

Robert de Romille granted land by William II in the area of **Craven** to build a castle. There was no castle in the area of Craven before, and William II wanted to make sure he had full control of England. Yorkshire was known for being rebellious against the Normans.

Building of the castle

- **Robert de Romille** built **Skipton Castle** in **1090** as a **Motte and Bailey** castle. It was originally built of **wood and earth**.

- It was built on a **rocky outcrop**, which gave a **panoramic view** all around the area of Craven. It also meant that it could only be attacked from one side as it had a sheer drop of **30 metres** down to the **Eller Beck** below.

- It was also built on an **old Roman crossroads**, which was an **arterial route**. The road was from **Tadcaster to Ribchester**. This meant that it was very well connected for both soldiers to get to and for trade.

- It was built on the site of an old church. **Robert de Romille** chose to build the **castle** there as it showed his **high status** and the fact that he was close to **God**.

Early medieval changes to the castle

- The rebuilding of the castle from **wood into stone** began in **1135**. This was necessary as wood rots and burns. Skipton Castle was also being **attacked** by the **Scots** from the 12th century so they needed stronger defences.

- In **1166**, a new law meant that Skipton Castle had to **build a prison** underneath the **gatehouse**. It now became an **important part of local law and order**.

- In **1192-1195** a new **inner gatehouse** was built by William de Forz I for additional protection.

- In the **1220s** the Great Hall, the **private apartments** and the **kitchens** were added by William de Forz II. This was to **add more luxury** to the castle. This was followed in the same century by other additions such as the **withdrawing room**.

- In **1311** Robert Clifford added an **outer gatehouse** and the **curtain wall** (5m thick!) for additional protection from **Scottish attacks**. He also **built the Chapel of St John the Evangelist** for his family to pray away from the peasantry.

Beliefs, attitudes and values in the early medieval period

- Patriarchal society** - withdrawing room next to the Great Hall for women to be sent to after dinner.
- Dangerous life** - Curtain Wall and arrow slits were needed for protection from attack.
- Class divisions** - Chapel of St John shows that the Lord did not want to pray with the peasants.

After the death of Lady Anne Clifford, 1676

- After the death of Lady Anne Clifford in 1676, the castle moved into the ownership of the **Tufton family**.

- The Tufton family were a wealthy family who were based in London. They only used **Skipton Castle** every so often as a **country residence**.

- It was occasionally used for **hunting and celebrations**, however as it was **not their main residence** it fell into disrepair.

- In 1826 'Hard Times Walk' was built by unemployed labourers in Skipton, which today is the pathway up to the visitor car park at the back.

4. Industrial Period 1750-1900

Market Charter

- In **1204** Skipton Castle was granted a **Market Charter** by King John.

- This meant that Skipton could hold a **very large and regular market**.

- This brought **huge wealth** to the castle and the area as many **traders liked the protection** that being near to the castle offered.

- It was also a very popular market as it was on the **arterial route** between Tadcaster and Ribchester.

1.Early Medieval Period 1090-1400

Early medieval activities

- Taxes and Manor Courts in the Great Hall**
 - Peasants would come to the Great Hall to pay their taxes to the Lord in either money or goods. The Great Hall would also be where the Lord would conduct the Manor Courts.
- Women being sent to the withdrawing room**
 - After dinner in the Great Hall the women would be sent to the withdrawing room to sew, play music or tell stories. The men would talk business or politics in the Great Hall.
- Private services and prayer in the Chapel of St John the Evangelist**
 - The Clifford family did not want to pray with the peasantry, so they had private services and prayers in the Chapel of St John the Evangelist.

Important nationally for protection against Scots

- Skipton Castle was an important fortress in the north of England to **protect against the Scottish attacks** in the Scottish War of Independence.

Important nationally for Norman consolidation

- After the invasion in 1066, the Normans struggled to control the north of England. Skipton Castle was a **key part of their control** in the north.

