

Prisms, equipment, MWBs...

- 1) Which Christian church are Cistercians a part of?**
- 2) What is a grange?**
- 3) What is a choir monk?**
- 4) What is a lay brother?**
- 5) In which year did 13 monks start Fountains?**
- 6) Name the valley where Fountains is located.**
- 7) What style of architecture has round arches?**
- 8) What style of architecture has pointed arches?**



Answers...

1) Which Christian church are Cistercians a part of?

The Roman Catholic Church

2) What is a grange?

A farm owned by a monastery

3) What is a choir monk?

A monk who is part of a monastic order

4) What is a lay brother?

A non-monk who chooses to work at a monastery

5) In which year did 13 monks start Fountains?

1132 AD

6) Name the valley where Fountains is located.

Skelldale

7) What style of architecture has round arches?

Romanesque architecture

8) What style of architecture has pointed arches?

Gothic architecture



Exam Structure

Two Mock 1 examinations for GCSE History:

Tuesday 11th November 2025

- History Around Us – Fountains Abbey (1 hour)

Tuesday 18th November 2025

- British History – Migrants & Normans (1 hour 45 mins)



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Our Learning

Intention

What is the historical significance of Fountains Abbey?

Lesson Standard/s

- To recall key terms and the exam structure for Paper 2 (AO1)
- To recall the main events in the history of Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal (AO1)
- To explain the historical significance of Fountains Abbey both locally and nationally (AO2)

Purpose

This lesson will help us develop our knowledge and skills so that we can feel confident in being successful on the Paper 2 examination.



Key terms that may be in questions

1. **Beliefs/values** - belief in God, belief in importance of poverty/chastity/obedience, belief in hard work, belief in using buildings to glorify God
2. **Physical features/physical remains/site evidence** – talk about the site at Fountains Abbey – eg. different rooms/parts of Abbey. Describe them and link to qu.
3. **Typical** – how similar/different is Fountains?
4. **Diverse/Diversity** – what different things were going on at the site at that time?




There are three questions – you need to **CHOOSE TWO**




Answer **any two** questions.


- 1 Explain the reasons why people first created your site within its surroundings. 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]**

- 2 How diverse have the activities and people associated with your site been throughout its history? Use physical features of the site as well as your knowledge to support your answer. **[20]**

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- 3 Choose one period in your site's history. How far do the physical remains at your site reveal the attitudes and values of people at that time? Use physical features of the site as well as your knowledge to support your answer. **[20]**

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A significant **10/50 marks** are awarded for SPAG. This is accurate use of spelling, commas, full stops as well as use of history key terms. You must write at least two sides to get top SPAG marks.

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

Read all the questions carefully when you begin your exam. **Think for a couple of minutes** about which 2 questions you want to do. Start with the **question you're most confident about.**

Answer booklet:

3

State the site you have studied . **Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal**

Question number **3**



Knowing your chronology

Four key time periods:

- **1132 – 1539:** Working Cistercian Monastery
- **1539 – 1768:** Ruined and overgrown
- **1768 – 1983:** Romantic Ruin as a folly
- **1983 – Present:** Tourist Attraction



1132 – 1539: Working Cistercian Monastery



Beginnings: 12th century

1132: Archbishop **Thurstan** grants **13** monks the valley of Skelldale to use as a new monastic site



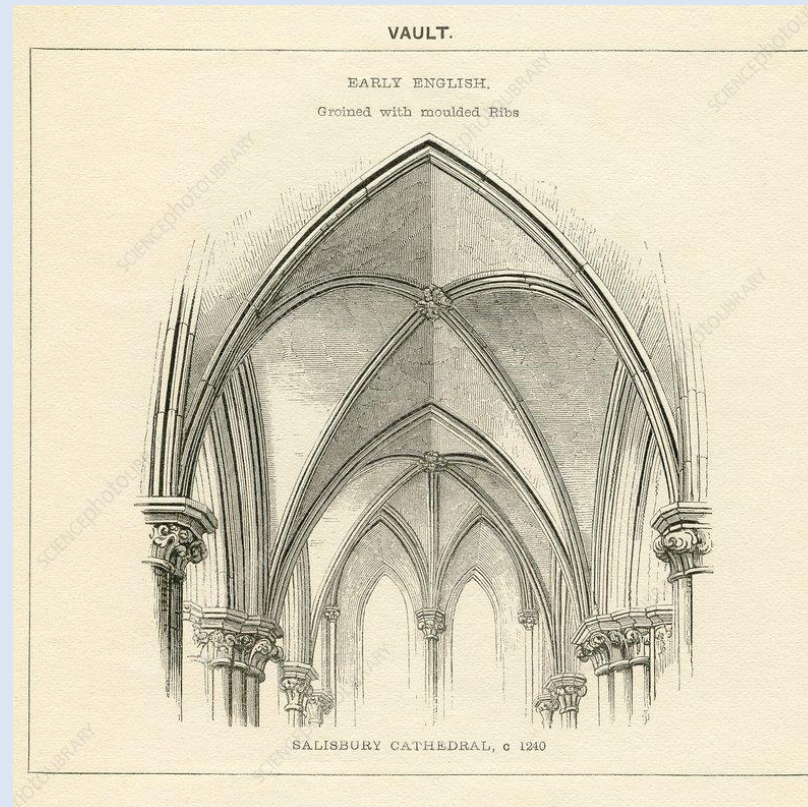
Beginnings: 12th century

12th Century: Monks join the Cistercian Order



Growth: 13th century

13th Century: Timber buildings are replaced by stone in the early English Gothic style



Growth: 13th century

13th Century: Early 1200s have at least 60 Cistercian monks and 200 lay brothers (labourers) working at the site



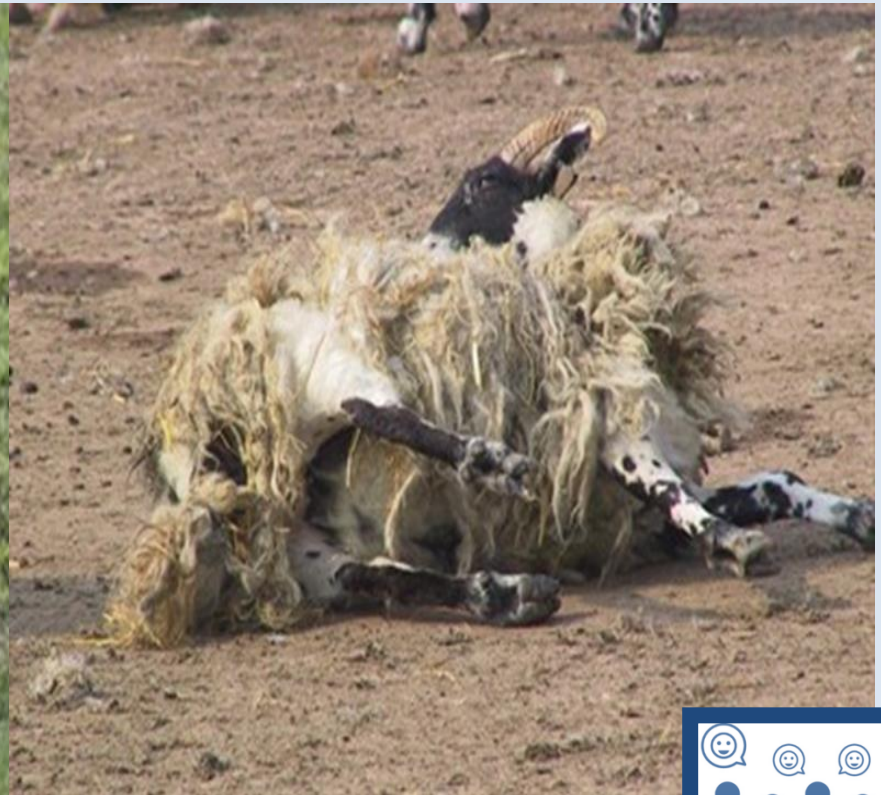
Growth: 13th century

13th Century: Fountains now one of the most powerful and wealthiest abbeys in England with **15,000 sheep**



Decline: 14th century

14th Century: Sheep scab (a disease) affects Fountains flocks, putting the monastery in **£6,000** of **debt**



Decline: 14th century

14th Century: Scottish raids. Some granges burnt down. Abbey is occupied by Scottish troops. Monks treated well as Scots also Catholic but big impact on business



Decline: 14th century

1315-17: The Great Famine affects Europe, causing massive starvation and sets the scene for...



