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**Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1)**

# **History**

**The reigns of King Richard I  
and King John, 1189–1216**

**Revision Guide and Workbook**





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# History

**The reigns of King Richard I  
and King John, 1189–1216**

**Revision Guide and Workbook**

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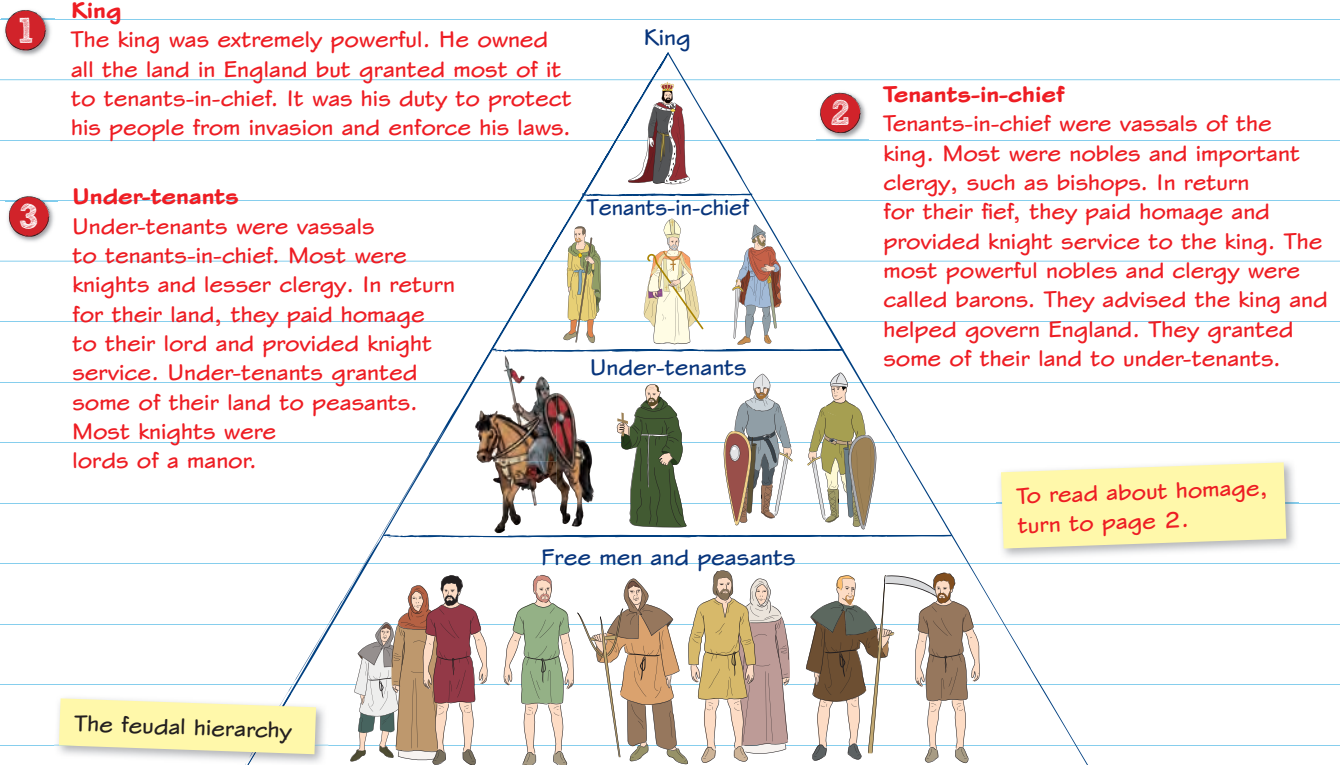
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Had a look ☐Nearly there ☐Nailed it! ☐**The feudal system**

# The feudal hierarchy

From 1189 to 1216, the dominant feature of English society, especially in the countryside, was the **feudal system**. Each rank of the feudal hierarchy was granted land from the rank above in return for loyalty and service. The king was at the top, with vast power over the whole system.



## Landholding

The king kept about 20 per cent of land in England for himself, for hunting, farming and renting out. His land was known as **demesne**. Most of the rest (approximately 55 per cent) was run by barons, other nobles and knights. The remaining land was controlled by the Church, which made the Church very wealthy.

## Key terms

**Fief or feud** – land held by a vassal in return for service to a lord.

**Tenant-in-chief** – someone who held their fiefs directly from the king.

**Under-tenant** – someone who held their fiefs from a tenant-in-chief.

**Vassal** – someone who held land from someone else in the feudal system.

## Now try this

Describe **two** features of the relationship between vassals and their lords in the feudal hierarchy.



# The nature of feudalism

Feudalism was based on **landholding** in return for paying homage and providing certain services. The nature of the system ensured that power firmly remained at the top of the feudal hierarchy.

## Paying homage

All landholders had to pay **homage** to their lord by swearing an **oath of loyalty**. This oath was sworn in a public ceremony. Once it had been sworn, the landholder became the **vassal** of his lord and had to provide service to him. If a vassal broke his oath, he could be punished by **forfeiture** or even death.

## Forfeiture

If a vassal failed to provide service to his lord, or committed a crime, his oath was considered broken, and his land was **forfeit** (the lord took it away). The land could then be granted to someone else as a reward for their loyalty. This helped maintain the feudal hierarchy and the king's power.



Vassals swearing allegiance to a medieval king in an act of homage.

## Knight service

Knight service ensured that the king had an army to protect his kingdom. The amount of land held by a tenant-in-chief determined how many knights he owed the king. Some barons were allowed to pay **scutage** to the king instead of providing knights.

## Labour service

This was the work that unfree peasants were expected to do on their lord's land. It helped ensure that enough food and other essential items, like wool for clothing, was produced to provide for everyone in the country.

To find out about scutage, see page 9.

## Duties of knight service

Serving in the king's army for two months per year.

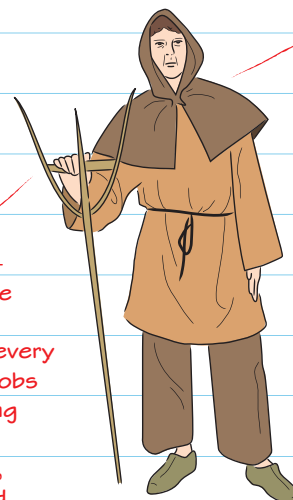


Guarding castles of their lord or the king for up to 40 days per year.

Raising money to pay the ransom of their lord if he was captured during battle.

## Duties of labour service

'Week-work' – working on the lord's land on certain days every week, doing jobs such as looking after animals, sowing crops, ploughing land.



'Boon-work' – working on the lord's land gathering in the harvest.

## Now try this

Explain how forfeiture helped maintain the feudal hierarchy.

