

Explain why the church was very important in Norman England.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Normalisation
- Confiance

You must also include information of your own

(12 marks)

One explanation why the church was very important in Norman England was because it was closely connected to the Norman government. Bishops were often advisers to the king and they had the role of developing laws for the king. Church clerics also kept charge of the royal seal and archbishops sometimes acted as the king's representative during negotiations. Therefore, church members held important roles in the Norman government.

Another explanation why the church was very important in Norman England was because it was used to strengthen Norman control over England. Norman Bishops influenced the messages people received about their king and how the Normans had been favoured by God. Therefore, it would make people accept William as king and not rebel against him. As the church was very important for these people.

A third explanation why the church was very important in Norman England was because the church was a major landholder. By having

loyal Norman Bishops and Archbishops, it secured the land against possible Anglo-Saxon rebellions. Bishops were also tenants-in-chief, so they had a lot of power and owned a lot of land. This also helped maintain ~~control~~ and strengthen Norman control over England.

A fourth explanation ~~as to~~ why the Church was very important in Norman England was because Normanisation of the Church enhanced the king's power. William controlled communication between the Church leaders and the pope in Rome. He didn't want the Pope to ~~convince~~ <sup>convince</sup> the leaders to follow him instead of the king. Therefore, he controlled all communications so the Church leaders would be loyal to him only. He also oversaw Church councils and his approval was needed in any key decisions the Church leaders made. This gave William ~~a~~ power to ~~also~~ control the decisions.