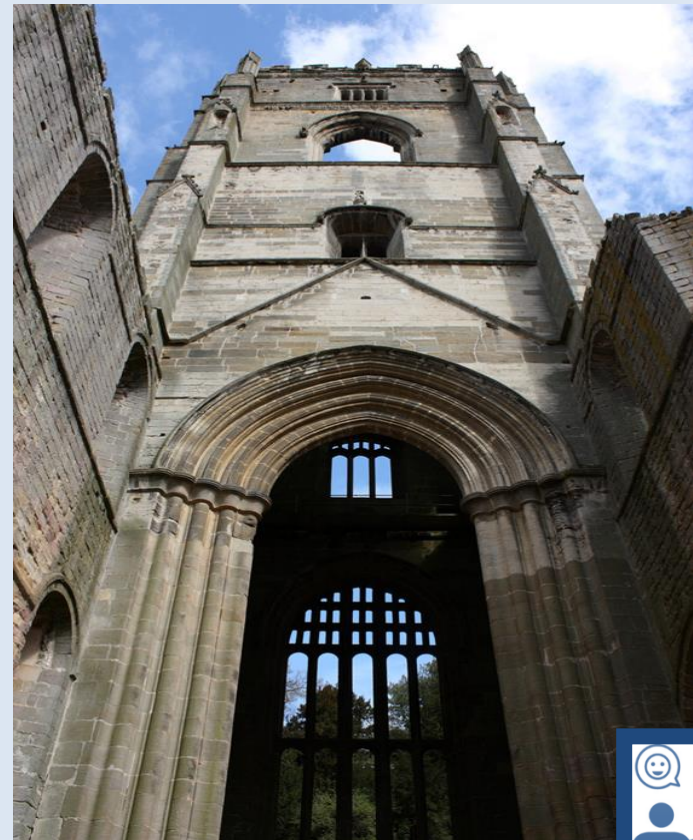
Decline: 14th century

1348 - 1352: Many monks and lay brothers die during the **Black Death** – c.40% of global population dead



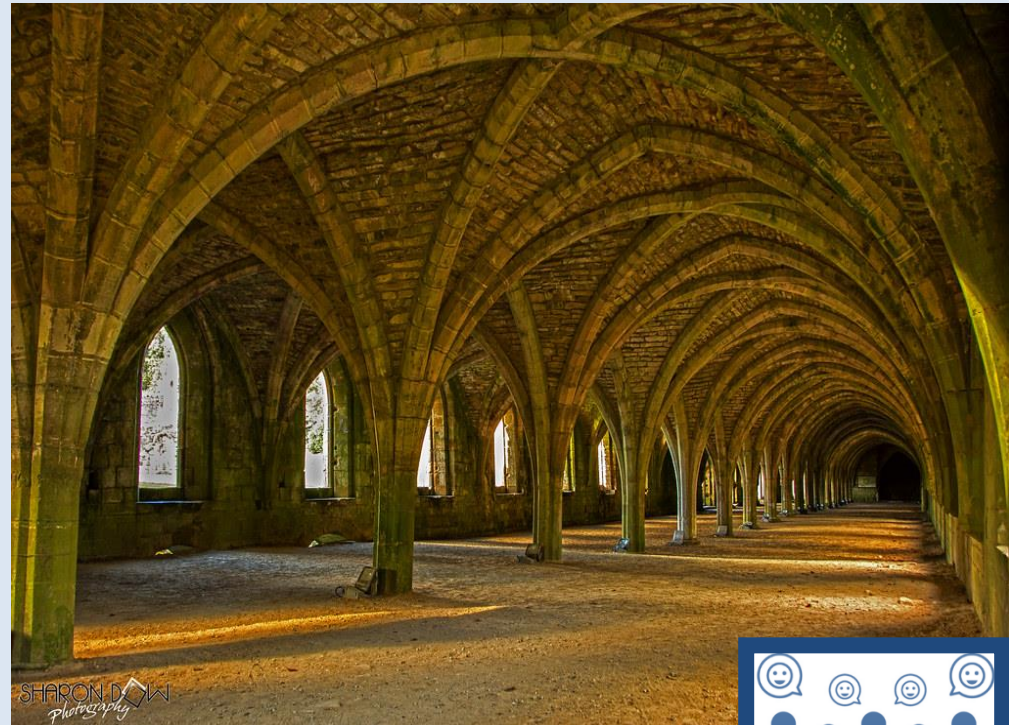
Growth Returns: 15th century

15th Century: Abbot Marmaduke Huby begins building Huby's tower



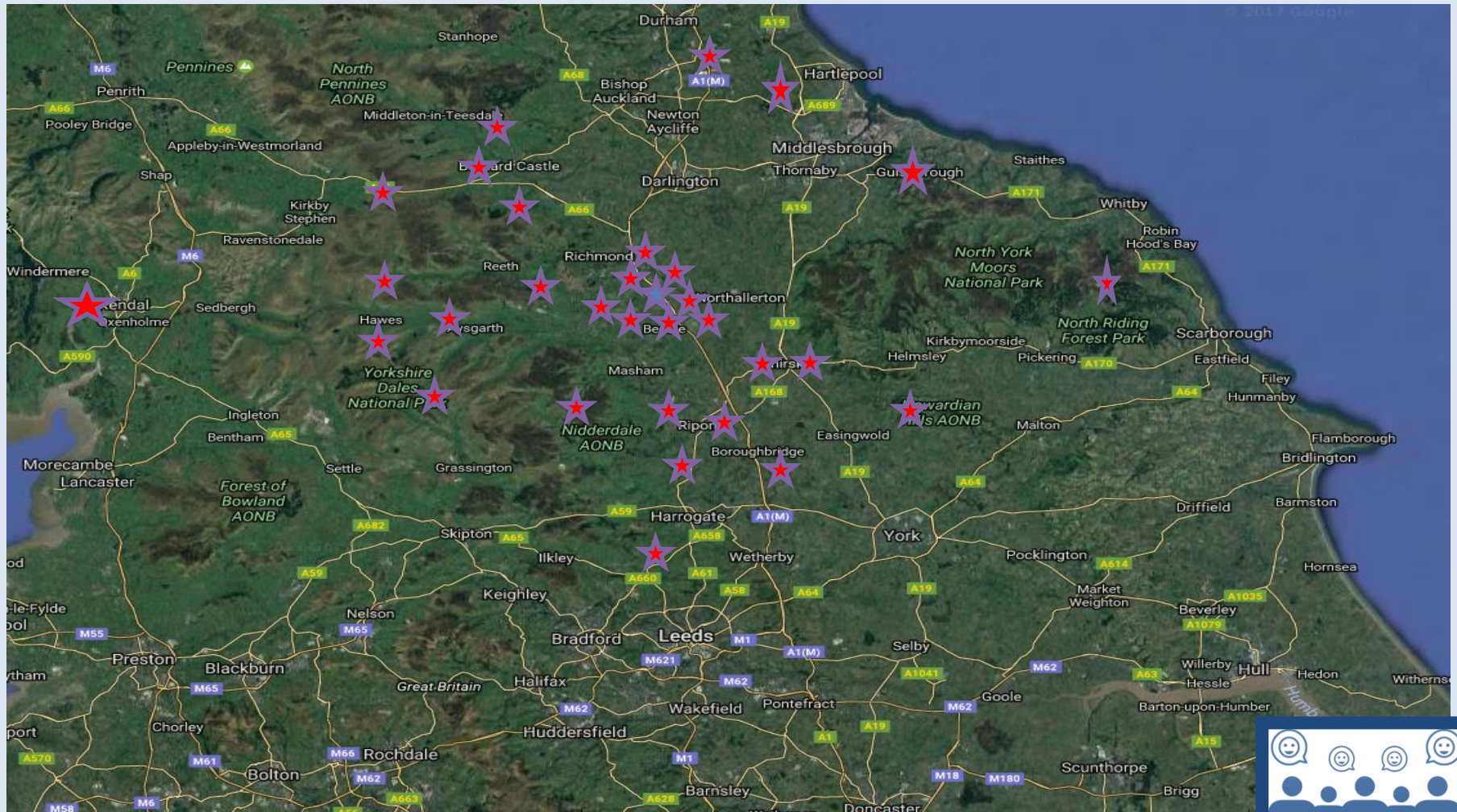
Growth Returns: 15th century

15th Century: Abbey begins to own more land, **granges** (farm buildings) and make money from the wool business



Growth Returns: Early 16th century

By 1535, Fountains was collecting £1,115 in tax per annum (roughly £2million)!