Challenges and benefits in the early modern period

1. Tudor Wing added to existing castle rather than rebuilt - benefit
- The Tudor Wing, Long Gallery and Octagonal Tower were added on to the existing medieval structure, rather than knocking down the castle and rebuilding. This is a benefit as we can still see both the medieval structure and the new features for early modern comfort.

2. Removal of defensive features due to the slighting - challenge
- Skipton Castle was slighted by Oliver Cromwell in 1648 to prevent the Royalists from retaking the castle. As part of the slighting he lowered the walls and the drum towers, and removed the lead off the roof. This is a challenge as we could no longer see the true height and defensive features of the castle that were used in the English Civil War.

3. Rebuilding by Lady Anne Clifford preserved the site - benefit
- Skipton Castle was rebuilt as a home by Lady Anne Clifford from 1657-1659. In doing this, she helped preserve the castle for future use and study. As a result, we have one of the best preserved castles in England today.

Important locally for law enforcement

- The new prison built in 1166 meant that Skipton Castle was a very **important aspect of local law and order** in Skipton.

- The Lord would oversee the Manor Courts, and criminals would be held there until their trial.

- The nearest County Assizes was in York, so people could be held for up to 3 months.

Important locally for the Feudal System

- Skipton Castle was the **centre of Feudal life**. The local peasants would work the land around the castle for the Lord.

- The Lord would use the castle to protect the peasants, and they would pay the Lord taxes.

- This meant it was important as it **provided everyone in society with a role** and ensured that society ran smoothly and there was **enough food being produced locally**.

Significant points in the early medieval period

- Rebuilding into stone from 1135**
- Scottish attacks**

Significant physical features from the early medieval period

1. Round drum towers and curtain wall
Round drum towers and the castle walls are significant as they provide important defence from the attacks as part of the Scottish War of Independence. They show how life was dangerous at this time.

2. Chapel of St John the Evangelist
The Chapel of St John is significant as it shows the class divisions in society. It shows that the Clifford family did not want to socialise or pray with those lower in society than them.

3. Withdrawing Room
The withdrawing room is significant as it shows the patriarchal society in England at the time. Women were viewed as not suitable to be discussing business or politics.

Challenges and benefits in the early medieval period

1. Motte and Bailey no longer there - challenge
The original wooden structure from 1090 is no longer there as it was rebuilt in stone from 1135. This is a challenge as we can no longer see the original Norman structure.

2. Unchanged location - benefit
Skipton Castle is still located on the rocky outcrop it was built on in 1090, with the sheer cliff down to the Eller Beck below. This is a benefit as we can still clearly see why it was built in its location for defence.

3. One of the best preserved medieval castles - benefit
Skipton Castle is one of the best preserved castles in England. We can still see many of the medieval features such as the curtain wall, Chapel of St John, the kitchens, withdrawing room and the Great Hall. This is a benefit as we can understand the views and attitudes of the time, such as the attitudes towards women with the withdrawing room.

How typical is Skipton Castle in the early modern period?

1. More luxurious homes - typical
- Skipton Castle had significant improvements following the marriage with Lady Eleanor Brandon. They added the Tudor Wing and Octagonal Tower in 1535.

- This is typical of its type as many other castles improved their facilities to make them more luxurious in the early modern period, such as Baynard's Castle and Hardwick Hall.

2. Castles brought back into action for the Civil War - typical
- Skipton Castle was brought back into being a fortress for King Charles I. They brought soldiers from York and placed cannons on the roof.

- This is typical of its type as many castles were brought back into service for the Civil War, either fighting for Parliament or the King, such as Bolton Castle, Pontefract Castle and Sandal Castle.

3. Rebuilt as a home after the Civil War - not typical
- Skipton Castle was rebuilt as a home by Lady Anne Clifford from 1657-1659. She lowered the walls, changed arrow slits for windows and planted the Yew Tree to show a period of peace.

- This is not typical as many castles after the Civil War were left to rot and ruin, such as Sandal Castle, Pontefract Castle and Corfe Castle.

How typical is Skipton Castle in the early medieval period?

