**History Department:**

**Possible tasks: key Stage Three Questions:**

1. **When did William conquer England: in 1066, 1068, 1070 or 1071 or none of these years?**
2. **Explain why William used terror tactics to suppress English resistance?**
3. **What were the causes of the feudal system and what were its consequences?**
4. **Can you find your local town in the Domesday Book? How has it changed over the centuries?**
5. **What were the strengths and weaknesses of the Motte and Bailey castle?**
6. **How did Square Keep castles improve on Motte and Baileys?**
7. **How would you attack a Square Keep? Think about catapults, siege towers, tunnelling etc.**

**Year 7: The Establishment of Norman Control Over England After 1066**

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| **Sub-topics** | |
| 1.1 | Completing the conquest and the defeat of Saxon resistance in Exeter and the North |
| 1.2 | The Domesday Book and the Establishment of the Feudal System |
| 1.3 | Motte and Bailey and Square Keep Castles |

**Key facts**

1. William used terror tactics to take Exeter and suppress resistance in the North. The Harrying of the North involved mass starvation, the destruction of crops and the confiscation of land and animals to ensure submission to Norman Rule.
2. The Feudal system was a hierarchy of control. William was at the top with Barons and Knights below him and, at the bottom, the peasantry.
3. Under the system, Barons and Knights “held” land for William but in return had obligations to the monarch such as maintaining order, upholding the Law and providing troops. Freehold and Leasehold have their origins in the Norman concept of “holding” land.
4. The Domesday book is a fascinating historical source. It was compiled in 1086 as a complete survey of every parish in England in order to ensure the correct amount of taxes were levied.
5. Motte and Bailey castles were the first type to be built by the Normans. They could be constructed relatively quickly and were made of wood. The castle stood on the motte and the bailey was an area of land used for food supplies.
6. Square Keep castles were made of stone and were heavily fortified. Like Motte and Bailey castles they were built to defend against rebellion and to suppress and intimidate the populace.

**Key Vocabulary**

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| **Key terms** | |
| Feudal System | A hierarchical system of control. In theory the King owned all the country but barons and knights held land on his behalf in exchange for military service |
| Domesday Book | A survey of every parish in England noting its size, population and economy |
| Motte and Bailey castle | A simple wooden castle which was quick to construct |
| Motte | The mound upon which was built the castle |
| Bailey | The area of earth used for food supplies to resist siege |
| Square Keep castle | A stone built castle with thick walls and turrets, built for intimidation, resistance against rebellion etc. |
| Barons | The next rank down from monarch in the feudal system. These men “held” large areas of land for William and were selected from those he trusted most |
| Knights | The next rank down from Barons in the feudal system. They held smaller areas of land and would have been expected to serve as cavalrymen in a war |
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**Stretch and Challenge/I Wider reading/independent research:**

1. **What examples of surviving Square Keep castles can you find in England and Wales today?**
2. **Research your own town in the Domesday Book. How has it changed and why?**
3. **Build your own Motte and Bailey castle.**
4. **Useful further reading includes: The Norman Conquest by Marc Morris: Campaigns of the Norman Conquest by Matthew Bennett; William the Conqueror’s Subjugation of England by Teresa Cole.**
5. **Numerous videos on YouTube, including Life after the Norman Conquest by BBC Teach**
6. **Undertake further research into the Normans looking at their empire in Southern Italy and Sicily.**