

To show these ideas manifested in pupils' answers I have included here example outcome paragraphs from the enquiry on the Normans (N.B. spelling, grammar and factual errors have been left in):

Low attainment student

Authority of people was very different in Norman times because of William had affected most of it, like for example the harrying of the north in 1066 when 100,000 anglo-saxon people died because they turned against William. Also William still used crowns and had coronations. This has significantly changed what it meant to be English because there king was forigen meaning it would be hard to obey the new rules he would have created. A long with the fact that the people of England did not like him. Only the Normans liked William.”

Middle attainment student

I agree with the statement Marc Morris made becaus English identity changed dramatically. One area that saw a ground breaking change was the why you had to pay for everything, for example: the mill. They had to start paying for use of the formally free farming strips. This made a massive impact because many people started to feel controlled they felt unable to go against William because he had made them all swear over the bible to never disobey him. Peoples' sense of belonging started to disappear because they were not free for themselves anymore. They were also always being watched over by Norman knights who towered over the whole village in giant castles. Another reason they were terrified to rebel is because of the Murdrum Fine – if someone killed a knight then the whole villages would have to pay a huge fine.

High attainment student

Another key area of change was peasantry. Prior to Norman invasion, villages would mainly rely on farming and people could own strip farms, had access to the mill, orchard, woodland, grazing land and more. Slaves (thralls) would live in huts and have very little, while thegns would run the village. After 1066, however villages were almost entirely transformed. Things such as the mill or fish pond were now taxed by Norman lords and people would be denied access to the woodland by order of the King. Slaves and peasants were now one, known as villeins. Experience of community would have changes, as peasants and slaves were now considered equal and were all controlled by the lord, now having to somehow earn three times as much money first to pay taxes, and therefore people were more likely to be hostile. As well as this, new motte and bailey castles were built to house Norman lords and knights. While burhs were designed to keep peasants in, castles were raised, with huge walls to separate the villeins who could not enter. This both literally and figuratively separated Normans and Anglo-Saxons, having them seem expendable enough to not require protection. This would alter their sense of belonging felt by the Saxons, as they would be monitored more closely by Norman lords, decreasing their freedom, and were now separated from the Normans, being pushed to the side and viewed as less important. This can be seen as a significant change, as their freedom and general quality of life will have been severely altered by the Norman Conquest.