Had a look ☐Nearly there ☐Nailed it! ☐**The feudal system**

# Role and influence of the Church

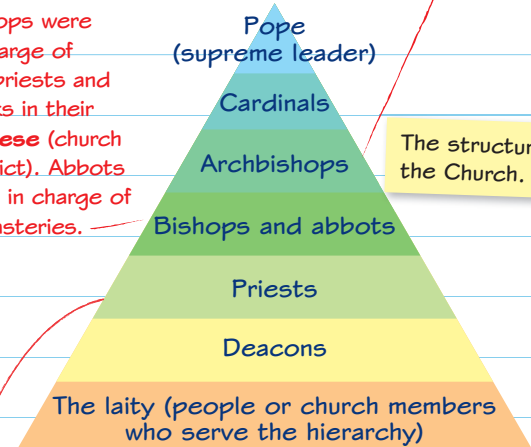
The Church had enormous influence in medieval society. It owned land and property. Everyone was expected to go to Mass, and had to give the Church a percentage of their produce.

## The importance of religion

Most people believed that God controlled everything and would decide whether they went to heaven or hell. Therefore pleasing God was vital, and the Church told people how to do this. The Church was an international organisation. Its structure, like the feudal system, was based on a hierarchy. The head was the pope, in Rome. As God's representative on Earth, the pope had huge authority, even over kings. He authorised the appointment of archbishops. Archbishops chose their bishops, but the king also had a say over who became an archbishop or bishop. This could cause conflict between kings and the pope. Another potential problem for kings was that clergy were more likely to be loyal to the pope than to the king if the pope and the king disagreed.

The head of the Church in England was the Archbishop of Canterbury. He was supported by the Archbishop of York.

Bishops were in charge of the priests and monks in their **diocese** (church district). Abbots were in charge of monasteries.



Every parish (small area) had a priest who was responsible for his church and the people in his parish.

## Influence of the Church

### Spiritual

The clergy, who dedicated their lives to God, guided and taught people to live according to Church teachings – which included accepting the nature of feudalism, therefore helping to control society. Clergy performed daily services, including Mass, in all villages and towns in England. They also performed baptisms, marriages and funerals.

### Economic

The Church was very wealthy: it earned money from rent and profits from agriculture on its land; people frequently donated money and land to the Church or left money in their wills; everyone paid a tithe (a tenth of their produce) to the Church every year.

As a major landholder, the Church had many vassals and employees. Therefore many people depended on the Church for their land, food and employment. The Church was an important source of money for the king, as it paid taxes to him on the money earned from its land. The king relied on this income, which gave the Church influence over the king.

The Church in medieval society.



### Political

As tenants-in-chief and under-tenants, members of the clergy provided knight service for the king. Important churchmen, along with the barons, were leading members of government and advised the king. Many clergy were well educated, and became clerks in important households, including the king's. The king, like all Catholics, was under the authority of the pope, who could therefore influence the king's policies and actions.

### Social

Priests and monks taught people to read and write, and some church buildings housed large collections of books. Monasteries, nunneries and parish priests looked after the elderly, poor and sick. Many churchmen played major roles in law courts and the Church kept collections of the laws.

## Now try this

Explain how the Church was so wealthy and why this gave it power and influence in medieval England.

# The nature of kingship

Kingship in medieval times was very different from the monarchy today. The king had immense power, but he also had responsibilities in the form of duties he was expected to perform.





## Rights

In 1189, once the king of England was crowned at the **coronation**, he had almost unlimited rights to act as he wanted, because he had been chosen by God to be king. He could make laws, decide on foreign and domestic policy, raise an army, set taxes and mint coins. However, he was expected to fulfil certain duties in order to govern and protect his people.

## Display

In order to maintain authority and keep his subjects under control, a medieval king needed to display his power and majesty by showing himself to his people. Rituals were an important part of this, but the king also regularly travelled around the country meeting barons, nobles and bishops. This practice is known as **itinerant kingship**.

## Domestic duties

Duties expected of the king	How the king was to carry out this duty
 <b>Law-maker</b>	To maintain justice and show mercy and fairness The king was expected to consult with leading barons and churchmen in making laws to ensure they were fair. The king heard court cases himself and sent his own judges to settle other cases.
 <b>Decision-maker</b>	To govern in the interest of his people The king was expected to govern fairly and make policy decisions that would benefit his people. He was expected to consult with leading barons and churchmen to help him do this.
 <b>Christian</b>	To support and respect the Church People believed the king had been chosen by God, and they expected him to behave like a good Christian and follow the advice of leading churchmen.
 <b>Protector</b>	To defend the land and people from attack The king was in charge of the army. He was expected to have the military strategy and skills to lead it effectively. Most kings led the army into battle themselves.

## Rituals

### Coronation

The king was crowned in the coronation ceremony at Westminster Abbey, in front of important nobles and churchmen. He was anointed with 'holy oil' to show that he was made king by God. The king had to take the coronation oath, where he swore to protect the Church and act with justice and mercy. The tenants-in-chief then swore homage to the king.

See page 2 to read about homage.

### Crown-wearings

Three times a year, during religious festivals at Winchester (Easter), Gloucester (Christmas) and Westminster (Whitsun), the king took part in crown-wearing ceremonies which nobles were expected to attend. These took place in important cathedrals to enforce the message that the king had been chosen by God.

## Now try this

Explain why rituals were important for a medieval king.



# Richard I as king

On 3 September 1189, Richard I was crowned king of the Angevin Empire in a lavish ceremony. Richard took power peacefully and set about preparing his kingdom for his absence when he left on **crusade** three months later.

## Richard I

**Born:** 1157

**Nickname:** Coeur de Lion (Lionheart)

**Claim to the throne in 1189:** eldest surviving son of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine; experienced ruler; Duke of Aquitaine since 1172; a successful and proven military leader; favourite son of Eleanor (who held much power and influence)

**Character and qualities:** charismatic; brave; strong belief in chivalry; a great soldier; wrote music and poetry; arrogant; selfish; could be disloyal (he had fought against his father and brothers during his father's reign)



## How power was secured

When Henry II died in 1189, Richard succeeded to the throne peacefully and successfully secured his power by:

- making peace with those who had fought against him while his father was alive
- appeasing those with other strong claims to the throne – he made his brother John, Count of Mortain (in Normandy), and his half-brother Geoffrey, Archbishop of York, but he also banned them from England for three years
- agreeing that William the Lion (king of Scotland) did not have to do homage to him (accepting Scotland as a separate country) in return for William abandoning claims to northern England
- putting able, loyal men, such as William Longchamp, in charge in his absence
- winning the support of many barons by restoring land to nobles who had been disinherited by Henry II, using patronage to reward powerful barons
- treating nobles and knights with courtesy and respect and inspiring loyalty with his charisma.

## Death of Richard I

In March 1199, Richard was badly wounded while fighting in France. He died on 6 April. As he had no children, he had named John as his heir. However, his nephew Arthur, the son of John's older brother Geoffrey, claimed that he should be king, according to the principle of **primogeniture** (where the eldest son inherits). Following the rules of primogeniture, Arthur would inherit before John because Arthur was a son of an older brother.



Many people at the time and since regarded Richard I as a great warrior-king. He is often portrayed this way in paintings and statues.

## Now try this

Explain Richard I's claim to the throne in 1189.



# John as king

John's succession to the throne was not as smooth as Richard's had been. In England he established his authority quickly; elsewhere it took time for his power to be secured. Indeed, in some parts of the Angevin Empire, John never really secured power at all.

