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4 Paragraphing and structure

Getting your ideas and knowledge across effectively is important. Longer answers need to be written in a logical order and clearly linked to the question. The skills you will build in this unit are to:

- organise your ideas into an effective order
- build strong paragraphs
- stay focused on the question.

In the exam, you will be asked to tackle questions like the one below. This unit will prepare you to write your own response to this type of question.

Exam-style question

Explain why there was an earls' rebellion in 1075.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Ralph de Gael, earl of East Anglia
- the Danes.

You **must** also include information of your own.

(12 marks)

A useful way of organising your answer is to PEEL your paragraphs. This stands for:

Point What is the paragraph about? What point will it make?

Explain Develop the explanation in more detail.

Evidence What historical examples and facts can you use to back up your point?

Link Link back to the question to reinforce your point.

This approach will help you stay focused on the question by **linking your point** back to the question at the end of each paragraph.

Tips for linking back

- 1 Use the wording in the question to make sure you keep focused.
- 2 When you link back, you can also add some analysis, saying what this link might mean. Here is a suggestion: How important is the point you have made in explaining the question focus?

The three key questions in the **skills boosts** will help you learn to organise your ideas and produce a strong, focused essay.

1

How do I organise my ideas into an effective order?

2

How do I build strong paragraphs?

3

How do I stay focused on the question?

Look at this exam-style question and the student's plan for what to include in an answer.

Exam-style question

Explain why William the Conqueror was able to defeat the Revolt of the Earls in 1075.

You may use the following in your answer:

- the Danish fleet
- Earl Waltheof.

You **must** also use information of your own.

(12 marks)

- 1 *Ralph and Roger told Waltheof, an Anglo-Saxon rebel, of plans for revolt when Ralph married Roger's sister*
- 2 *Waltheof told Lanfranc, who sent men to East Anglia; they reported on the rebels' preparations*
- 3 *Next Wulfstan and the abbot of Evesham (Anglo-Saxons) stopped Roger crossing the Severn; meanwhile Ralph was stopped from leaving his lands in East Anglia by both Normans and Anglo-Saxons*
- 4 *William was in Normandy*
- 5 *Then William returned to England*
- 6 *Then the Danish fleet arrived but it was too late to help the rebels; Danish leaders Cnut and Hakon didn't want to fight William → sacked York cathedral and went home*
- 7 *Ralph escaped to Brittany; Waltheof went abroad*
- 8 *William tricked Waltheof into returning for a pardon but imprisoned him and Roger for life*
- 9 *William became more suspicious of Norman earls too, but had been helped by some Anglo-Saxons to defeat the rebels*

1 Using the student notes above:

- a highlight  any mentions of William the Conqueror
- b highlight in another colour  where there is any mention of the bullet point prompts given in the question
- c circle  any information of the student's own.

2 This student has decided to answer the question chronologically by describing events in order. Time is limited in an exam. Suggest  one way in which planning to answer a causation question chronologically may lead to problems.

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It is important to plan your answer well. A good structure to your plan can help you write a better answer.

Revolt of the Earls, 1075

This unit uses the theme of the Revolt of the Earls in 1075 to build your skills in paragraphing and structuring your answers. If you need to review your knowledge of this theme, work through these pages.

1 Link  the people to the correct descriptions.

A Cnut and Hakon	a Norman and rebel earl of East Anglia
B Lanfranc	b Anglo-Saxon and rebel earl of Northumbria
C Ralph de Gael	c Archbishop to whom Waltheof wrote
D Roger de Breteuil	d Led the Danish fleet in support of the rebels
E Waltheof	e Norman and rebel earl of Hereford
F Wulfstan	f Bishop of Worcester

2 Read the statements below. Tick  which are true or false.

	true	false
a Earl Roger was angry that William had reduced the Breteuils' power after his father's death.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b Earl Roger was angry because William now controlled the sheriffs in Marcher earldoms like Hereford whereas before the earls themselves had done that.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c Earl Ralph was angry because he had less land, wealth and power than his father.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d Earl Waltheof had been a loyal servant of William until 1075.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e Ralph and Roger did not expect the Anglo-Saxons to support them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3 Draw  lines to match the questions and answers.