Dissolution: 1539

1534: Reformation. Act of Supremacy makes Henry VIII to leader of the Church, not the Pope. Uses power to divorce wife and marry 5 more in quest for a male heir



Dissolution: 1539

1539 AD: Fountains Abbey is closed by agents of Lord Chancellor Thomas Cromwell



1539 – 1768: Ruined and overgrown



Changes: 16th Century

16th Century: Fountains estate passes from the King to Richard Gresham MP in return for his support for the King's policies in Parliament. Abbey stripped of its wealth



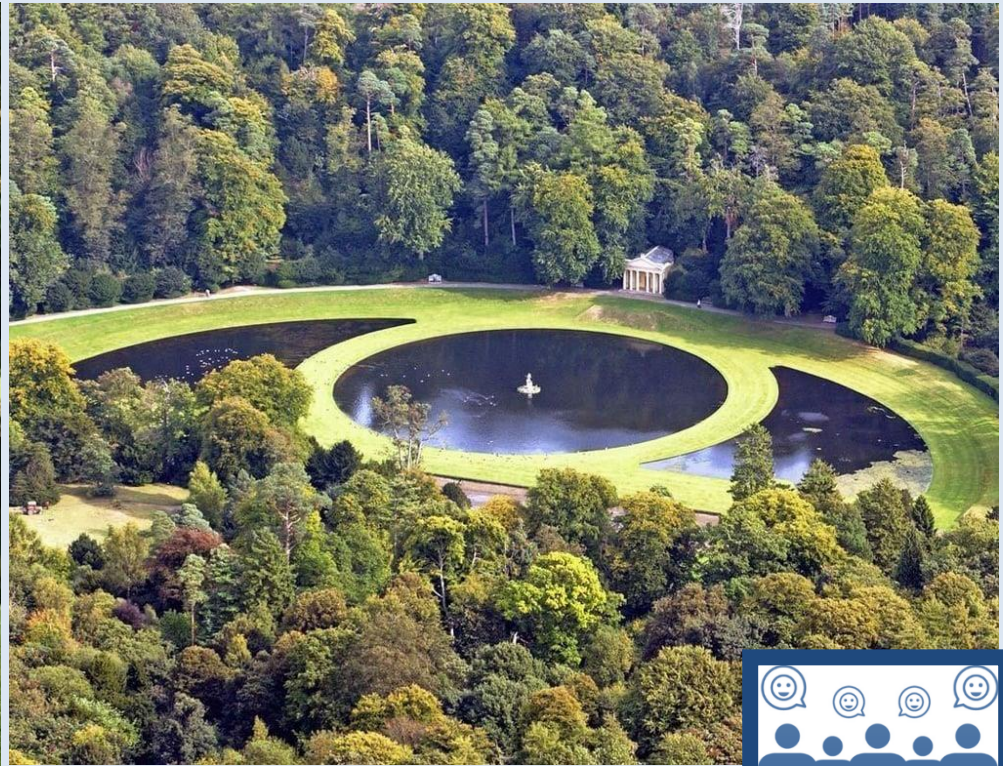
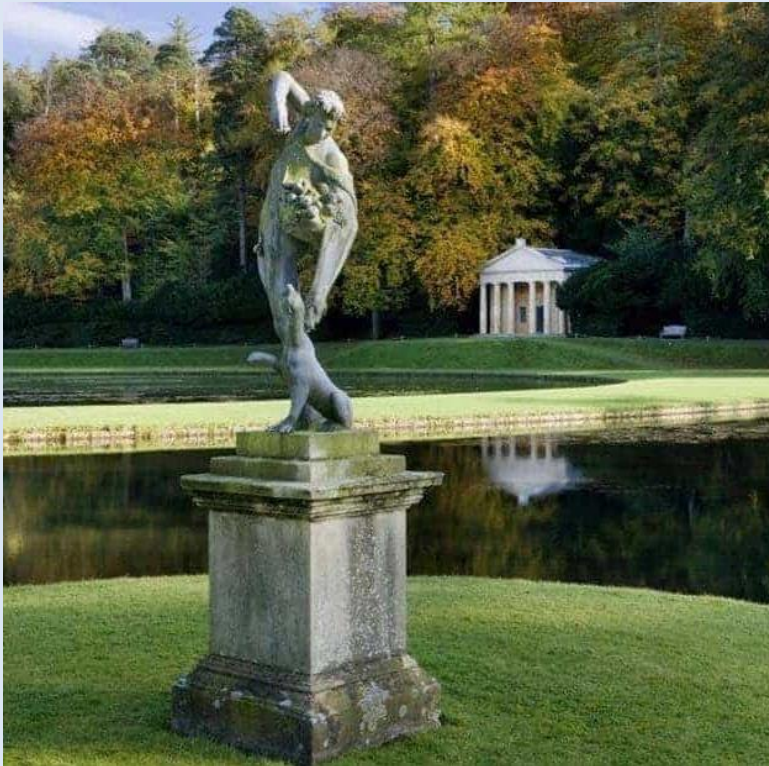
Changes: 17th century

17th Century: No longer a working monastery. Abbey passes from Richard Gresham MP's family to Stephen Proctor who uses abbey's stone to build **Fountains Hall**



Studley Royal: 18th century

18th Century: Meanwhile, Studley Royal estate next door is developed by the Aislabies; creation of fashionable neo-classical water gardens



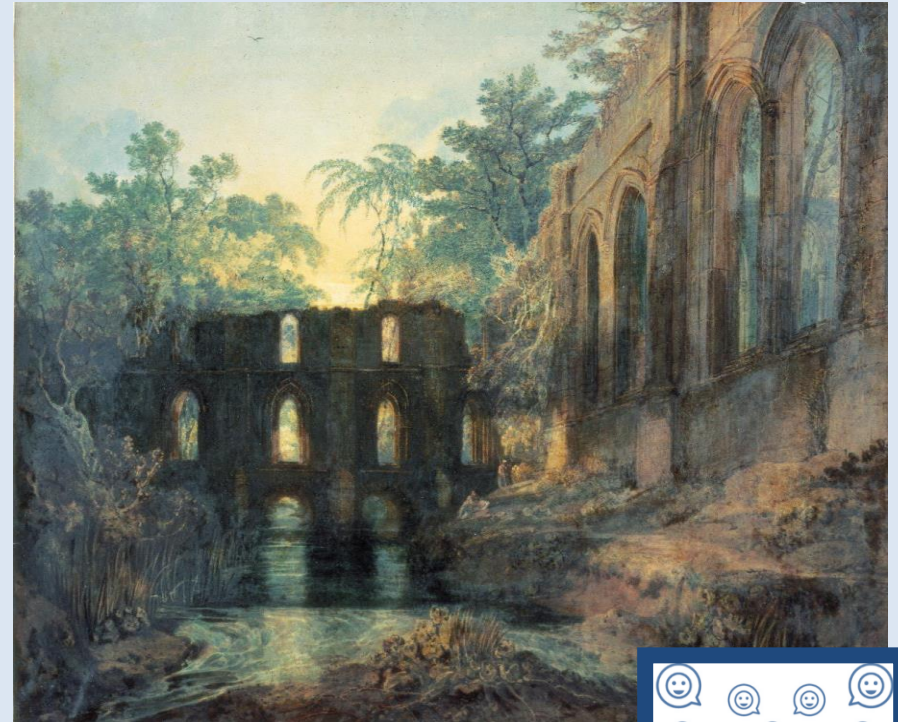
1768 – 1983:

Romantic Ruin as a folly within Studley Royal water gardens



Studley Royal: 18th century

1768: Aislable family buy Fountains Abbey and adds it to their own Studley Royal estate as growing fashion for Romantic ruins and follies (e.g. paintings by JMW Turner)




The painting depicts the interior of the crossing of Fountains Abbey, a Cistercian monastery. The scene is characterized by its warm, golden-brown tones, which dominate the walls and the floor. The architecture features large, pointed arches and a central tower with a large, multi-paned window. The walls are heavily textured, showing signs of age and decay. In the foreground, a small figure of a person stands on the right, providing a sense of scale to the vast space. The overall atmosphere is one of quiet solitude and the passage of time.

Overgrown ruins

Trees growing in the base
of the tower showing
nature taking back control

Person included for sense of scale

The Crossing at Fountains Abbey by JMW Turner

The painting depicts the ruins of Fountains Abbey, a large Gothic structure partially overgrown with nature. A river flows through the center, having collapsed into the ruins. The scene is lush with trees and plants, suggesting nature reclaiming the landscape. The sky is a soft, hazy blue. The overall mood is one of tranquility and the passage of time.

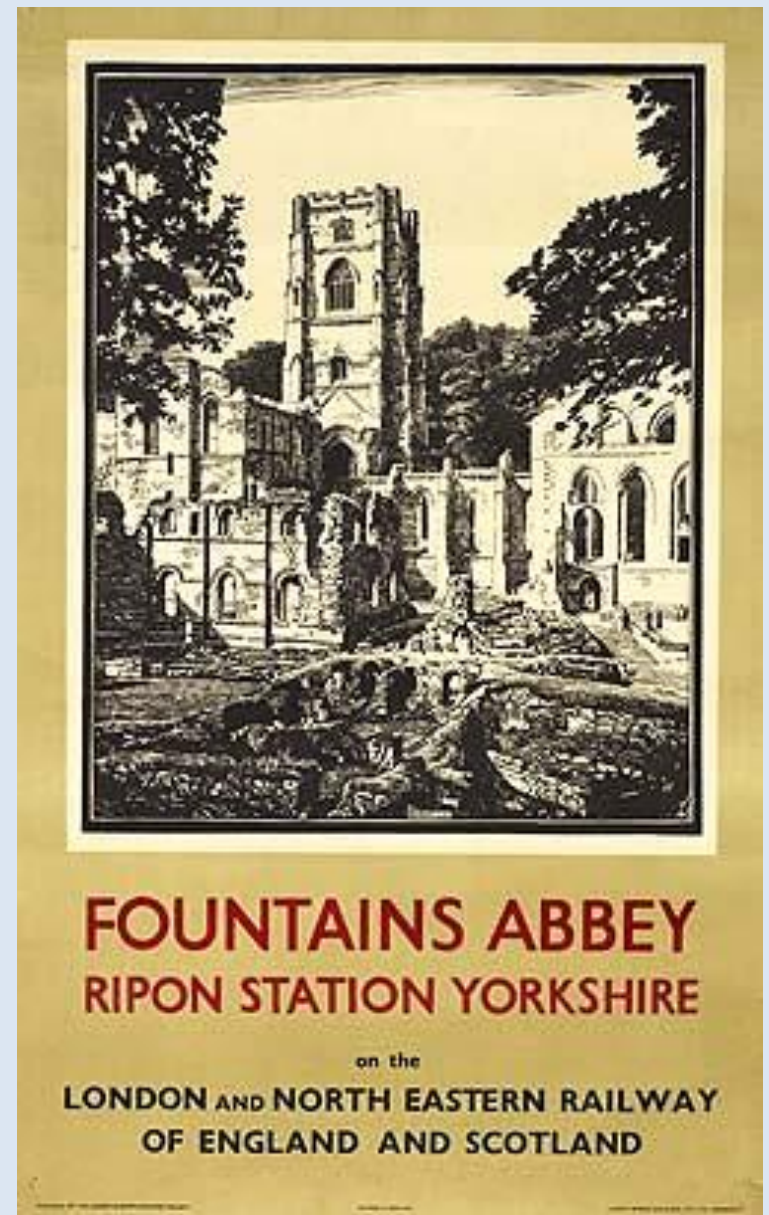
Completely overgrown ruins, with trees, vines and plants