## John

**Born:** 1167

**Nickname:** (earlier) Lackland; (later) Softsword

**Claim to the throne in 1199:** fourth and only surviving son of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine; favourite son of Henry II; acknowledged by Richard I as his heir; his claim was supported by his mother

**Character and qualities:** intelligent; hard-working; experienced in warfare (though he lacked the generalship of Richard); had spent some time in England; 'trained' by his father to be king (though he lacked Henry's diplomatic skills); short tempered; could be cruel; suspicious and distrusting of others; could be disloyal



## How power was secured

Leading English and Norman barons, and his mother, supported John's claim to the throne. Other key men in Anjou, Maine and Touraine supported John's nephew Arthur, Duke of Brittany (also known as Prince Arthur). John's biggest threat was Philip II of France, who supported Arthur's claim and invaded Normandy when he heard of Richard's death. However, John secured power through:

- acting quickly by being crowned king on 27 May (Richard died 6 April)
- showing his religious devotion by visiting Canterbury and Bury St Edmunds after his coronation, inspiring loyalty from his English subjects
- wisely leaving England to be run by men who had governed under Richard, while going to fight for his lands in France
- ensuring the north of England was protected from the threat of Scottish invasion by entrusting its protection to a powerful and loyal baron
- securing the support of the Count of Angouleme by marrying his daughter Isabelle, and persuading the Count of Anjou to switch sides
- driving back Philip II's forces and making peace in May 1200 at Le Goulet.

Peace lasted for two years and secured John's position as king, but only for a short time.

## The Treaty of Le Goulet

- Philip recognised John as king of the Angevin Empire.
- John gave Philip some land in Normandy.
- Arthur remained Duke of Brittany but did homage to John for this.
- John agreed to do homage to Philip for his land in France and pay an enormous fine for the inheritance of this land.

## The murder of Prince Arthur

John's army had captured Arthur at Mirebeau in August 1202. Like other captured nobles, Arthur was imprisoned in chains, which went against the chivalric code. There are different versions of what happened next, but Arthur disappeared. Whatever actually happened, John was blamed for his murder; some people even believed that John killed his nephew himself. The consequence of Arthur's disappearance was that many of John's supporters in France changed sides and supported Philip, eventually leading to John losing Normandy completely.

Turn to page 21 for more about Arthur's murder and the loss of Normandy.

## Now try this

Explain why John found it more difficult to secure power than Richard when he took the throne.

# England under Richard

During most of his ten-year reign (1189–99), Richard I was on crusade: he spent only six months in England. In his absence, England was ruled by **justiciars** (who heard law cases and had the authority of the king when he was not there) with varying degrees of success.

## Timeline

- **1189** In July, Richard becomes king.
- **1189** In December, Richard leaves England for France.
- **1190** Richard departs on crusade, appointing Longchamp as justiciar.
- **1191** John arrives in England, stirs up rebellions and seizes some castles. Longchamp is deposed in October and replaced by Walter of Coutances.
- **1192** Richard is captured.
- **1193** John pays homage to Philip II. John seizes more castles in England, declares Richard dead and himself king. Hubert Walter becomes justiciar.
- **1194** Richard returns to England, takes control, then leaves for France.
- **1198** Geoffrey Fitz Peter becomes justiciar.
- **1199** Richard is killed in France.

## William Longchamp

Longchamp was loyal to Richard but unpopular with many English barons because:

- he was Norman and they felt they knew English government better than him
- he had paid Richard to make him chancellor
- he replaced many sheriffs appointed by Richard with his own men
- they felt he was arrogant and didn't treat them with respect or consult them on important matters.

In October 1191, Longchamp was deposed after leading barons joined with Prince John in rebellion against him. Richard sent Walter of Coutances to become the new justiciar, but Prince John continued to cause problems.

Turn to pages 13–18 for details of Richard's crusade, his capture and ransom, and pages 19–21 for more about his time in France after 1194. You can find out more about rule in England on pages 9–12.

## John's rebellions

In 1191, John arrived in England and encouraged the barons to rebel against Longchamp's rule. He set up his own court, hired sheriffs to collect taxes for him and seized control of several castles. In 1193, after hearing of Richard's capture, John attempted to seize the throne. He paid homage to Philip II of France for Richard's lands in France. He then returned to England, seized more castles and declared that Richard was dead and he was king. However, he didn't have many supporters. Coutances met with leading barons and they decided to believe that Richard was alive and to pay the ransom that was demanded. After Richard's release in 1194, John surrendered the castles and begged for mercy. Richard forgave his brother and named him his heir before he died.

## Hubert Walter

Walter had worked for Henry II and was respected by most barons. He had also served Richard well on crusade and was made Archbishop of Canterbury in 1193. The barons appointed him justiciar in December 1193. Illness forced him to resign in 1198, when Geoffrey Fitz Peter took over the role.

England was well governed until 1199 because:

- Richard was often close by in Normandy and stayed in touch with Walter, authorising and approving his actions
- Walter and Richard had the support of the barons and consulted with them
- Walter made the justice system more effective by choosing four knights in each hundred (an area within a shire) to deal with justice in an area.

## Now try this

Give **two** reasons why Richard ruled England well and **two** reasons why he ruled England badly.

# England under John

During the years 1199–1204, John spent most of his time in France, trying to secure the Angevin lands. In his absence, England was ruled by justiciars. John spent the years 1204–16 ruling in England. He played a far greater role in running England than Richard had done.

## 1199–1204

When John became king and left for France, Fitz Peter continued as justiciar and Hubert Walter was appointed chancellor, showing how John kept most of Richard's main officials in place to rule in his absence. They are generally regarded as having done a good job. However, in 1204, John lost Normandy and returned to England, where he ruled for himself until his death in 1216. His rule of England became very unpopular and was seen at the time, and since, as oppressive.

For more about the loss of Normandy, turn to page 21.

### Positive views of John

- ✓ John was more interested in governing England than many of his predecessors had been. He is described as hard-working and energetic.
- ✓ He paid great attention to detail and kept efficient records of day-to-day government that show how much work he did.
- ✓ Government records show that John could be generous and often gave donations to the poor.



Many descriptions and images of King John come from 13th-century chroniclers. They were monks and therefore had negative opinions about a man who had argued with the pope. They portray John as, at best, useless and, at worst, a tyrant. This image is from Matthew Paris' chronicle, c.1250–59, and depicts John with his crown falling off his head.

### Reasons for John's unpopularity

- 1 As John did most of the governing himself and was almost continuously in the country after 1204, he was blamed when things went wrong. In the past, regents or government ministers had taken the blame for unpopular policies.
- 2 As time went on, he replaced his advisers with 'new men', many of whom were inexperienced in government and/or exploited their influence to gain large financial rewards. John relied on a small number of people, which meant he had few supporters.
- 3 The 'new men' took the place of wealthy English barons in advising the king, which annoyed and angered the barons. Unlike Richard, John did little to gain the support of the barons, who he seems to have distrusted.
- 4 The ways John raised money through taxes and fines to pay for (unsuccessful) wars caused hardship and annoyance. Many barons owed large debts due to John's increasing demands.

Go to page 25 for more about John and the barons.

- 5 John's dispute with the pope worried and angered some of his subjects, especially churchmen.

See page 22 for more about the dispute with the pope.