1. Motte and Bailey - typical
- Skipton Castle was built as a motte and bailey castle as part of the Norman consolidation of England. Skipton Castle was built by Robert de Romille in 1090.

- This is typical of its type as many other castles were built by the Normans as Motte and Bailey castles such as Sandal Castle and Clifford's Tower in York as they were quick to erect.

2. Rebuilt into stone - typical
- Skipton Castle was rebuilt from a wooden motte and bailey into stone from 1135. They added an outer gatehouse in the 1190s.

- This is typical of its type as many of the castles built by the Normans were rebuilt from wood into stone as they were easily burnt and they rotted away, such as Sandal Castle and Framlingham Castle.

3. Concentric castle - not typical
- Skipton Castle had a curtain wall built in 1311 which made it a concentric castle. This made it a castle inside a castle!

- These were hugely expensive to construct, so many other castles did not have a concentric structure with an outer curtain wall. A famous example of another concentric castle is Conwy Castle in Wales.

What was the War of the Roses?

- The War of the Roses was the war between the **House of Lancaster** and the **House of York**.
- It lasted from **1455-1485**, and was a very violent and turbulent time in English history.

How was Skipton Castle involved in the War of Roses?

- Skipton Castle supported the House of Lancaster.
- **Skipton Castle was never physically involved in the war**. No fighting happened there and it was not used to house weapons or soldiers.

After the War of the Roses, **England became a safer and more stable** place under Henry VII. Skipton Castle started to become less about defence, and more about luxury and comfort.

Marriage of Henry Clifford to Lady Eleanor Brandon

- **Henry Clifford** married the niece of Henry VIII called **Lady Eleanor Brandon**.

- This brought new and hugely increased wealth and status to the Clifford family. Therefore they needed to upgrade Skipton Castle to be **fit for royalty**.

- The **Octagonal Tower** was built in **1535** for Lady Eleanor Brandon to have her private apartments in where she and her ladies in waiting would live.

- The **Long Gallery** was also built in **1535** which connected the main castle to the **Octagonal Tower**. It was a place where Lady Eleanor and her ladies in waiting could walk and see the gardens in poor weather.

- Gardeners were employed to make the castle gardens beautiful for Lady Eleanor.

Lady Anne Clifford's rebuild, 1657-1659

- In **1657** Lady Anne Clifford asked Oliver Cromwell if she could **rebuild Skipton Castle** (her family home) as a home.

- Cromwell agreed, providing that it could never be used again as a fortress. From 1657, it would only ever be used as a home.

- Physical features that changed during her rebuild into a home include:

- Windows** were now replaced with arrow slits.
- Roof was pitched** so that it could not hold any cannons.
- Drum towers were further lowered** and thinned.
- Yew Tree was planted** in the conduit court to celebrate the rebuild and to show a new chapter of peace at Skipton Castle.

Important nationally in English Civil War as a base for King Charles I

- Skipton Castle was important nationally as it was the **base for King Charles I's forces** in Yorkshire. Earl Clifford was made General of Forces in Yorkshire for the King.

Important nationally in the English Civil War as the final northern stronghold

- Skipton Castle was the **final northern stronghold of the King to hold out against the Parliamentarians**. Sandal and Bolton castle both surrendered before Skipton.

Important locally in English Civil War as place of safety for local people

- Skipton Castle was important locally as during the sieges by Parliament, **local people took their families and animals and sought protection** in the walls of the castle.

Important locally during the rebuild by Lady Anne Clifford.

- Skipton Castle was important locally during the rebuild by Lady Anne Clifford as it **provided many jobs for local people working on the rebuild**, as well as many people working in the castle as servants, cooks and gardeners.

2. Late Medieval Period 1400-1500

What was the English Civil War?

- The **English Civil War** was a war between **King Charles I** and **Parliament** over issues like money and power. It lasted for 7 years from **1642-1649**.

How was Skipton Castle involved in the English Civil War?

- Skipton Castle sided with **King Charles I**.

- Skipton Castle was **physically involved in the English Civil War** as soldiers and weaponry were stationed there, and there was fighting between King and Parliament on two occasions.