Floor has collapsed and the river is flowing into the Refectory – nature is taken back control of the landscape

The Refectory at Fountains Abbey by JMW Turner

Tourism: 19th century

19th Century: Becomes a tourist site for Victorian travellers (railway comes to Ripon in 1855 connecting it and Fountains with the rest of the country)



1983 - Present:

**Preserved heritage site, tourist
attraction and UNESCO World
Heritage Site**



Tourism: 20th century

20th Century: In 1983
The National Trust
buys Fountains Abbey
& Studley Royal
Estates



**National
Trust**



Tourism: 20th century

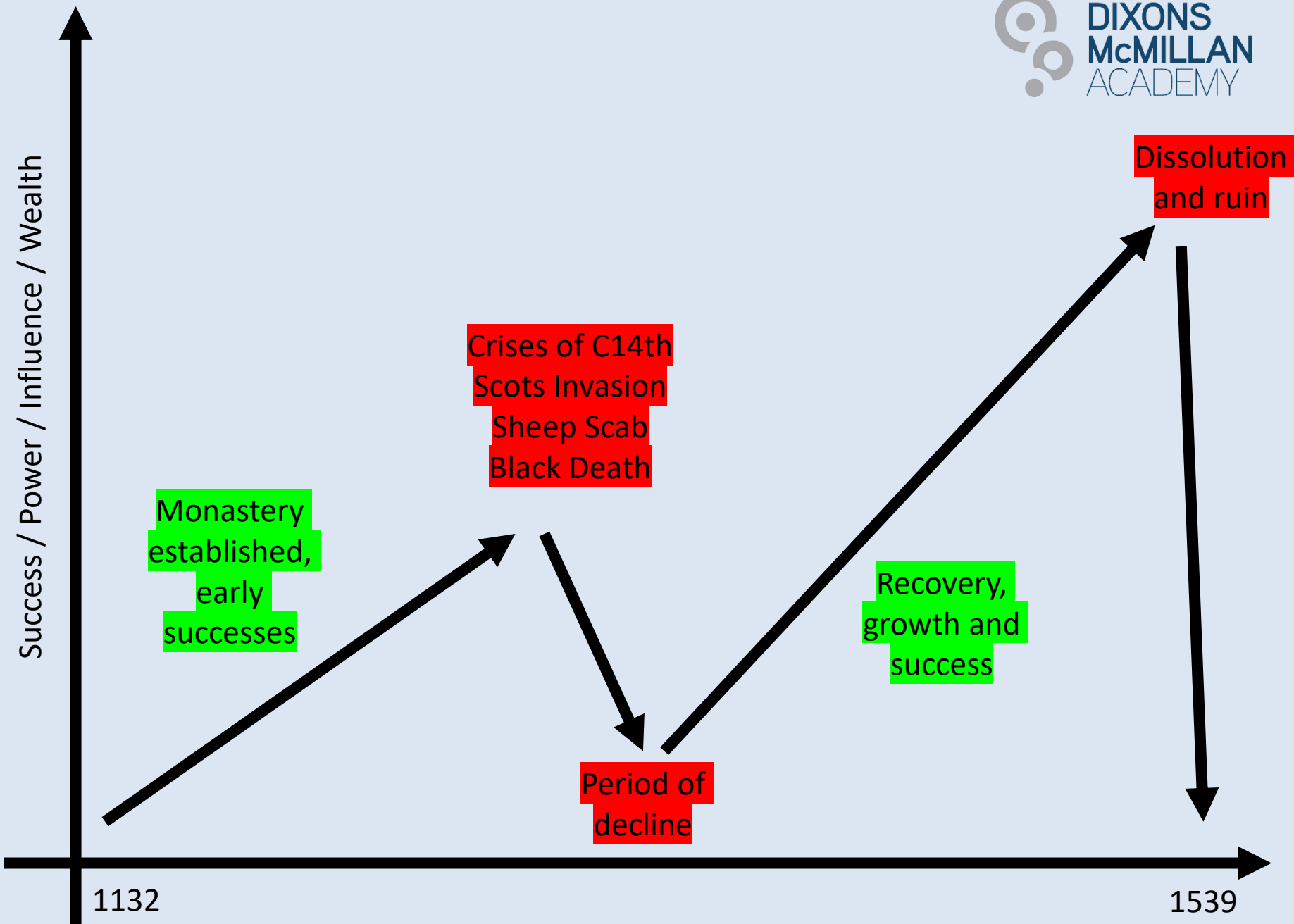
20th Century: In 1986 Fountains became a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** – one of top 16 sites in England, one of the top 35 sites in the UK and British Overseas Territories



New discoveries: 21st century

21st century: new discoveries are made using modern archaeological technology, including the monks' cemetery containing graves of at least 200 monks





