

Cause and Consequence

Long-term, short-term and trigger causes of 1066, and the consequences of the Black Death.

Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

Learning objective: I can explain the causes and consequences of historical events and judge which were most important.

✓ I can classify causes ✓ I can explain a chain of consequences ✓ I can make a judgement

Causes are reasons why something happened. **Long-term** causes build up over years; **short-term** causes happen just before; a **trigger** sets the event off. **Consequences** are results of an event.

- 1 Why did William win in 1066?** Decide whether each is a **long-term** cause, **short-term** cause or the **trigger** for the conflict of 1066.

Cause	Type
Harold's army had marched about 200 miles south after fighting at Stamford Bridge.	
Edward the Confessor died in January 1066 without a child to inherit.	
William had been preparing an army, ships and supplies for months.	
William claimed Edward had promised him the throne years earlier.	
The Normans pretended to retreat, drawing some English soldiers down the hill.	
Harold was killed during the battle.	

2 Rank the causes

- 1 Which cause do you think was the **most important** reason William won? Explain your choice.
[4 marks]

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3 Consequences of the Black Death (1348–50)

Match each consequence to its explanation.

1 labour shortage

☐

A surviving peasants could demand more pay for their work

2 higher wages

☐

B a law trying to keep wages at their old levels

3 Statute of Labourers (1351)

☐

C anger at the poll tax and restrictions led to a rising that reached London

4 Peasants' Revolt (1381)

☐

D so many people died that there were too few workers for the fields

4 Chains of consequence

2 Explain how the Black Death helped to cause the Peasants' Revolt. [4 marks]

3 Give **one** short-term and **one** long-term consequence of the Black Death. [3 marks]

5 Write it up

'The Norman Conquest changed England completely.' Explain **two** consequences of 1066 and say how far you agree. [6 marks]

Answer Key

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Question	Answers
1 Why did William win in 1066?	Harold's army had marched about 200 miles south after fighting at Stamford Bridge. – Type: short-term Edward the Confessor died in January 1066 without a child to inherit. – Type: trigger William had been preparing an army, ships and supplies for months. – Type: short-term William claimed Edward had promised him the throne years earlier. – Type: long-term The Normans pretended to retreat, drawing some English soldiers down the hill. – Type: short-term Harold was killed during the battle. – Type: short-term
2 Rank the causes	1. Any reasoned choice, e.g. Harold's tired army after Stamford Bridge – exhausted soldiers had to fight soon after a long march; or the feigned retreat – it broke the English shield wall.
3 Consequences of the Black Death (1348–50)	1 D; 2 A; 3 B; 4 C
4 Chains of consequence	2. Huge death toll → labour shortage → peasants demanded higher wages and more freedom → the government tried to control wages (Statute of Labourers) and later imposed poll taxes → anger led to the revolt in 1381. 3. Short-term: deaths of perhaps a third to a half of the population; fields left untended. Long-term: the decline of the feudal system/serfdom; peasants gained more freedom.
5 Write it up	Look for: • Consequences such as castles built, the Domesday Book (1086), new Norman lords replacing English nobles, the feudal system, changes to the Church and language • Some continuity: most people were still peasants farming the land • A judgement about 'how far' with reasons

Teaching note: classifying causes can be debated; accept reasoned alternatives (e.g. William's preparation could be called long-term). Reward pupils who link causes together.