3. Early Modern Period 1500-1750

Oliver Cromwell's slighting, 1648

- Oliver Cromwell was worried that the Royalists might retake Skipton Castle and create the strong fortress that it had been used for before.

- To stop this from happening, he had the castle **slighted** so that it could not be used again as a fortress.

- **Cannons melted down** and sold, **lead taken off the roof** so it could not support the weight of cannons and the **walls were thinned and lowered**.

- After the slighting it was empty until 1657.

Significant physical features from the early modern period

1. Tudor Wing and Octagonal Tower
The Tudor Wing, Long Gallery and Octagonal Tower are significant as they show the huge increase in wealth and status of the Clifford family.

2. Lowered and thinned walls
Following the slighting of the castle by Oliver Cromwell, the lowered and thinned walls are significant as they show that the castle will never again be used as a fortress.

3. Yew Tree
The Yew Tree was planted by Lady Anne Clifford in 1659 at the end of her rebuild. It is significant as it shows a new chapter for Skipton Castle of peace and prosperity.

What happened during the English Civil War?

- Skipton prepared itself for war by changing its physical features.

- Drum towers** strengthened.
- Crenellations** on the walls made higher.
- Roof was strengthened** to hold cannons.
- Thicker curtain wall** - 12ft thick and 15ft high.
- Cannon** platforms built.

First Siege of Skipton, Summer 1644

- 3rd August 1644 Parliamentarians attack the castle. Soldiers took refuge in the castle for two weeks with no water supply. Cannons were used to defend the castle.

- After two-weeks, the Parliamentarians ended the siege as they were recalled to fight elsewhere.

- The Curtain Wall was damaged. The drum towers were also badly damaged. The church steeple was damaged.

Second Siege of Skipton, December 1645

- Skipton Castle was sieged and attacked for a second time in December 1645.

- The Parliamentarians never broke in to the castle, but Skipton Castle **surrendered** after nearly three weeks due to being so **low on supplies** of food, fresh water and weaponry.

- **The Parliamentarians took control of the castle from the Royalists**.

What was the state of Skipton Castle, 1900-1950?

- By **1900**, Skipton Castle had **totally fallen into disrepair**.

- During **WW2**, Skipton Castle was used by the **British Museum** in London to store valuable exhibits such as their '**oriental collection**' underneath the **Great Hall**. This was to protect them from the bombing raids on London by Nazi Germany which was known as the '**Blitz**' in **1940-1941**. As a thank you for their protection, the British Museum gave Skipton Castle a set of valuable Irish Elk antlers which are mounted in the Great Hall today.

- In the early 1950s there was discussions that the holiday camp company **Butlins** were going to buy the castle and turn it into a **holiday camp** for people in Yorkshire.

- Local successful businessman **Wilfred Fattorini** did not want the castle to be used for the purpose of a holiday camp. He was born in Skipton and wanted to **preserve it as a piece of history** for the people of Skipton.

The Fattorini Family

- In **1956**, Skipton Castle was bought by **Wilfred Fattorini**.

- Between **1956-1977**, he had the castle **restored and rebuilt** so that it was **liveable** and so it could be used as a **tourist attraction**.

- In **1977**, the **Fattorini family** moved into the **Octagonal Tower** and **Long Gallery** and now use this as their main residence.

Tourist Site

- It is one of the **best preserved castles in England**.

- In **1987**, the Fattorini family **opened** Skipton Castle to the **general public**.

- It is one of the **main tourist attractions in Yorkshire**.

- The **Fattorini's** have **built** a number of **tourist facilities** as it is used by many tourists and school groups for educational trips:

- Toilets**
- Cafe**
- Gift Shop**
- School lunchroom** on the rear curtain wall.
- Ticket office** in the gatehouse..
- The grounds and gardens are used for historical re-enactments.

20th century activities

1. Safehouse for valuable museum items during WW2
 - During the Blitz (1940-1941), Skipton Castle stored the 'oriental collection' for the British Museum underneath the Great Hall. This was to protect it from the bombing in London by Nazi Germany.

