

Wergild



Fine paid to the victim's family, usually for murder

Capital Punishment



Death penalty, usually for treason or arson

Corporal Punishment



Physically hurting the criminal e.g. mutilation

Stocks and Pillory



Humiliating public punishment, used for drunkenness or public disorder



Hue & Cry

Shouting for help if witness a crime and anyone who heard was required to chase criminal

Tithings

All men were put into tithings and were responsible for ensuring no one in the group committed crimes

William the Conqueror

came to power after the Battle of Hastings in 1066



William declared large areas of land to be **royal forests**:

- Hunting on this land became a crime called poaching
- Bringing weapons into the royal forests was a crime
- The forests were a source of royal income



Trial by Ordeal

The accused criminal subject to final trial to allow God to have final verdict - e.g. criminals were thrown in a pond to see if water rejected them - innocent if sank

Pope Innocent II ended this practice in 1215

CRIME & PUNISHMENT IN BRITAIN c1000- c1500

Law was now **centralised** rather than managed in local communities - it was dealt with nationally as well as locally

William built many **castles** to assert power, they helped to watch over the community and to intimidate people out of committing crime



- Key Medieval Beliefs:
- Community had a role in keeping order
 - God was ultimate judge
 - Social status of criminal and victim influences punishment

In 1351 the punishment for treason was to be hung, drawn and quartered

If a criminal was running away they could **claim sanctuary** at a church - they would be protected from local law enforcement for 40 days, and after could leave the country of face trial



Benefit of the clergy meant claiming to be a churchman in order to be tried in more lenient church courts

William wanted to consolidate his authority so made punishments harsher, **execution** was now used more often