- 6 John took almost complete control over justice. Many saw him as applying the law to benefit himself, as only he heard cases in the royal court.
- 7 The suspected murder of Arthur, the cruel punishment of those who displeased John, as well as reports that John attempted to seduce many barons' wives, made him hated and feared.

Turn to page 6 to read about Arthur's role and his death.

### Now try this

Give **three** reasons for the English barons' dislike of King John.

Use pages 25 and 26 as well as this one to help you answer this question.



Had a look ☐Nearly there ☐Nailed it! ☐**Royal  
government  
and finances**

# Royal revenues

Richard and John needed to raise huge amounts of money: Richard needed to fund his crusade and pay his ransom, and both kings needed to pay for wars in France. They raised money from their English subjects by various means. Prices rose after 1200, which increased the need for money.

## Royal demesne

The land held directly by the king raised money through the sale of crops and livestock. It also brought in rent from the towns and the countryside, and by **tallage** (land tax). Tallages were paid only by peasants and were greatly resented. Throughout his reign, John increased the amount paid by towns and cities.

## Feudal incidents

These were charges the king could make his vassals pay for ransoming the king if he was captured, to knight the king's eldest son and pay for the king's eldest daughter's dowry. They also included forest fines, **wardship** (under-age children, called wards, who inherited land were looked after by the king until they came of age and had to pay for their land) and inheritance fines (known as reliefs). John greatly increased both forest fines and wardship fines, which made him a lot of money, but this fell heavily on the barons.

## Court cases

All fees for a writ starting a court case were paid to the king, and both Richard and John raised funds this way. In addition, the possessions of any person convicted of a crime went to the king. During John's reign the crown also raised considerable funds in return for favourable judgements in court – this led to complaints that John sold justice.

## How Richard I and John raised money



## Selling offices

It was usual for positions, such as sheriff, to be bought. Both kings sold many positions. Richard raised vast amounts of money for his crusade this way in just a few months after becoming king in 1189. He then raised money in 1194 for war in France by charging men to retain the offices they had bought in 1189!

## Scutage

This could be paid by tenants-in-chief instead of providing knight service to the king when the king demanded it. The king set the amount to be paid according to the amount of land held and therefore the number of knights due in knight service. Richard levied three scutages during his reign, and John levied 11. John also raised the amount due to be paid per knight. The money was used to hire professional soldiers during war.

## Aids

Aids were taxes payable in exceptional circumstances. They were levied on income to pay Richard's ransom, and were demanded by John in 1207 in the form of his new type of tax on moveables and income to recover land in France.

For more about Richard's ransom, go to page 18.

## Tax on moveables and income

A new tax introduced by John in 1207 on the income and moveables (goods or possessions) of every man at a rate of a **thirteenth** of the value. The penalty for failure to pay was seizure of moveables and imprisonment. It was very unpopular, and people went to great lengths to hide their goods. John didn't collect it again.

## Role of sheriffs

Sheriffs had to collect all taxes due from the royal demesne. They were allowed to keep any money they collected above the required sum, so the office of sheriff could be a valuable one, which some sheriffs exploited. John increased the fixed sums demanded from each demesne, so sheriffs increased pressure on people taxed.

## Now try this

List **three** similarities and **three** differences in the ways in which Richard and John raised money.

# Rural medieval England

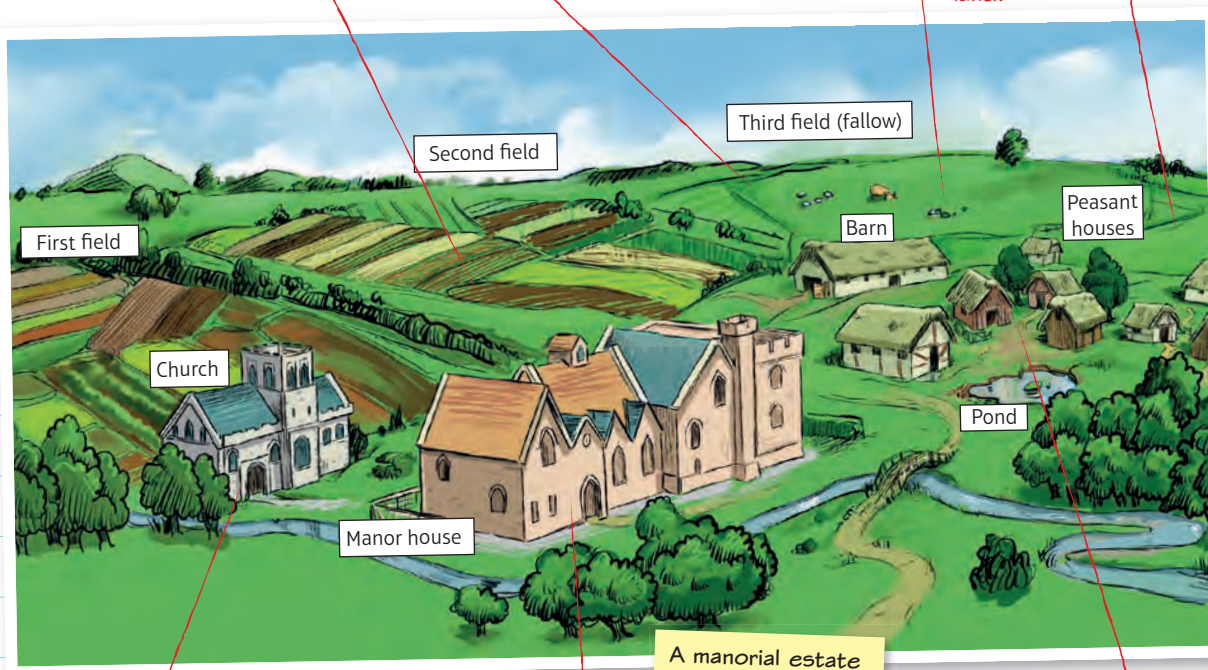
Medieval England was an agrarian rural society; very few people lived in towns. Most people lived in a manorial village and worked on the land. Life expectancy was low.

Animals, such as cows, sheep and pigs, were kept for food and to provide material for clothing. They grazed on common land around the village, and at night were put in barns or peasants' houses for safety. Peasants kept some animals for themselves. Wool was very profitable, and was traded in towns.

Land for farming was divided into strips. Each field grew a single crop: wheat, barley, rye or oats, depending on the soil. All work was done by **peasants**. Yields were often low, and poor harvests led to food shortages and sometimes starvation.

There were usually three large fields. One of these was left **fallow** (unfarmed) for a year or two to allow it to recover while crops were grown on the other two.

Work on the land was carried out from dawn until dusk and included hard work, such as clod-breaking. Peasant men, women and children were all expected to work on the land.



Religion and the Church were central to village life. Sunday was the peasants' only day off, and all were expected to go to church. Other holidays were around Christian festivals when people gathered to drink ale, and enjoy music and sports, such as wrestling.

The lord of the manor or his bailiff (manager) lived in the manor house. A lord was a baron, lesser noble or knight who held his land either directly from the king or as an under-tenant. He kept some land for himself and split the rest between the peasants who lived in the village.