1132 AD

STEEP SIDED VALLEY WALL

CAVES

ANCIENT FOREST

RIVER SKELL

STEEP SIDED VALLEY WALL



Wolves



Wild Boar



Bandits

1135 AD

STEEP SIDED VALLEY WALL

CAVES

Wooden church



RIVER SKELL

STEEP SIDED VALLEY WALL

1150 AD

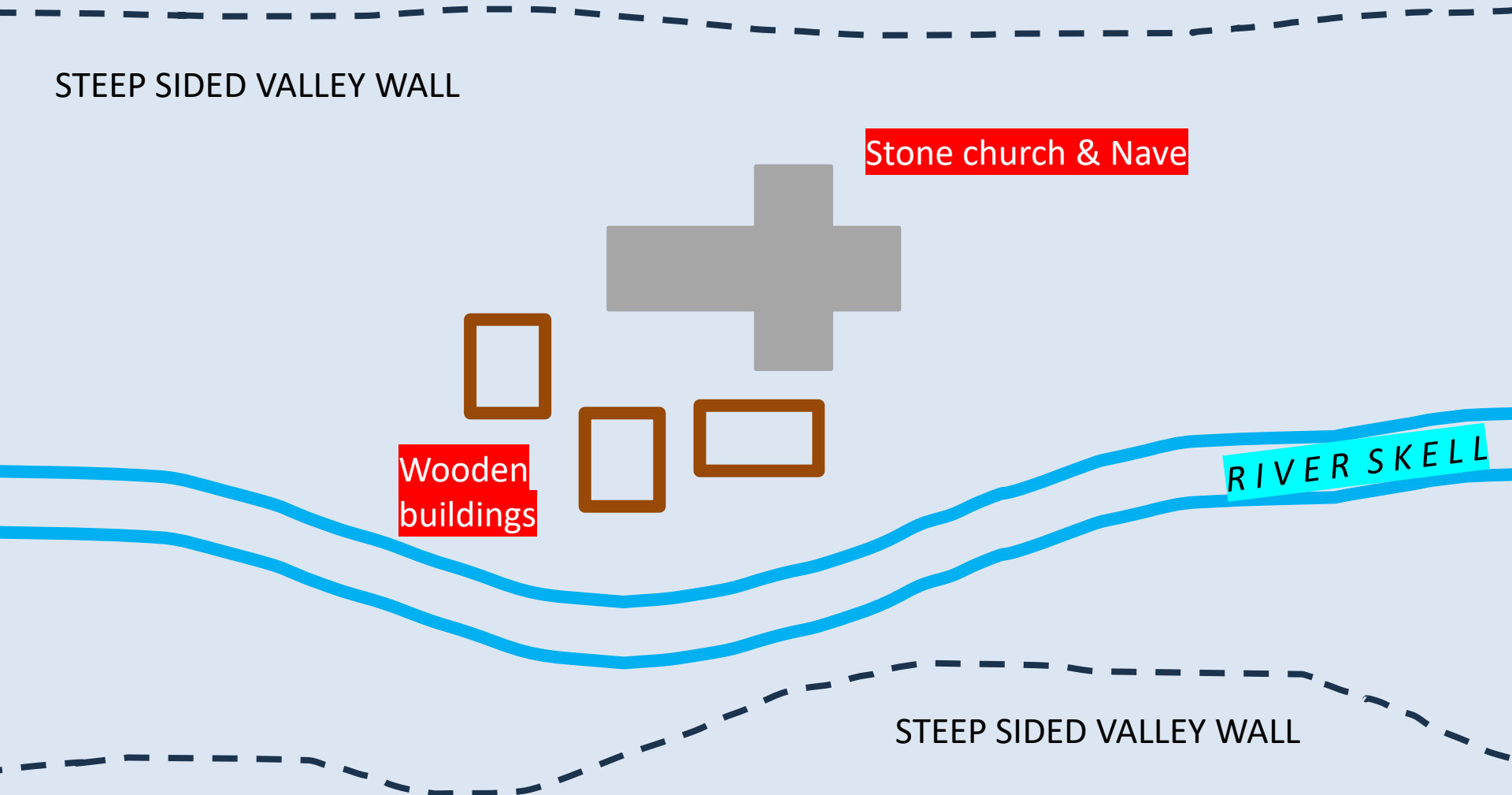
STEEP SIDED VALLEY WALL

Stone church & Nave

Wooden
buildings

RIVER SKELL

STEEP SIDED VALLEY WALL





Late 1100s

