

Name: _____

Date: _____



Can you answer these questions about crime and punishment in Anglo-Saxon and Viking Britain?

What was the most common form of crime and how was it punished?

Name three officials who were associated with keeping the peace:

Explain what trial by ordeal was and when it was used:

What was weregild and how was it used?

In what cases could a person be put to death as a punishment?

What is your opinion of the Anglo-Saxon and Viking justice system and why?

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Can you answer these questions about crime and punishment in Anglo-Saxon and Viking Britain?

What was the most common form of crime and how was it punished?

Theft. This was usually punished by paying compensation (wergild). In cases of persistent theft, the criminal could be outlawed.

Name three officials who were associated with keeping the peace:

Shire-reeve (sheriff), hundredman and tithingman.

Explain what trial by ordeal was and when it was used:

Trial by ordeal happened when no witnesses could be found to decide whether the person was innocent or guilty. It involved challenging the person to do something dangerous, e.g. walking over hot coals. If they weren't injured, it was a sign that God was proving their innocence. If they were injured, they were declared guilty.

What was wergild and how was it used?

Wergild was compensation that was paid to the victim of a crime. The amount of wergild paid depended on the crime.

In what cases could a person be put to death as a punishment?

Outlaws (persistent or dangerous criminals) could be put to death. You could also be put to death for treason and murder.

What is your opinion of the Anglo-Saxon and Viking justice system and why?