Peasants lived in the village in one-room cruck houses with thatched roofs and wattle-and-daub walls. Unfree peasants were owned by the lord and had to work on his land. They were given strips of land to grow food to feed themselves and their families. Freemen paid rent for their land and sometimes worked on the lord's land, but were paid for this. All peasants had to pay the lord for using the village mill to grind their crops and for using his ovens to bake bread.

Look back at page 1 for the difference between free and unfree peasants.

## Now try this

Describe **two** features of life for a medieval peasant.



# Medieval towns

Although only a small percentage of England's population lived in towns, by 1189 towns were growing and new towns were developing due to increasing trade and prosperity. Towns were vital to the economy because they were centres of trade and an essential source of revenue for the king.

## Life in towns and their role in the economy

All town dwellers were free and did not belong to a lord. This meant that men could choose their own employment. Some were tradesmen, such as blacksmiths, carpenters and bakers.

Others were merchants. Many townsmen were poor and worked as servants or labourers. Town dwellers usually had to pay tallage (land tax) to the king.

As in villages, the church was central to life in the towns, and all were expected to attend church on Sundays. People often went to the market afterwards.

As in villages, towns contained plots of land where people grew food for themselves and to sell. Local villagers and townspeople sold their surplus food and goods in the town's market.

For a reminder about life in the villages of rural medieval England, go to page 10.

Stone walls protected the town from thieves and attack, and gateways were controlled. Watchmen patrolled the town walls at night.



A medieval town

Some houses had shops at the front. Markets were often held on Sundays: traders paid rent for a table or stall. Larger towns paid the king for a licence to hold annual fairs, where goods and animals were sold, and people enjoyed drinking and sports. Villagers visited nearby towns to sell surplus produce and buy things they needed. Buying and selling took place in towns every day, and the king collected taxes on sales and purchases.

Town authorities built and maintained roads and bridges. This helped both town dwellers and visitors, and so made trade easier. Tolls were paid to the king for using certain roads and bridges, and to enter towns through the gates.

## Tradesmen

Tradesmen trained as apprentices to highly skilled master craftsmen. They were often members of a **guild** who had the right to trade in that town in return for members' fees and payment of taxes.

## Merchants

Merchants sold food, raw materials and textiles in towns across England and even in Europe, especially the Low Countries. Some merchants were very wealthy. Customs duties on all imports and exports were paid to the king.

Read the question carefully. It's asking you about the **national** economy. What aspects of medieval town life helped the whole country?

## Now try this

Describe **two** ways in which medieval towns were important to the national economy.



# Jews in medieval England

By 1200, around 5000 Jews lived in England, mostly in large towns, such as London and York. They were an important part of England's economy, but lived in fear of attacks by Christians.

## Legal status

- 👍 They were allowed to travel where they wanted, and were exempt from many travel tolls.
- 👍 They were allowed to trade and to inherit possessions.
- 👎 They, and their possessions, were essentially the property of the king. He could tax them whenever he wanted and however much he wanted.
- 👎 Local restrictions often barred them from some jobs. For example, they weren't allowed to join guilds, so couldn't find employment as skilled tradesmen.

## Role in moneylending

Most Jews were moneylenders because:

- the Church didn't allow Christians to charge interest for lending money
- there were few other jobs, as Jews were barred from many occupations.

Jewish moneylenders were essential for England's economy as they provided loans for many barons and knights to buy land or positions. Some Jews such as Aaron of Lincoln, were incredibly wealthy.

Jews were the only non-Christians allowed to live in England. They did so under the protection of the king.

## Anti-semitism

Prejudice, hatred and discrimination against Jews (anti-semitism) were growing throughout Europe in the late 12th century due to:

- accusations of being 'Christ-killers' and false rumours about Jews killing Christian children in rituals
- the Crusades, which highlighted religious differences and caused tensions
- the fact that many people owed Jews money and were jealous of their success in business.

## Royal exploitation

Both Richard and John exploited Jews in England through taxation. Jews were forced to pay **tallages** at any time and, after 1194, the king could collect all debts owed to a Jew if he died without a will.

When Clifford's Tower in York Castle was attacked in 1190, some men killed their families before committing suicide. Others were killed when rioters broke their promise to leave them in peace.

## The pogroms of 1189–90

A **pogrom** is a riot against a particular group of people. The pogroms of 1189–90 involved setting Jews' homes on fire, stealing their property and physically attacking and killing them. The pogroms were sparked by Christians who thought that the Jews offering a gift to Richard at his coronation in September 1189 was an insult to the new king. However, Richard was furious. He hanged the ringleaders and sent messages across England ordering people to leave Jews in peace. Despite this, the violence spread across the country, culminating in the massacre of Jews at York Castle.

## Timeline

**February 1190** There were anti-Jewish riots in King's Lynn and Norwich.

**September 1189** There were anti-Jewish riots in London.

**March 1190** Anti-Jewish riots in Stamford, Bury St Edmunds, Lincoln and York: 150 Jews took refuge from the riots at Clifford's Tower in York Castle, but the castle was attacked.

## Now try this

Give **three** causes of the pogroms of 1189–90.

Had a look ☐Nearly there ☐Nailed it! ☐The nature  
of crusading

# Causes of the Third Crusade

During the years 1189–94, Richard I was away from England on the Third Crusade. A **crusade** was a holy war. At this time, Christians and Muslims were fighting over control of the Holy Land.

## The concept of crusade

By 1095, the Muslim **Seljuk Turks** had taken over the Holy Land, which had been part of the Christian Byzantine Empire. The pope claimed that Muslims were persecuting Christians who lived there, and preventing them from visiting Jerusalem. He appealed to Christians in Europe to go on crusade – travel to the Holy Land and win back control from the Seljuk Turks.

The **First Crusade** followed: thousands of European knights travelled to the Holy Land and captured land which became known as ‘crusader states’, including the city of Jerusalem. Many Muslims and Jews were killed.

The **Holy Land** is the area of the Middle East linked to Jesus Christ and includes parts of modern Israel, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian territories.

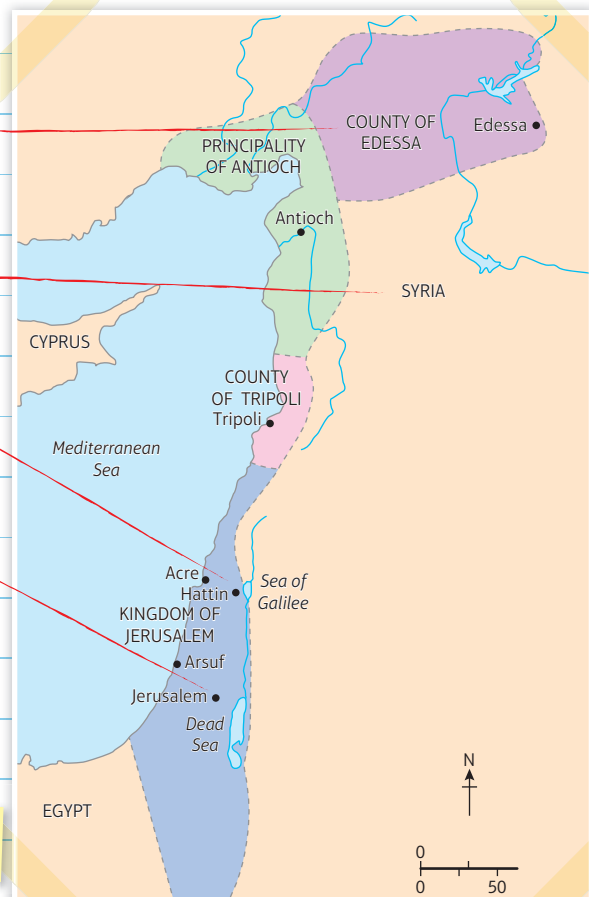
## Indulgences

Pope Urban II, and later Pope Gregory VIII, promised Christians who went on crusade a **full indulgence**. The Church often sold indulgences to people who were anxious to reduce **penance** (punishment) for their sins and their time in **purgatory** (where they believed they would go after death to be ‘purified’ before going to heaven). A full indulgence meant complete forgiveness for sins committed on Earth, and immediate admission to heaven after death.