2. Home of the Fattorini family
 - The Fattorini family still live in the Tudor wing of the castle, and moved in to the Tudor Wing in 1977. It is still the main residence of the eldest Fattorini child called Sebastian Fattorini.

3. A very popular tourist site
 - Skipton Castle is a very popular tourist site and educational site for adults and children. It is also used by historical enthusiasts who re-enact historical battles in the grounds of the castle.

Significant points in the 20th century

- Storage for museum artefacts during WW2.
- Fattorini family purchasing Skipton Castle in 1956.
- Fattorini family opening it as a tourist site in 1987.

Significant physical features from the 20th century

1. School lunch room
 The school lunch room is a significant feature as it shows the role the castle has in local education for school children. It is built into the rear of the curtain wall.

2. Toilets, gift shop and ticket office
 The tourist facilities such as the toilets, gift shop and ticket office are significant as they show how the castle provides for tourists, and how it makes money in the 20th century in order to keep the castle in a good condition.

3. Front lawn and gardens
 The front lawn and gardens are significant as they are often used by historical enthusiasts to re-enact battles and key events from Skipton Castle's history.

Important nationally in 20th century for protecting national history

- Skipton Castle was important nationally during the **Blitz** as it housed and protected the '**oriental collection**' for the British Museum in London.

Important nationally in the 20th century as one of the best preserved castles in England

- Skipton Castle is important nationally as it is one of the **best preserved castles in England**, and is a **strong historical record of a medieval castle**. Many people visit it due to the quality of the building. Over 100,000 people visit Skipton each year.

Important locally in the 20th century due to the regular market that still runs

- The **Market Charter** granted by King John in 1204 is **still valid** and held by the castle. This allows Skipton to hold a **very busy market 4 times per week**. This means that Skipton Castle is important locally in the 20th century is a **very busy and profitable place** as it brings huge amounts of money to the local economy.

How typical is Skipton Castle in the 20th century?

1. Used during WW2 - typical
 - Skipton Castle was used during WW2 to protect the 'oriental collection' from German bombing during the Blitz. They were stored under the Great Hall.

- This is typical of its type as many other castles were used during WW2 to help the war effort. For example at Richmond castle it was used as an army barracks, and castles on the coast were fitted with anti-aircraft guns such as Pendennis castle.

2. Many castles/country houses were demolished after WW2 - not typical
 - Skipton Castle has never been demolished or taken down.

- This is not typical as after WW2 many castles and country houses were demolished to make space for motorways and new housing estates. Very few castles remain, such as Conwy Castle and the Tower of London.

3. Protected by private ownership - not typical
 - Skipton Castle was purchased by the Fattorini family in 1956, and has been in private ownership ever since. It was opened to the public in 1987.

- This is not typical as many castles are looked after by national charities like the National Trust and English Heritage, rather than being privately owned. The National Trust look after Lindisfarne Castle and Corfe Castle.

5. 20th Century 1900+

Beliefs, attitudes and values in the 20th century

1. Interest in history!
 - The tourist facilities built at Skipton Castle by the Fattorini family show that there is significant interest in historical sites in the 20th century. The toilets, school lunch room, gift shop and ticket office demonstrate a desire to learn about history. Skipton has over 100,000 visitors per year.

2. Preservation of history
 - The Fattorini family bought Skipton Castle in 1956, and spent a huge amount of money restoring the castle to a liveable condition between 1956-1977. This shows there is significant desire in the 20th century to preserve and restore historical sites.

Structure and timings

The Skipton Castle exam just has Skipton Castle on it. There is a **choice** of three questions, and you answer on **two** of them.

The exam is **60 minutes** in total.

The question might ask for a specific period of time. If it does ask for a specific period, the best periods to pick are either the:

- Early medieval (1090-1400)
- Early modern period (1500-1750)
- 20th century (1900+)

For each answer, you write three PDL paragraphs. For each answer you have 30 minutes.

Point - What is your paragraph talking about?

- One way...*
- One feature...*
- One change...*
- One reason...*

Develop - Make sure you include both **physical features and your own knowledge** in your development.

