

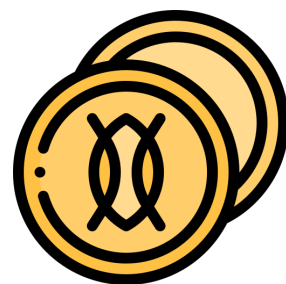


# QUICK COMPS - ANGLO-SAXON LAW



Around AD 1000, the Anglo-Saxons did have laws, but they were quite different from the laws we have today! The Saxons operated a system called "weregild" for crimes against people - if a person injured another, they had to pay for the harm caused. If a person killed someone, they paid money to the dead person's family. The weregild payable for the murder of an Anglo-Saxon thane (head man of a community) was 6,000 pennies; the weregild for a king was 90,000.

There were no prisons, so anyone found guilty of a crime was either fined, tortured or executed, depending on the severity of their crime. If you injured a person, fines could range from 200 to 1200 shillings. For breaking into someone's house, the fine was five shillings, paid directly to the home-owner. Crimes that were considered less significant, like stealing - or if you couldn't afford a fine - could involve a finger, nose, hand, foot, or big toe being chopped off. For more grievous crimes, like murder or being a traitor, the punishment was death.



**Five W's** - Write the correct answer in the box.

What is the name of the Anglo-saxon law system?	
What was the weregild for a thane?	
How much was the maximum fine for injuring a person?	
What was the punishment for murder?	

**Matching** - Draw lines to join the information.

Weregild for murder of a king	5 shillings
Lowest fine for injuring someone	200 shillings
Fine for breaking into a house	90,000 pennies

**True or False** - Write T (True) or F (False).

Criminals were sent to prison.	
You could have a finger cut off for stealing.	
Anglo-saxons didn't have laws.	
Criminals could be fined, tortured or executed.	

**Fill in the Gap** - Write the missing word from the text.

The Saxons operated a _____ called "weregild" for crimes against people.
If a person killed someone, they paid money to the dead person's _____.
The weregild for a _____ was 90,000.
For more grievous crimes, like murder or being a _____, the punishment was death.

**Multiple Choice** The weregild payable for the murder of an Anglo-Saxon thane. (Circle the correct answer)

1200 shillings	6,000 pennies	200 shillings	90,000 pennies
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**Sequence in Order** In what order do these appear in the text? (Write 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the smaller boxes)

6,000 pennies		Anglo-Saxon thane		stealing		grievous crimes	
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**Circle the Word** - Circle the word that means very severe or serious. (Dictionary definition)

For more grievous crimes, like murder or being a traitor, the punishment was death.

**Find and Copy** - Write the words that suggest that the stealing isn't as bad as killing someone.

Crimes that were considered less significant, like stealing - or if you couldn't afford a fine - could involve a finger, nose, hand, foot, or big toe being chopped off.

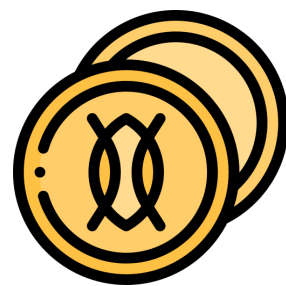


# QUICK COMPREHENSION - ANSWERS



Around AD 1000, the Anglo-Saxons did have laws, but they were quite different from the laws we have today! The Saxons operated a system called "weregild" for crimes against people - if a person injured another, they had to pay for the harm caused. If a person killed someone, they paid money to the dead person's family. The weregild payable for the murder of an Anglo-Saxon thane (head man of a community) was 6,000 pennies; the weregild for a king was 90,000.

There were no prisons, so anyone found guilty of a crime was either fined, tortured or executed, depending on the severity of their crime. If you injured a person, fines could range from 200 to 1200 shillings. For breaking into someone's house, the fine was five shillings, paid directly to the home-owner. Crimes that were considered less significant, like stealing - or if you couldn't afford a fine - could involve a finger, nose, hand, foot, or big toe being chopped off. For more grievous crimes, like murder or being a traitor, the punishment was death.



**Five W's** - Write the correct answer in the box.

What is the name of the Anglo-saxon law system?	weregild
What was the weregild for a thane?	6,000 pennies
How much was the maximum fine for injuring a person?	1200 shillings
What was the punishment for murder?	death

**Matching** - Draw lines to join the information.

Weregild for murder of a king	5 shillings
Lowest fine for injuring someone	200 shillings
Fine for breaking into a house	90,000 pennies

**True or False** - Write T (True) or F (False).

Criminals were sent to prison.	F
You could have a finger cut off for stealing.	T
Anglo-saxons didn't have laws.	F
Criminals could be fined, tortured or executed.	T

**Fill in the Gap** - Write the missing word from the text.

The Saxons operated a \_\_\_\_\_ called "weregild" for crimes against people.

If a person killed someone, they paid money to the dead person's \_\_\_\_\_.

The weregild for a \_\_\_\_\_ was 90,000.

For more grievous crimes, like murder or being a \_\_\_\_\_, the punishment was death.

**Multiple Choice** The weregild payable for the murder of an Anglo-Saxon thane. (Circle the correct answer)

1200 shillings

6,000 pennies

200 shillings

90,000 pennies

**Sequence in Order** In what order do these appear in the text? ((Write 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the smaller boxes)

6,000 pennies

2

Anglo-Saxon thane

1

stealing

3

grievous crimes

4

**Circle the Word** - Circle the word that means very severe or serious. (Dictionary definition)

For more **grievous** crimes, like murder or being a traitor, the punishment was death.

**Find and Copy** - Write the words that suggest that the stealing isn't as bad as killing someone.(Clues in context)

Crimes that were considered **less significant**, like stealing - or if you couldn't afford a fine - could involve a finger, nose, hand, foot, or big toe being chopped off.

less significant