Some questions have more than one answer; some answers fit more than one question.

A Who arrived for the rebellion too late?	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">a Archbishop Lanfranc</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">b The Danes</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">c Emma</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">d Waltheof</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">e Wulfstan</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">f Roger</div>
B Who held out in Norwich castle to make a deal with William?	
C Who made the plans known before the rebellion?	
D Who ransacked York cathedral?	
E Who was imprisoned for life?	
F Who tried to prevent the rebellion?	
G Who received reports about the rebels' activities?	
H Who stopped Roger leaving Herefordshire?	

Remember this?

4 Read the questions about the 1075 revolt and circle (A) the correct answers.

Some questions have more than one correct answer.

a When did Waltheof rebel against William?

- A 1068, 1069 and 1075
- B 1072 and 1075
- C 1068 and 1075
- D 1070–71 and 1075

b What happened to Waltheof after the revolt was over?

- A He was pardoned.
- B He was exiled.
- C He lost his lands.
- D He was executed.

c Which of the following were reasons for the revolt's failure?

- A William tricked Waltheof.
- B The Danes did not want to fight William.
- C William gave in to some demands.
- D Anglo-Saxons did not support it.

d What was significant about the 1075 revolt for William and England?

- A It marked the end of the Viking threat.
- B It involved both Norman and Anglo-Saxon earls.
- C It improved the treatment of Anglo-Saxons.
- D It showed Anglo-Saxon support for William.

5 Complete the paragraph below by writing (A) the words or phrases from the word bank in the gaps.

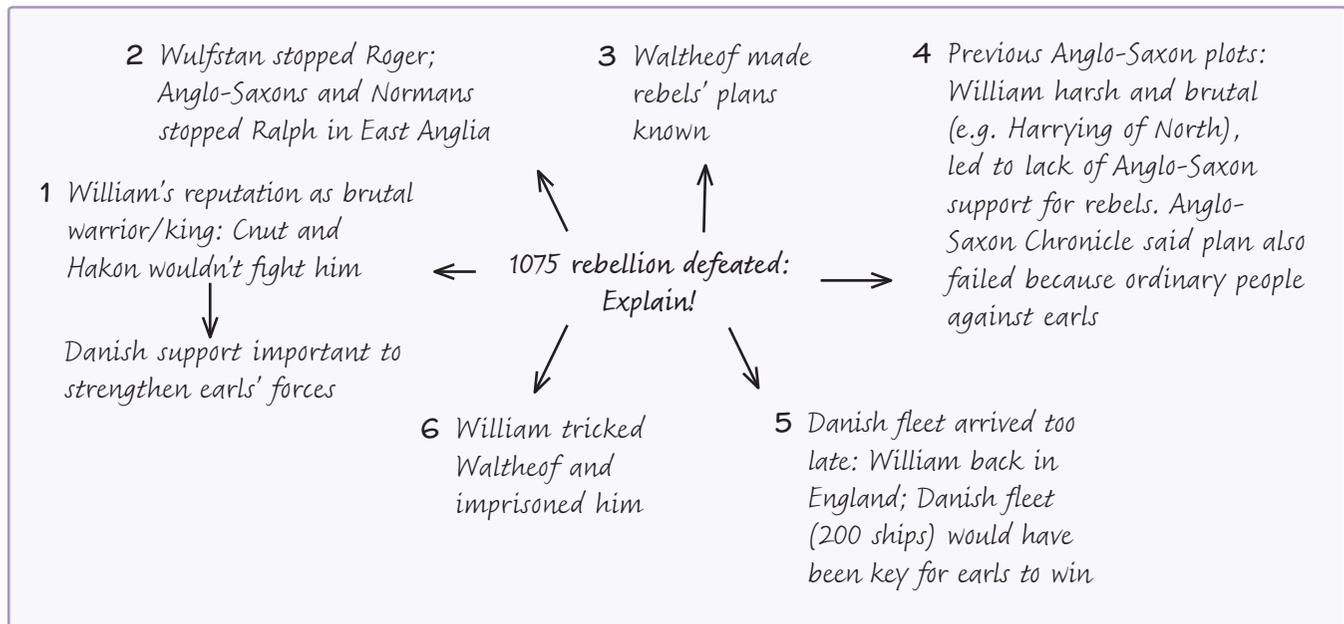
ambitious Anglo-Saxons Bishop Wulfstan could not trust
Danish Viking threat Waltheof William