For example...

Link - Make sure you link back to the question and answer the question directly.

This meant that...

The paper is out of 50 marks.

2 questions worth 20 marks each.

5 marks for **spelling and grammar** per question.

An example of a past paper from 2024.

Answer any **two** questions.

- Explain how the physical features of your site could be used by someone to produce an **interpretation of the site** that **shows how it was used** at a significant point in its history.

Use physical features of the site as well as your knowledge to support your answer. **[20]**

✍ Spelling, punctuation and grammar and the use of specialist terminology **[5]**
- Choose **one** period in your site's history.

Explain what a study of your site reveals about the lives of different types of people at that time.

Use physical features of the site as well as your knowledge to support your answer. **[20]**

✍ Spelling, punctuation and grammar and the use of specialist terminology **[5]**
- Choose **two** different points in your site's history.

Explain the ways in which the site or its uses changed between these two points.

Use physical features of the site as well as your knowledge to support your answer. **[20]**

✍ Spelling, punctuation and grammar and the use of specialist terminology **[5]**

An example of a past paper from 2023.

2

You **must** clearly state the name of the site you have studied at the start of each answer.

In your answers you must clearly state the specific time(s) in your site's history that you are writing about.

Answer any **two** questions.

- How typical is your site when compared to other sites of the same type?

Use physical features of the site as well as your knowledge to support your answer. **[20]**

✍ Spelling, punctuation and grammar and the use of specialist terminology **[5]**
- Choose **one** period in your site's history.

Explain how a historian could use your site to answer questions about people's lives during that period.

Use physical features of the site as well as your knowledge to support your answer. **[20]**

✍ Spelling, punctuation and grammar and the use of specialist terminology **[5]**
- Choose **one** period in your site's history.

What are the benefits and challenges of using the physical features of your site to investigate how it looked at that time?

Use physical features of the site as well as your knowledge to support your answer. **[20]**

✍ Spelling, punctuation and grammar and the use of specialist terminology **[5]**

Timelines

1000

1066 - Norman invasion of England by William I.

1090 - Skipton Castle built as a Motte and Bailey by Robert de Romille.

1100

1135 - Rebuilding in stone begins. The wooden structure is demolished.

1166 - Prison is built underneath the gatehouse.

1192-1195 - Building of a new inner gatehouse.

1200

1204 - Market Charter granted to Skipton Castle by King John.

1220s - The Great Hall and the kitchens were added by William de Forz II.

1300

1310 - Skipton Castle passes to the Clifford family.

1311 - Robert Clifford builds a new curtain wall and the Chapel of St John the Evangelist. The withdrawing room is also added at this time.

1400

1455-1485 - The War of the Roses between the House of York and the House of Lancaster. Skipton Castle sided with the Lancastrians. It was not physically involved.

1500

1535 - The Tudor Wing, Long Gallery and Octagonal Tower were added following the marriage of Henry Clifford to Lady Eleanor Brandon.

1600

1642-1649 - The English Civil War between King Charles I and Parliament. Skipton Castle sided with King Charles I. It was physically involved.

1644 - The first siege of Skipton Castle in August. The siege failed.

1645 - The second siege of Skipton Castle in December. The siege succeeded as Skipton Castle surrendered due to lack of supplies.

1648 - Skipton Castle is slighted by Oliver Cromwell.

1657-1659 - Skipton Castle is rebuilt by Lady Anne Clifford as a home.

1700

1800

1900

1939-1945 - Skipton Castle is used by the British Museum to store the valuable artefacts.

1956 - Skipton Castle is bought by Wilfred Fattorini.

1956-1977 - Skipton Castle is restored by Wilfred Fattorini.

1977 - The Fattorini family move into the Tudor Wing as their home.

1987 - The Fattorini family open Skipton Castle to the public.

2000

Early Medieval Period (1090-1400)

Late Medieval Period (1400-1500)

Early Modern Period (1500-1750)

Industrial Period (1750-1900)

20th Century 1900+