the lord, typically about three days a week. Among the given options, the broad label that includes this group is peasants, since villeins are a type of peasant. The other groups don't fit: ceorls were free peasants with different obligations; slaves were unfree laborers without the same peasant status; theyns were nobles. So the best match is peasants.

2. One arrangement for Regents under Norman rule involved keeping one of them in Normandy, who was William's wife.

A. True

B. False

C. Regents stayed in England

D. Regents were chosen by the Pope

Regents after the Norman conquest could be used to govern different parts of William's realms, ensuring control across the Channel when he couldn't be everywhere at once. In this pattern, a trusted regent could manage England while someone else handled Normandy. William's wife, Matilda of Flanders, already held the duchy through marriage, so placing her in Normandy to oversee that region made practical sense and helped keep loyalty and order in Normandy while another regent administered England. This kind of splitting governance across the two territories is why the statement is true.

3. Which event occurred in January 1069?

A. Durham and death of Robert Cumin

B. Uprising in York

C. Anglo-Danish attack on York

D. A new castle in Winchester

The event in January 1069 is tied to the Durham uprising and the death of a Norman administrator. After the Norman Conquest, the North resisted Norman rule, and in January 1069 rebels in Durham attacked Norman authority there. They killed Robert Cumin, who governed Durham on behalf of William the Conqueror. This killing showed how deeply unsettled the region was and triggered a strong royal response later in the year, contributing to the harsh measures the Normans used in the North. The other events involve York and Danish attacks that occurred later in 1069, or a fortification project elsewhere, so they don't match the January timing.

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4. Which reform centralized authority in the Church, aiding William's control?

A. Lanfranc's reforms

B. William's forest policy

C. Domesday Book

D. The creation of earldoms

Centralizing authority through reform of the church, so that its structure and leadership could be guided by the crown, is what Lanfranc's reforms achieve. When William I installed Lanfranc as Archbishop of Canterbury, he used the church's hierarchy to knit together royal and religious power. Lanfranc reorganized the English church along continental lines: Canterbury's primacy was reinforced, dioceses were reorganized, monastic houses were reformed, and many English bishops were replaced with Norman appointees. This created a unified, centralized ecclesiastical administration that answered to a single leadership and aligned with royal policy, making church governance a reliable instrument of royal control. The other options deal with secular or fiscal reforms rather than ecclesiastical centralization, so they don't achieve the same consolidation of church authority that aided William's control.

5. What happened to Robert Cumin's troops in Durham?

A. They looted Durham and were killed

B. They were welcomed by the Bishop

C. They built a fortress

D. They immediately returned to Normandy

This question checks how Norman control in the north met with resistance from English towns. In Durham, when Robert Cumin sent his troops to enforce authority, they ended up looting the city. The Furious reaction of the townspeople was swift and deadly: they killed many of the Norman soldiers, including Cumin himself. This shows that occupying forces could provoke fierce local reprisals, and that a show of force like looting could backfire, emboldening resistance rather than securing obedience. The other options don't fit the historical outcome—the city did not welcome the Normans, there's no record of a fortress being built there at this moment, and the immediate march back to Normandy wasn't the outcome of this encounter.

6. What was the main source of economic power for the Godwins?

A. Their extensive landholdings

B. Their control of the royal treasury

C. Their monopoly on trade

D. Their naval empire

In the Anglo-Saxon world, wealth and political power flowed mainly from land. The Godwins amassed vast estates across Wessex and surrounding regions, so they controlled large amounts of rent, agricultural produce, and peasant labor. That land gave them a steady, rentable income and the ability to fund private armies, secure followers, and influence local and royal politics. From these estates they could muster resources to back allies and shape events at court, which is why landholding was the foundation of their power. The royal treasury was centralized and not something the Godwins could simply control, so that option doesn't fit as the main source of their power. Trade was important but not monopolized by the Godwins, and England did not rely on a naval empire as a primary source of their influence.

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7. Where did the Danish forces raid during these events?

A. The east coast of England

B. The west coast of England

C. Brittany

D. Ireland

Danish raiders in this period typically struck England along the eastern shoreline. The North Sea route from Denmark made the east coast the most direct and accessible landing point, allowing quick access to coastal monasteries and towns that could be plundered before the raiders withdrew. The famous raid on Lindisfarne on the northeast coast exemplifies this pattern, and later campaigns like the Great Heathen Army in the mid to late 9th century also focused on the eastern half of England, where they could push inland and establish control. While Vikings did raid other regions such as Brittany and Ireland, those were separate theaters of activity, not the main focus of these events in England. So the Danish forces raided the east coast of England.

8. Which of the following was NOT listed as a way William could take land from Anglo-Saxons?

A. Forfeit

B. New Earldoms

C. Land Grabs

D. Tax Relief

When land passed from Anglo-Saxons after the conquest, the king could reshuffle ownership through feudal means. Forfeit means land reverts to the king when the holder fails to meet obligations or rebels, giving it back to the crown and then to new holders. Creating new earldoms allowed William to place Norman lords in power, effectively taking control of large estates by regranting them to loyal supporters. Land grabs describe direct, sometimes swift, seizure of land to secure authority. In contrast, tax relief is a fiscal policy aimed at easing taxes and does not transfer ownership of property. So it doesn't function as a method for taking land, which is why it's the correct choice.

9. Which of the following accurately describes the outcome of the 1068 rebellion led by Edwin and Morcar?

A. They surrendered and lost land

B. They succeeded in reclaiming England

C. They destroyed all Norman castles

D. They formed a new Anglo-Saxon Parliament

The event tests understanding of how the Norman Conquest reshaped English power and what happened to rebellious English earls. Edwin and Morcar led a northern rising in 1068 hoping to push back Norman rule and restore Anglo-Saxon control. But the revolt did not succeed in reclaiming the kingdom or overturning Norman dominance. Norman forces quickly moved to retake key locations, and after the rebellion was suppressed, Edwin and Morcar lost much of their influence and lands to Norman followers, with William consolidating tighter control over the realm. The outcome was a reinforcement of Norman rule rather than a restoration of English sovereignty, and it certainly didn't result in the destruction of all Norman castles or the creation of a new Anglo-Saxon Parliament.

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10. What was a primary purpose of Motte and Bailey castles built by the Normans?

A. Symbol of Norman power

B. Religious center

C. Trade hub

D. Royal hunting lodge

These castles were built to project strength and establish control over newly conquered regions. The motte and bailey design created a dramatic, recognizable symbol of Norman authority that could be erected quickly, housing soldiers, and serving as a base for administration and defense. This visible display of power helped secure obedience, deter rebellion, and organize governance across the countryside. They weren't primarily religious centers, trade hubs, or royal hunting lodges, so those functions didn't drive their widespread construction after the conquest.

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

https://anglosaxonnormanengland.examzify.com

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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