STEEP SIDED VALLEY WALL

Stone church & Nave

Cloisters

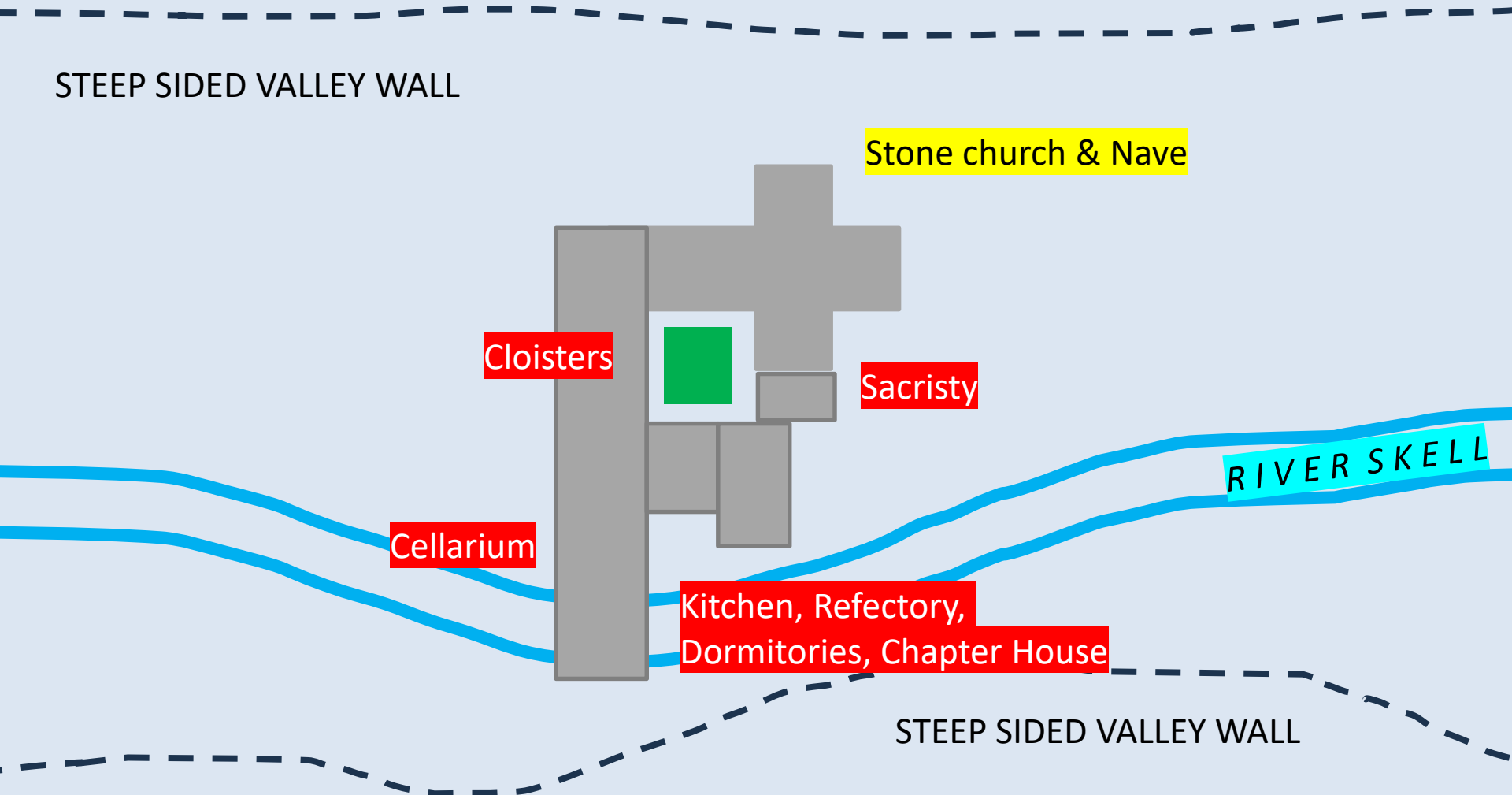
Sacristy

Cellarium

Kitchen, Refectory,
Dormitories, Chapter House

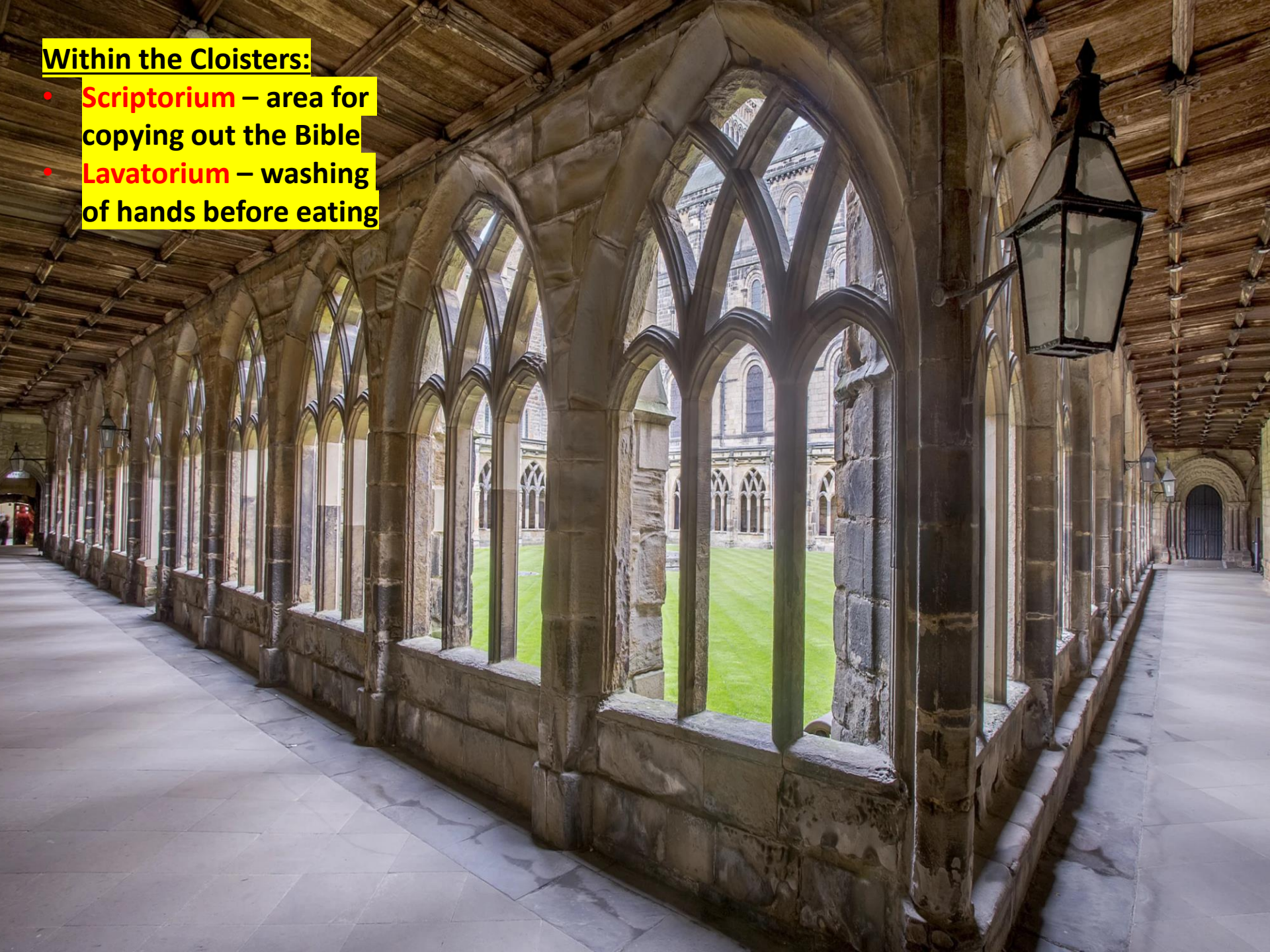
RIVER SKELL

STEEP SIDED VALLEY WALL



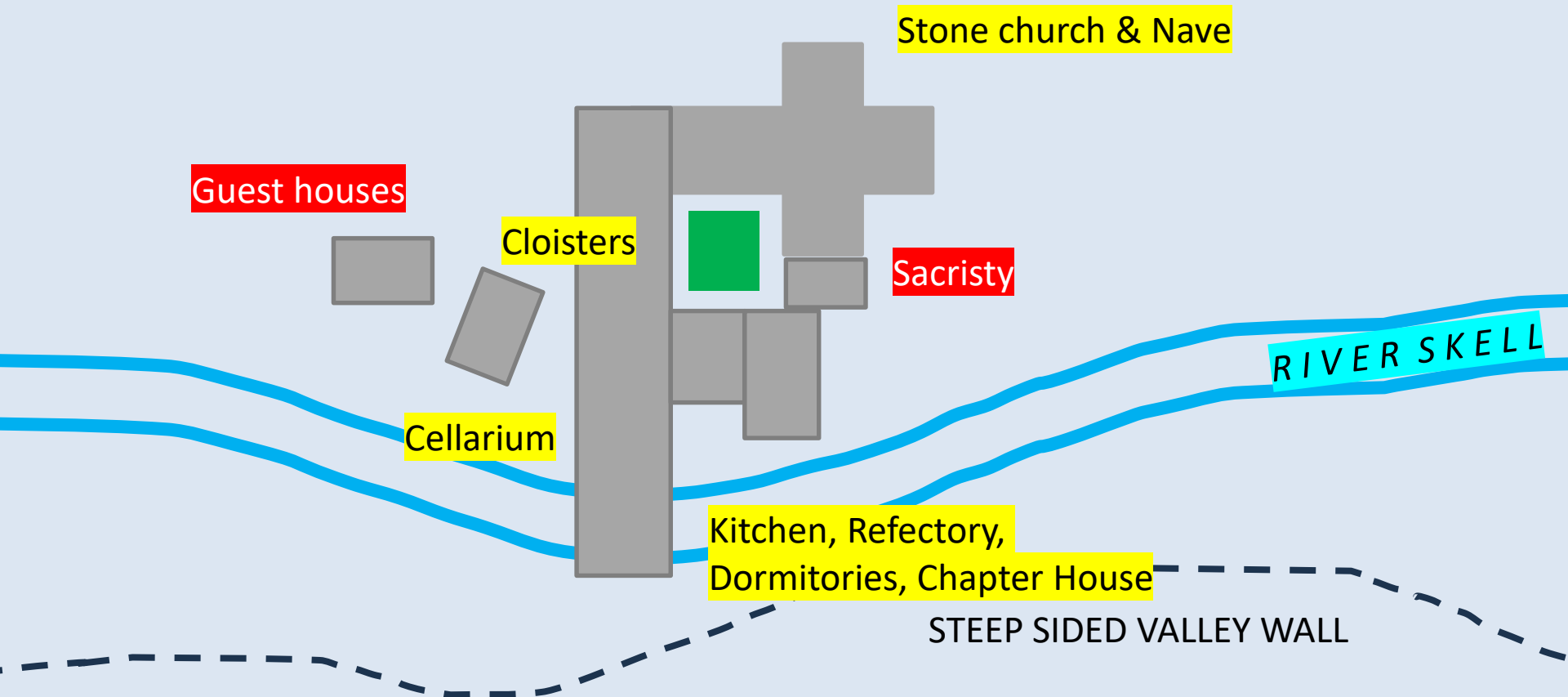
Within the Cloisters:

- **Scriptorium** – area for copying out the Bible
- **Lavatorium** – washing of hands before eating