The 1075 revolt showed William that he his own earls. The Norman earls who rebelled were and resented William keeping power to himself. The revolt also showed that some Anglo-Saxons, like, actively supported while others simply did not join in the rebellion against him. Nevertheless, William became even harder on the after the revolt as shown by the execution of Although the to England was over, William could not know this and continued to be worried about another attack.

1 How do I organise my ideas into an effective order?

The best way to write a strong history essay is to be clear about what you think the answer is before you begin writing the essay. This skills boost will help you to organise your ideas into the best order.

Look at this student's planning notes for the exam-style question on page 32. The points have been numbered as the student thought of them.



This student has decided to plan their answer around two themes: William the Conqueror and lack of Danish support.

- 1 Add  the information from the notes above into the table below using the themes provided to help.

William the Conqueror	Lack of Danish support

By organising information into themes it gives an overall structure to your response and helps place details into an effective order.

2 How do I build strong paragraphs?

Once your ideas are written down and you have decided what the theme of each paragraph is, you need to make sure that your paragraphs are organised too. This skills boost will help you do this.

Read the exam-style question again.

Exam-style question

Explain why William the Conqueror was able to defeat the Revolt of the Earls in 1075.

You may use the following in your answer:

- the Danish fleet
- Earl Waltheof.

You **must** also use information of your own.

(12 marks)

- 1 The PEEL method of organising a paragraph is shown in the table below for the theme of William himself as a reason for the earls' failure. Do the same for the failure of the plans by filling in  the end column.

PEEL	William himself	Failure of the plans
<u>Point</u> : gives a clear reason	William's reputation as a brutal warrior and king discouraged support for the rebellion.	
<u>Explanation</u> : shows how reason answers question	The Danes did not fight William in battle. According to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, many ordinary people did whatever they could to stop the earls.	
<u>Evidence</u> : supports and strengthens explanation	Cnut and Earl Hakon raided York cathedral and went home. In East Anglia and Hereford, the Anglo-Saxons joined with the Normans to stop the earls.	
<u>Link back</u> : reinforces the point and keeps answer focused on question	Therefore, William's reputation and earlier actions discouraged support for the earls, both at home and from abroad.	

3 How do I stay focused on the question?

This skills boost will help you to stay focused on the question and avoid wandering off the point.

Keep referring back to the question focus in your answer. One way to do this is, at the end of each paragraph, write a sentence linking it back to the question. If you can't, you have probably wandered off the point. Below is a paragraph from a student's answer to the following exam-style question.

Exam-style question

Explain why the earls rebelled in 1075.

Another reason why the earls rebelled in 1075 was to do with land. Ralph and Roger were both Normans, but William had taken some of their fathers' lands from them. They resented these losses. Roger still held East Anglia and Ralph, Herefordshire. They encouraged Waltheof, who held Northumbria, to join with them. This made the earls more likely to rebel because ...

- 1 a Highlight  mentions of the question focus: the earls' rebellion.
- b Circle  the question wording that is referred to.
- c Which of the following statements would be the best to complete the paragraph, linking it back to the question? Tick  the relevant box.
 - i ... Waltheof was sympathetic to them.
 - ii ... between them the earls controlled England north of the Midlands.
 - iii ... Waltheof was Anglo-Saxon so might encourage others to rebel.

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Here is another exam-style question and a paragraph from a student answer:

Exam-style question

Explain why the earls' revolt of 1075 failed.