## Causes of the Third Crusade

- 1 In 1144, Muslim forces took back control of parts of Edessa. This led to the **Second Crusade** as Christian armies attempted to win back Edessa.
- 2 After 1150, Muslim groups began to unite. By 1184 the crusader states were totally surrounded by Muslim lands, and were weakened by quarrels between the Christian lords ruling them.
- 3 In July 1187, Saladin led Muslim forces in a great victory over the Christian army at the Battle of Hattin.
- 4 Saladin's forces attacked Jerusalem. By October 1187, Jerusalem was back under Muslim control.
- 5 People in Europe were shocked and horrified to hear that Jerusalem had been taken. On 29 October 1187, Pope Gregory VIII issued a papal bull (an official declaration) describing horrible attacks on Christians by Muslims and calling for a **Third Crusade** to take back Jerusalem. He offered a full indulgence to those who went on crusade.

The four crusader states ruled by Christians by 1144. A Christian lord ruled each state.



## Now try this

Define or describe the following: crusader states; papal bull; indulgence; Jerusalem. Then explain how each one is associated with the start of the Third Crusade.

# The English crusading army

The Third Crusade was the first one to involve large numbers of crusaders from England. They went for a variety of reasons, and were largely supported by the population in England.

## Who went on crusade

- Knights, including some from important noble families.
- Many knights' squires and other members of knights' military households.
- 8000 professional soldiers hired by Richard.
- A few important churchmen, including the Archbishop of Canterbury and Hubert Walter, Bishop of Salisbury.
- Many priests went to provide religious guidance and some fought as well.
- Civilians, including women, who worked as cooks, baggage carriers and nurses. Some were married to other crusaders.

People who vowed to go on crusade promised to 'take the cross'.

## Attitudes in England to the crusaders

Most people supported their king's call for a crusade. It was seen as the highest duty that a king could perform, so many respected Richard for sticking to his promise (most medieval English kings promised to go on crusade, but only Richard ever did while he was king). Many were horrified by the news that Jerusalem was under Muslim control, and felt it was their Christian duty to support the crusade to recapture it.

There were some who resented the cost of the Third Crusade and worried about how lands would be managed while knights were away. A few had concerns about their king being absent from the country he ruled.

## Why people went on crusade



### Financial reasons

- 👍 Crusaders did not have to pay the crusading tax (known as the Saladin tithe).
- 👍 There would be opportunities to gain wealth and land in the Holy Land.
- 👍 Professional soldiers were paid for going on crusade.
- 👍 Crusaders' debts would be cancelled while they were away.



### Religious reasons

- 👍 The pope promised all crusaders a full indulgence.
- 👍 Many priests persuaded people to go on crusade, often using tales of Muslim atrocities.
- 👍 Going on pilgrimage was common, and Jerusalem was the most sacred of all Christian sites.
- 👍 Many saw it as their religious duty to win back Christian control of the Holy Land, especially Jerusalem.



### Other reasons

- 👍 To travel and go on an adventure.
- 👍 To win glory and respect for themselves and their family.
- 👍 To complete their knight service and fulfil their duty to their lord.
- 👍 To take revenge on the Muslims who had taken Jerusalem and killed Christians.

## Now try this

Explain how going on crusade could benefit a knight financially.



# Richard and the Third Crusade

Richard was the first of the princes to **take the cross** (agree to go on crusade) in the autumn of 1187. He left England for the Holy Land in December 1189, three months after his coronation.

## Richard's motives for involvement

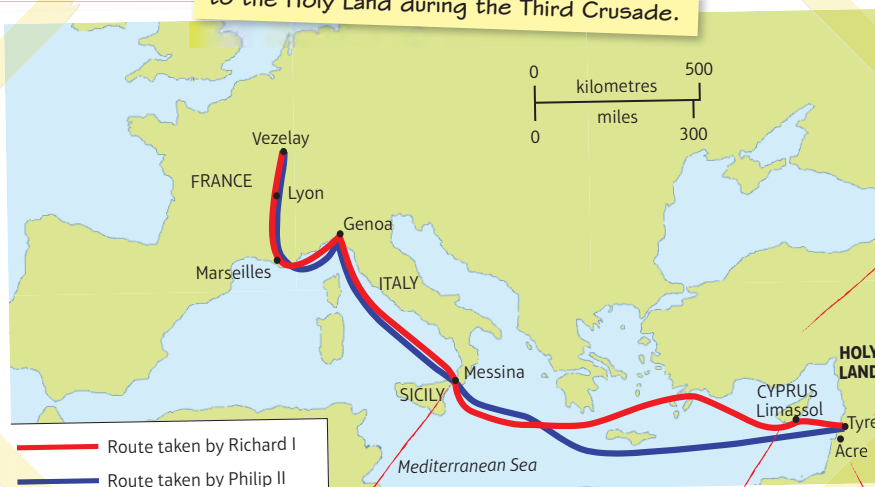
- 👍 He was religious and strongly believed it was his Christian duty.
- 👍 He was a great soldier with military experience, and believed this was his chance for honour and glory.
- 👍 Due to the wealth and size of his empire, he had the necessary resources.
- 👍 His great grandfather had been king of Jerusalem, so he had a family connection and desire to win it back.

## Rivalry with Philip

Even before the crusade, a great rivalry was developing between Richard and Philip II of France. Philip had tried to take Angevin lands and stir up trouble between Richard, his brothers and his father, Henry II. With the smaller empire, Philip's resources were also smaller than Richard's. Finally, Philip had given Richard the Vexin (land in France) as the dowry for marrying his sister, but Richard never married her.

## Richard's quarrel with Philip II

The routes taken by Richard I and Philip II to the Holy Land during the Third Crusade.



**1** The third leader of the Third Crusade was Frederick I (Barbarossa) of the Holy Roman Empire. He drowned on the way to the Holy Land in **June 1190** and many of his men went home. This was a serious blow to the crusade, and increased the rivalry between Richard and Philip as both wanted to lead the crusade.

**5** Philip and Richard's quarrels also concerned strategy in the Holy Land. They disagreed over who should be king of Jerusalem (Richard wanted Guy de Lusignan and Philip, Conrad de Montferrat) and how much their professional soldiers should be paid (Richard paid more).