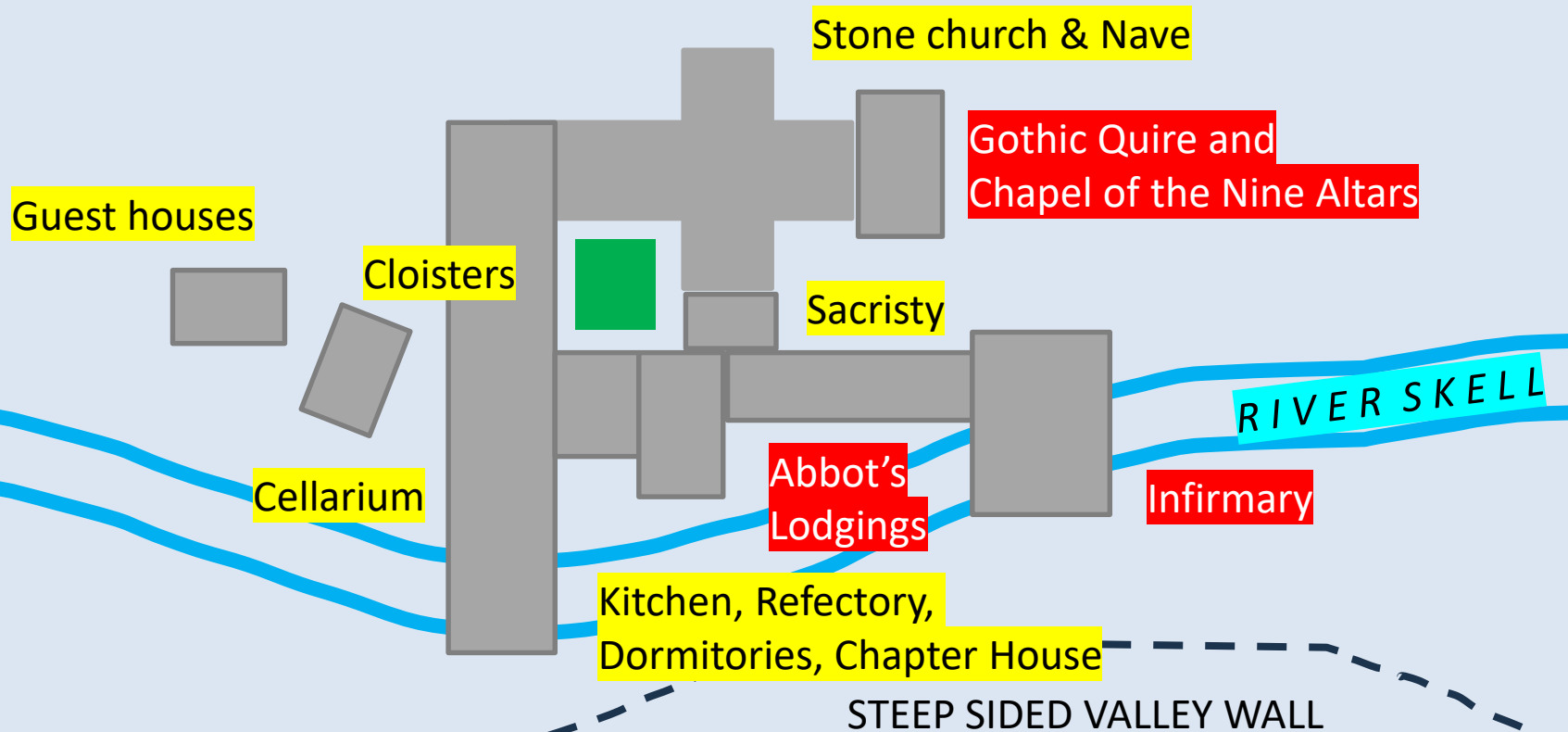
Early 1200s

STEEP SIDED VALLEY WALL



Late 1200s

STEEP SIDED VALLEY WALL



Wooden roof

Early English Gothic &
Decorated Gothic styles

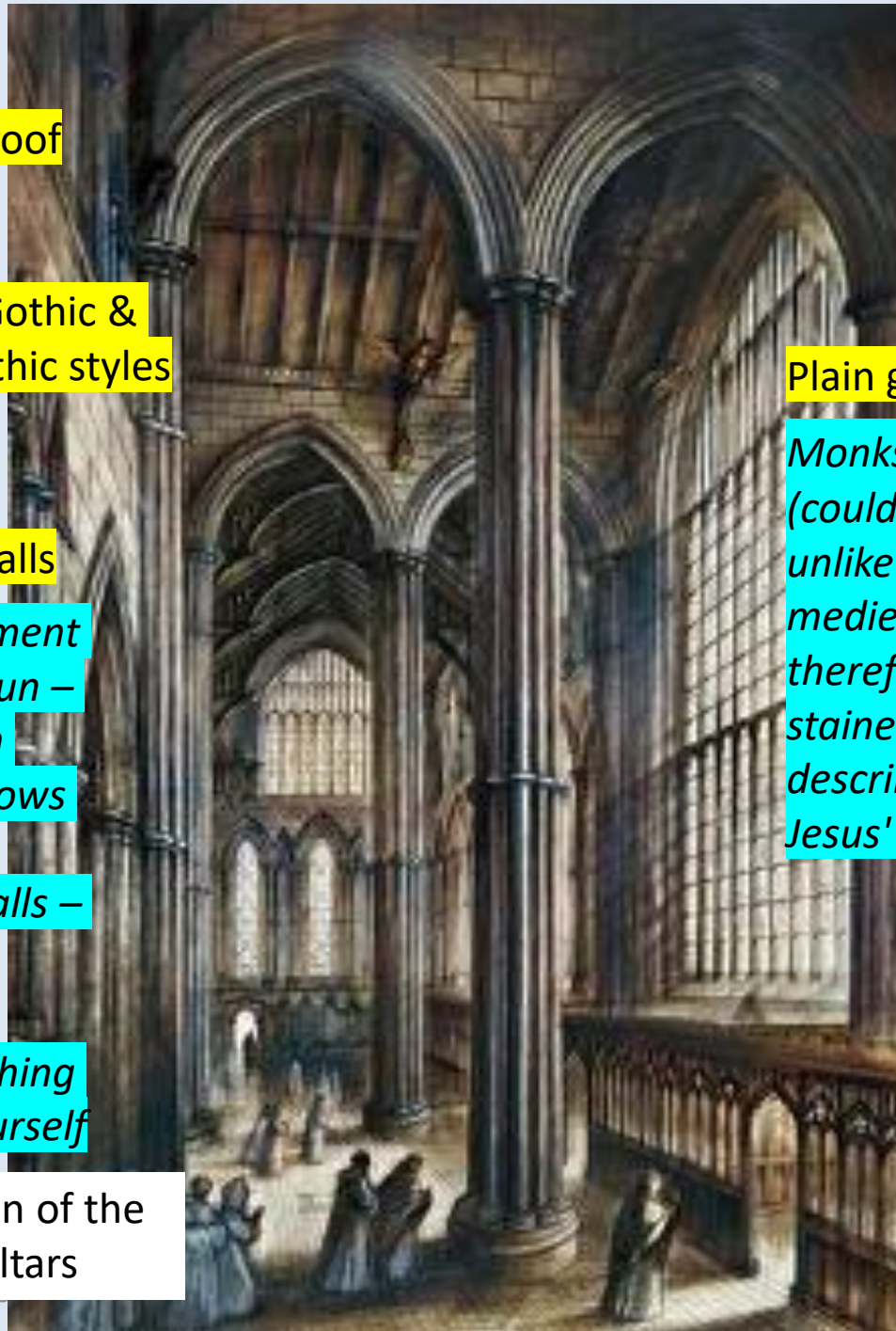
Whitewashed walls

*East-West alignment
with the rising Sun –
sunlight through
plain glass windows
and reflects on
whitewashed walls –
sense of
numinosity: a
feeling of something
greater than yourself*

Plain glass in windows

*Monks were **literate**
(could read and write)
unlike the rest of the
medieval population:
therefore no reason for
stained glass windows to
describe the Bible and
Jesus' teachings*

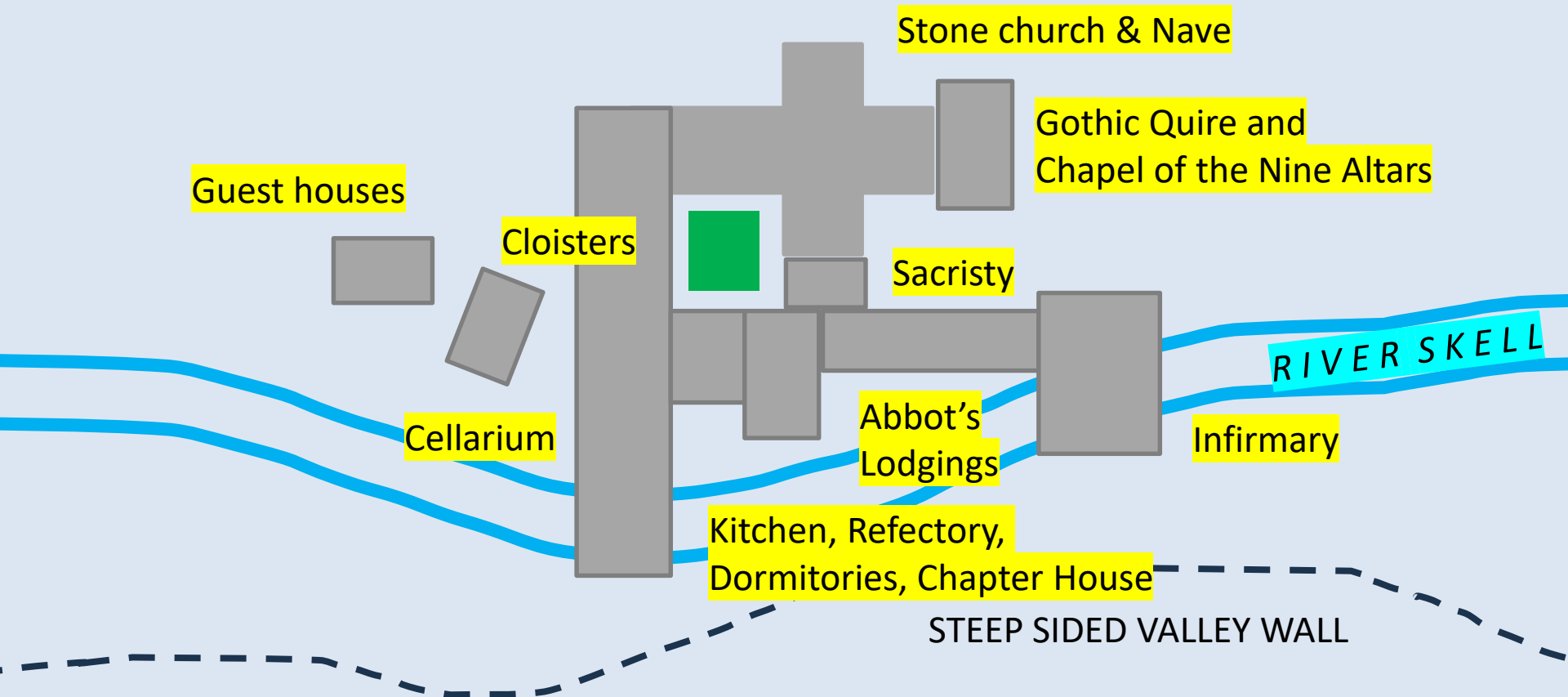
Artist's reconstruction of the
Chapel of the Nine Altars