Waltheof was an important reason why the earls' revolt of 1075 failed because he told Lanfranc about the plans. Lanfranc wrote to Roger, reminding him of the obedience he owed William and ex-communicating him. More important in explaining the failure of the revolt was the fact that alerting Lanfranc enabled Wulfstan and the Abbott of Evesham to prevent Roger crossing the River Severn and in East Anglia. ...

- 2 a Highlight  mentions of the question focus (failure of the earls' revolt) and the focus of the paragraph (powerful foreign allies).
- b Finish  the last sentence of the student's paragraph, saying how important foreign allies were, compared with William's absence, as a cause of the failure of the earls' revolt in 1075.

So, Waltheof was reason why the 1075 Revolt of the Earls failed because

Sample response

Here is an extract from an essay by a student who rushed straight into answering the exam-style question below. You will have to decide what skills they have shown and give some advice.

Exam-style question

Explain why William the Conqueror was able to defeat the Revolt of the Earls in 1075.

You may use the following in your answer:

- the Danish fleet
- Earl Waltheof.

You **must** also include information of your own.

(12 marks)

William the Conqueror came to the throne in 1066. He faced a series of Anglo-Saxon uprisings up to 1071, sometimes with Danish support. These rebellions led William to reorganise landholding in England and to stop working with Anglo-Saxon earls. One of the earls who rebelled in 1075, Waltheof, was Anglo-Saxon but the other two were Normans, Ralph de Gael, earl of East Anglia, and Roger de Breteuil, earl of Hereford. The revolt was timed for when William was abroad but it didn't have large-scale support. One reason for this was the Harrying of the North, which showed how brutal William was prepared to be against rebels. Many Anglo-Saxons supported the king, such as Bishop Wulfstan who prevented Roger leaving Herefordshire. William's reputation was also important when it came to the Danes who had come to support the rebellion. When they heard William had returned to England, they ransacked York cathedral and then went home. So, William's reputation is an important reason why the rebellion failed as it affected the rebels' support.

The failure of the plans is another important reason why the earls' revolt failed. Waltheof told Archbishop Lanfranc about the rebellion and he investigated events in East Anglia and Hereford. This meant William was prepared. The Danish fleet also arrived too late, and Ralph fled England.

- 1 Read through this answer and highlight  in one colour anything that is about, or could be linked to, William. Then, in another colour, do the same for the failure of the plans.
- 2 Complete this table by ticking  to show what skills the student has used.

Skill	Paragraph 1	Paragraph 2
Made a clear point at the start of the paragraph.		
Clearly explained how the reason given answers the question.		
Provided supporting evidence.		
Organised the information in the paragraphs into a logical order.		
Linked back to the question at the end of the paragraph.		

- 3 What tips would you give the student to help them improve their answer? Try to write  three tips.

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Your turn!

- 1 Write  two paragraphs as part of your own answer to the exam-style question on page 38. One paragraph will be on one of the prompts (the Danish fleet or Waltheof). The other paragraph will be on another reason for William's defeat of the earls' revolt in 1075, such as: plans failed; Archbishop Lanfranc; or the long-term impact of the Harrying of the North.

Lined writing area for the student's response.

? Have I remembered to organise my material into paragraphs?

? Have I remembered to PEEL my paragraphs?

? Have I answered the question?

Review your skills

Check up

Review your response to the exam-style question on page 38. Tick ✓ the column to show how well you think you have done each of the following.

	Not quite ✓	Nearly there ✓	Got it! ✓
organised my ideas into an effective order	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
built strong paragraphs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
linked back to the question	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Look over all of your work in this unit. Note down ✎ three things you have learned to do to structure your answer.

- ①
- ②
- ③

Need more practice?

On a separate piece of paper, plan and write ✎ your response to the exam-style question below.

Exam-style question

Explain why there was an earls' rebellion in 1075.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Ralph de Gael, earl of East Anglia
- the Danes.

You **must** also use information of your own.

(12 marks)

How confident do you feel about each of these **skills**? Colour ✎ in the bars.

1 How do I organise my ideas into an effective order?

2 How do I build strong paragraphs?

3 How do I stay focused on the question?