

Revision sheet – THE BIG QUESTION

‘Without the use of violence William the Conqueror would not have been able to control England.’ How far do you agree with this statement?

Things to consider: were all of Williams responses violent?

- Williams response to rebellion (harrying of the north)
- Williams use of castles
- Williams use of the Domesday book

Domesday book

The Domesday book allowed William to ensure he was receiving the maximum amount of taxation he could

It also meant he was able to identify who owned what and ensure land was effectively owned.

William’s use of castles

Castles were used to intimidate the Anglo-Saxons and demonstrate Williams power

Castles were built through the labour of the Saxons and it was gruelling, back-breaking work.

Williams response to rebellion

Remember NOT ALL of Williams responses used brutal violence.... ONLY ONE.

In previous rebellions William pardoned the rebels or paid them to leave. HOWEVER, the North was different:

1. William personally rode North to deal with them
2. He murdered thousands of people - some who were not even directly involved in the rebellion
3. He burnt the houses and the earth so no food could grow
4. People were left starving and had to eat each other and animals to survive