**2** In **September 1190** Richard was greeted with a great ceremony on his arrival in Messina, Sicily. Philip, on the other hand, received a quiet reception and felt humiliated. After fighting erupted, Richard conquered Messina. Philip was annoyed. Richard gave him some of the money he made from the peace deal with Sicily's ruler.

**3** Richard invaded and conquered Cyprus in **May 1191**, but this time, he refused to give Philip a share of its value. He sold the island for 100 000 gold coins and secured its grain supplies for his army.

**4** In Cyprus, Richard married Berengaria of Navarre, going back on his agreement to marry Philip's sister.

**6** Despite winning at Acre in July, Philip returned home in **August 1191**. Annoyance with Richard was not Philip's only reason for leaving; he was unwell and had been told that the Count of Flanders had died, so he feared that France would be attacked in his absence.

Turn to page 16 to read about the victory at Acre.

## Now try this

Give **three** reasons why Richard I and Philip II quarrelled on the Third Crusade.

# Victories at Acre and Arsuf

Richard's victories at Acre and Arsuf enhanced his reputation as a great warrior and military leader that lasts to this day, though some of his actions were controversial.

## The siege of Acre and Battle of Arsuf

**1** Acre was the main port in the Kingdom of Jerusalem and therefore an important supply route to the town of Jerusalem. It had been under siege by crusaders since 1189.

Philip's forces reached the town in January 1191 and joined the siege. As Richard sailed towards Acre in June, his forces managed to sink enemy ships. Arriving at Acre on 8 June, his forces joined the attack on the city walls.



The siege of Acre

**3** The walls were eventually breached by catapults and Philip's miners who had tunnelled under them. On 12 July 1191, only around a month after Richard's arrival, Saladin's forces surrendered Acre.

**4** After Philip returned to France, Richard negotiated with Saladin. He agreed to release Muslim soldiers if Saladin paid 200 000 gold coins, released Christian prisoners and handed over siege weapons and the True Cross (believed to be the fragments from the cross on which Jesus died, which Saladin captured in 1187), but Saladin did not do any of this.

**5** Richard believed Saladin was playing for time. On 20 August, Richard's men took 2700 Muslim prisoners to a spot within sight of Saladin's camp and executed them.

**7** The crusaders' fleet also supplied the troops with water, food and a place to rest – essential in the heat and as local crops were destroyed by Saladin's forces. Despite frequent attacks by Saladin's skilled horsemen, under Richard's command the crusaders held their formation and Saladin realised his forces would have to face them in battle to stop them reaching Jaffa.

**6** On 25 August, the crusader army left Acre and began the tough march to Jaffa on the way to Jerusalem. This march shows Richard's tactical expertise: his forces marched close to the sea, so that one flank was protected by the fleet and the other by archers and infantry (foot soldiers).

**10** At a crucial moment in the battle, Richard courageously led his knights on a charge at Saladin's men. After an intense struggle, Saladin's army fled and the crusader army marched on to Jaffa.



Richard I at the Battle of Arsuf

**8** On 7 September 1191, Saladin's 30 000-strong army attacked the crusaders on the plain of Arsuf.

## Now try this

Give **two** examples of his actions at Acre, the march to Jaffa or the Battle of Arsuf that show Richard I was a great military leader.

Had a look ☐Nearly there ☐Nailed it! ☐Richard,  
the Crusader  
King

# Failure to recapture Jerusalem

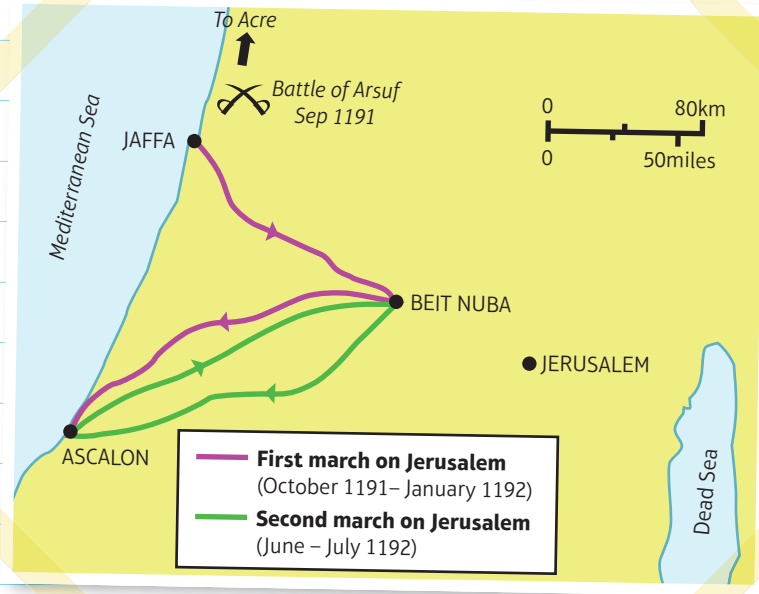
Twice the crusaders marched to Jerusalem, but on both occasions they retreated. Richard I left the Holy Land without returning Jerusalem to Christian control as he had hoped.

## First march on Jerusalem

After rebuilding Jaffa's defences Richard wanted to go to Ascalon, but he reluctantly agreed with other crusade leaders to march to Jerusalem. Progress was slow due to terrible weather. Mud and rain destroyed food, clothes and weapons. Progress was impossible, so Richard led the crusaders to Ascalon.

## Second march on Jerusalem

By June the weather had improved and the crusaders marched to Beit Nuba in days rather than months. However, it was hot and the crusaders worried about lack of water, especially as Saladin had poisoned the wells around Jerusalem. After great debate, Richard decided to retreat again.



The marches to Jerusalem

## Reasons for not attacking Jerusalem

- Leaving the coast left supply lines vulnerable to attack – they could be cut off from food and water supplies.
- Leaving the coast also meant they could be surrounded by Muslim forces and attacked from all sides without being able to retreat.
- Lack of troops to successfully besiege Jerusalem, which had strong defences, including fortresses and a wall.
- Lack of resources (people and money) to hold the city if they did win it.

## Saving Jaffa

Once most crusaders had retreated to Ascalon for the second time, Saladin's troops tried to retake Jaffa. The leaders at Jaffa were about to surrender when Richard led a surprise attack to save the town. Saladin's army regrouped and attacked again, but again Richard successfully defended the city. Richard's bravery and skill during the battles were reported by many sources. The leaders of both sides decided to stop fighting at this point.

## Reasons for the Treaty of Jaffa

Richard and Saladin stopped fighting and negotiated the Treaty:

- Richard had heard that his land was at risk from Philip II and John.
- Saladin was ill and was quickly running out of money to pay for war.

Turn to page 7 to read about John's rebellions.

## The Treaty of Jaffa

- ✓ Muslims retained Jerusalem.
- ✓ Christians retained the coastline between Acre and Jaffa.
- ✓ Christian pilgrims could visit sacred sites in Jerusalem in safety.
- ✓ There would be no fighting for three years.

## Now try this

Explain why Richard decided not to launch an attack on Jerusalem during the Third Crusade.



# Richard's return and capture

Richard was captured while trying to return from the crusade, and the vast sum of money demanded for his ransom placed a huge burden on England.

## Richard's return from the Holy Land

On 9 October 1192, Richard set sail for home. He could not travel all the way by sea, as the Atlantic Ocean was too rough for ships during winter. At some point he would need to cross land, but by this point he had more enemies in Europe than just Philip II of France:

- The Duke of Austria, Leopold, hated Richard because he had insulted Leopold at Acre during the crusade.
- Leopold's overlord, Henry VI, the Holy Roman Emperor, resented the fact that Richard had supported Henry's rival to the throne after Frederick I drowned in 1190.
- Northern Italy was ruled by a cousin of Conrad of Montferrat, who Richard had stopped becoming king of Jerusalem. There were also rumours that Richard was behind Conrad's murder in 1192.

## Richard's capture

In November, Richard was shipwrecked off the northern Adriatic coast. He now had to cross enemy territory to get home. He and his few companions disguised themselves, but around Christmas he was recognised and arrested in Vienna by Duke Leopold's men. Leopold was delighted, as was Henry VI (who was handed Richard in February), even though the pope excommunicated both of them (officially excluded them from the Church), as crusaders were supposed to be able to travel freely across Europe. Henry wrote to Philip II and they, with Leopold, agreed the ransom figure. It was huge because Richard was so important. Henry and Leopold wanted as much money as they could get while Philip wanted the ransom to be high because he knew it would take time to raise such a huge sum, giving him time to capture some of Richard's land in France.

Turn to page 23 for more about the significance of excommunication.

## The burden of the ransom on England

### Henry VI, Holy Roman Emperor

demands the sum of

**100 000 marks (£60 000)**

for the release of

### Richard,

King of England, Duke of Normandy,  
Count of Anjou, Duke of Aquitaine  
and Count of Poitou

Turn to page 7 for more on what was happening in England at this time.

John did not want to pay the ransom for his brother. However, leading English nobles wanted Richard back. They were supported by Richard's mother, Eleanor of Aquitaine, who took charge of collecting the ransom for him. It took six months to raise the massive sum by various means. Richard was released on 4 February 1194, after over a year in captivity.



25 per cent aid was charged (a tax on income and moveables).



Land tax on all tenants-in-chief and under-tenants.



Tallage of £3375 on Jews.



Gold and silver plate from churches in England.



£1350 from the king of Scotland.



A year's wool from Cistercian monks.

## Now try this

Explain **three** ways money was raised to pay Richard's ransom.

Had a look ☐Nearly there ☐Nailed it! ☐Richard,  
John and  
Normandy

# Competing aims in Normandy

First Richard I and then John competed against Philip II of France for control of Normandy.

For Philip, gaining control of Normandy would be an essential step towards his ultimate aim of controlling all of France. For Richard and John, Normandy was at the very heart of the Angevin Empire and therefore essential in keeping the empire together.

## Why was Normandy important?

For Richard/John	For Philip	For all
It was the closest Angevin land in France to England, so provided a gateway to other regions. Also, losing it to Philip would increase the risk of him invading England.	Normandy, particularly the Vexin, was close to Paris, so whoever held the kingdom could threaten the French king's lands.	Normandy was very wealthy, with fertile farmland producing important crops and animal fodder.
Many leading English barons also held land in Normandy. If Richard or John lost Normandy it would reduce the barons' confidence in the king's ability to rule England.	Gaining control of Normandy would give Philip several options for winning more land, by invading either England or other Angevin lands in France.	Norman towns were wealthy and traded a lot with England – Philip wanted to gain this trade, while Richard/John didn't want to lose it.

## The situation in 1194

When Richard returned after his imprisonment he secured England before setting sail for Normandy. His aim was to defend his territory in France and regain land already lost to Philip.



His rule of Normandy was hanging by a thread.

- As well as John, some important Norman barons had switched sides and now supported Philip.
- Philip (with John's help) had taken control of most of western Normandy, including the Vexin region.
- Philip now controlled strategically important castles, such as Gisors.
- Philip also controlled two harbours, so he could attack by sea as well as land.
- Philip's army was not far from Normandy's capital, Rouen.



Upon Richard's return to England, John threw himself on his brother's mercy and Richard forgave him, meaning that he only had one enemy to fight as well as gaining John's (and his army's) support. That still left Philip with the ascendancy, however.

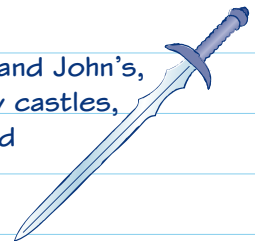
## Why did Richard achieve his aims?

In 1194, Richard's main aims in Normandy were to defend the land he held and regain land lost to Philip during his captivity. In January 1199, Philip agreed that everything he had captured would go back to Richard, except Gisors. Richard had successfully achieved his aims due to various factors.

**Military skill:** Richard's army, and John's, successfully laid siege to many castles, defended their own castles and won several battles.

**Bribery:** Richard successfully bribed many nobles to switch sides and support him instead of Philip, thereby taking back control of territory and bringing more knights under his control.

**Forging alliances:** Richard made important alliances with leaders, such as the counts of Toulouse, Flanders and Boulogne, meaning Philip was surrounded by enemies.



The building of Chateau Gaillard was another factor in Richard's success. Turn to page 20 to read why.

## Now try this

Give **three** reasons why Normandy was important to all three kings (Richard I, John and Philip II).



# Chateau Gaillard

As part of his plan to achieve his aims in Normandy, Richard built a magnificent castle – Chateau Gaillard. It was regarded as having the finest defences in Europe, but the cost was enormous.

## Location

Built on the River Seine, on the border of Normandy and overlooking the Vexin, the castle defended the main route from Paris to Rouen. It was close enough to Rouen for men and supplies to reach it easily by road, but its location on the river also meant that ships could reach it fairly easily from England. As well as being an excellent defensive structure, it also provided a good base from which to attack castles in the Vexin.

## Structure

Richard and his advisers used their great experience of the crusader castles in the Holy Land in the design, and the castle was the pinnacle of medieval engineering. Around the central great tower were several thick walls with huge towers to defend them. Many of the walls were curved, meaning there were no weak corner points for catapult stones to strike.



The ruins of Chateau Gaillard still show its rounded walls. Its position on a steep hill overlooking a river also made it difficult to attack.

## Cost and time

The castle cost the vast sum of £12 000, nearly twice what Richard had spent on castles in England. It took just two years to build, although some historians think it was never completed.

## Site

The castle was sited on a narrow plateau around 600 feet long and 200 feet wide, surrounded by deep ravines leading to the river. The steep slopes around the castle made attack difficult, as well as making it nearly impossible to mine under the walls.

## The importance of Chateau Gaillard

- It defended Normandy's capital, Rouen, and therefore Normandy as a whole, from French attack.
- It was also a good base from which to attack Philip II's lands, and Richard had almost totally retaken the Vexin by January 1199.

- It provided a magnificent palace where Angevin kings could demonstrate their wealth and power to allies and enemies.
- Its huge cost put additional strain on the finances of England, but most barons accepted that it was worth it if the castle successfully defended Normandy.

## Now try this

Explain why Richard built Chateau Gaillard.