1300s – no construction

Crises of the C14th: Scottish invasion; Sheep Scab; Black Death

STEEP SIDED VALLEY WALL



Early 1400s

Many granges

Many daughter houses

STEEP SIDED VALLEY WALL

Guest houses

Cloisters

Cellarium

Stone church & Nave

Gothic Quire and
Chapel of the Nine Altars

Sacristy

Abbot's
Lodgings

Infirmary

Kitchen, Refectory,
Dormitories, Chapter House

RIVER SKELL

STEEP SIDED VALLEY WALL

Kirkstall Abbey, Leeds

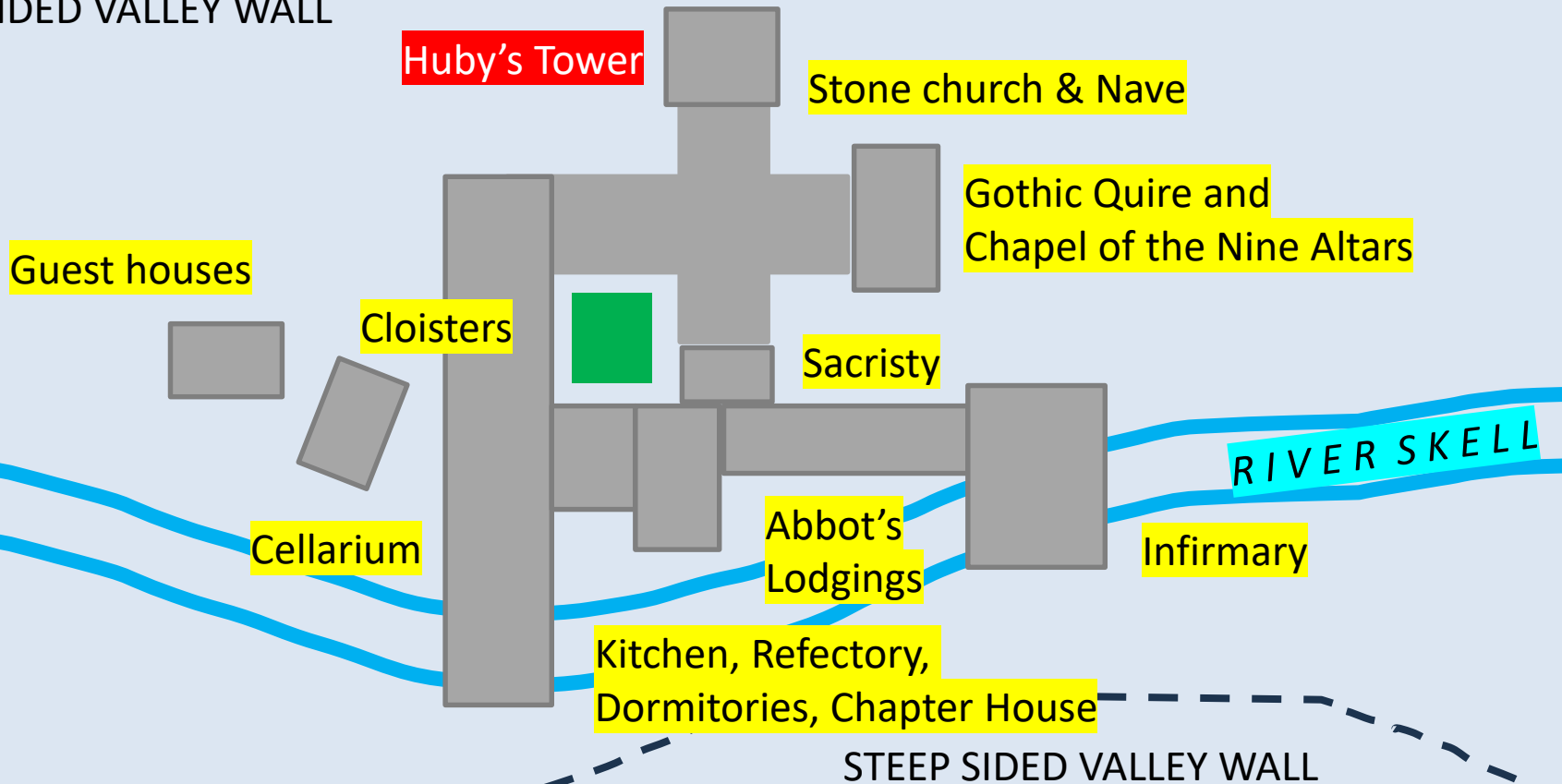


Late 1400s
Early 1500s

Many granges

Many daughter houses

STEEP SIDED VALLEY WALL



50 metres tall

*Estimated to be the
10th tallest structure
in medieval England
in 1500*

Perpendicular Gothic style

*Incredibly expensive,
very few examples of
non-Royal*

*Perpendicular Gothic
architecture from
late 1400s*

Personalised decoration

*Huby's motto Soli
Deo Honor et Gloria
(Honour and Glory to
God alone) carved
into the upper level,
BUT also Huby's coat
of arms and initials*



Huby's Tower

Stone church & Nave

Gothic Quire and
Chapel of the Nine Altars

Sacristy

Infirmary

Cloisters

Cellarium

Abbot's
Lodgings

Guest houses

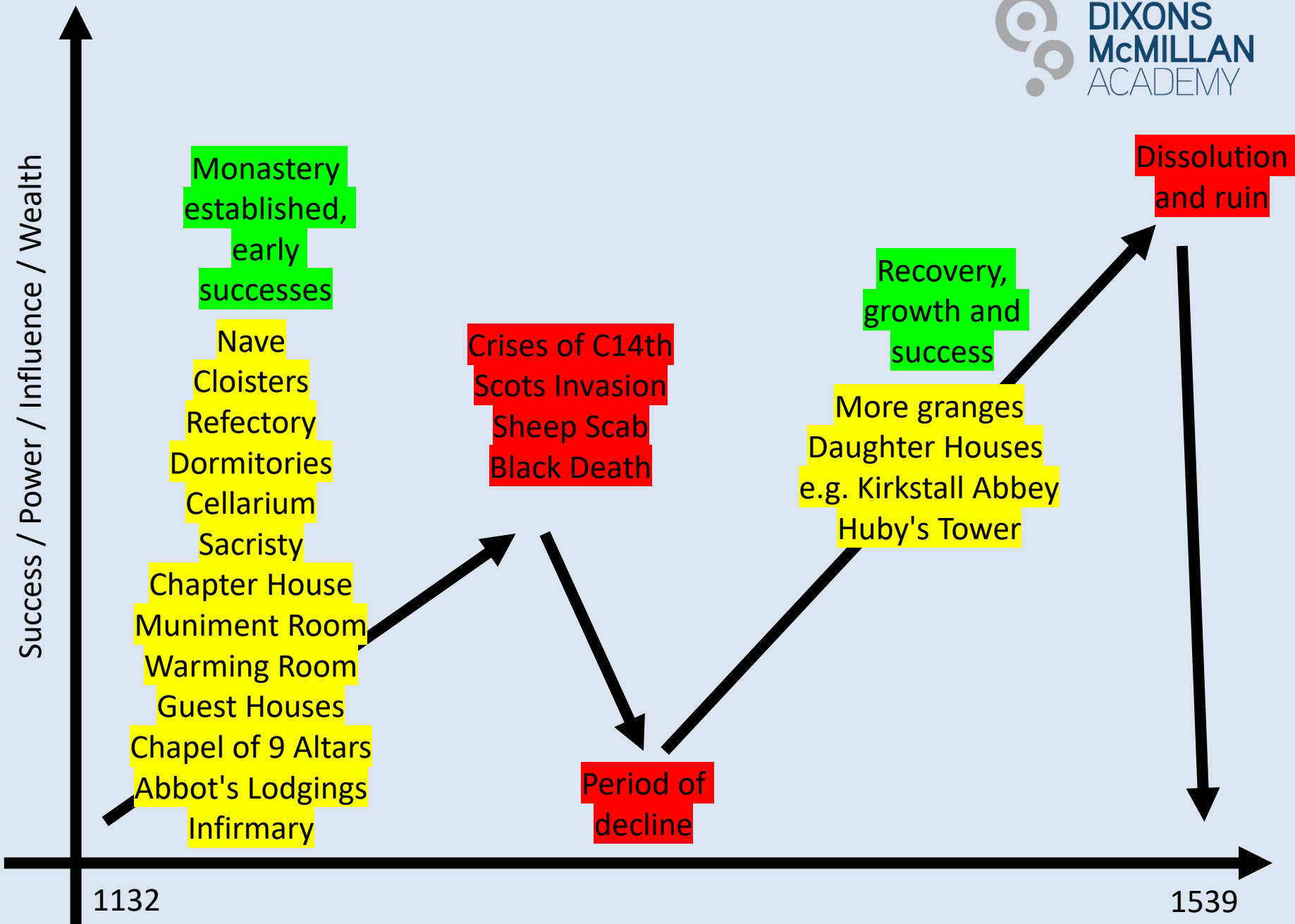
Kitchen, Refectory,
Dormitories, Chapter House

Artist's reconstruction of the
monastery in early 1500s

Other key locations

- **Warming Room** – used as a place of recovery for monks who were ill
- **Muniment Room** – vault for storing documents which proved ownership of land and granges
- **Prison** – used for imprisoning monks who had broken their vows of poverty, obedience, silence, chastity
- **Misericord** – from *misericordia* ('mercy' in Latin); a room where the Rule of St Benedict was relaxed – particularly around the eating of meat. Originally as a reward, but used by all frequently by the late 1400s





History Around Us

Key reminders

- **Only 1 hour** – 30 minutes per essay – move on even if you have not finished essay 1. Leave space, move on, come back to it if you have time at the end
- **10 marks for SPAG** – remember: perfect SPAG only gets you 3/5 per essay, with the other 2 marks for use of key words (e.g. Romanesque, Gothic, Refectory, etc)
- **Four paragraphs per essay**, each paragraph on a key physical feature and link to question
- 3 essays to choose from – **only complete 2!**



Key terms that may be in questions

1. **Beliefs/values** - belief in God, belief in importance of poverty/chastity/obedience, belief in hard work, belief in using buildings to glorify God
2. **Physical features/physical remains/site evidence** – talk about the site at Fountains Abbey – eg. different rooms/parts of Abbey. Describe them and link to qu.
3. **Typical** – how similar/different is Fountains?
4. **Diverse/Diversity** – what different things were going on at the site at that time?




There are three questions – you need to **CHOOSE TWO**




Read all the questions carefully when you begin your exam. **Think briefly about which** question to tackle first. Choose the one you're **most confident** about. Then write it. After 30 minutes, choose your second question

Answer **any two** questions.


- 1 Explain the reasons why people first created your site within its surroundings. 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]**

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Answer booklet:

3

Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal

State the site you have studied

Question number

3



Exam Question

Imagine you are a guide at your site. If you want visitors to understand why your site was important in history, either locally or nationally, which features of the site would you show them and why? Use physical features of the site as well as your knowledge to support your answer.



Exam Question

Imagine you are a **guide** at your site.

If you want visitors to understand **why your site was important in history**, either locally or nationally, **which features** of the site would you show them and **why?**

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



Exam Question

In simple terms:

What parts of the abbey would you show to people if you were giving a tour and what each bit tell them about the importance of the site?

Method:

- Words in the question (If I was a guide at Fountains Abbey I would show a visitor ...)
- Name a physical feature
- Explain what that physical feature tells us about the importance of Fountains Abbey (either locally or nationally)



Key Reminders

- You must:
- Have physical evidence in every paragraph
- The physical evidence should drive every paragraph
- Imagine each essay is more like a report into the site based on the question focus you are given

Planning Example

Physical Feature

The cellarium, first developed in the 12th century

Explanation (What would you talk about in this paragraph)

The cellarium was an important feature for Fountains Abbey for both local and national reasons.

During the 12th and 13th century, the abbey expanded its wool trade and increased its land holdings, meaning that more sheep came under its control.

The sheep were sheared and their wool stored in the cellarium, prior to being sold to cloth merchants.

Therefore as a guide I would show the cellarium to a visitor as it was a sign of the enormous wealth of the abbey.



Paragraph Example



If I was a guide at Fountains Abbey I would like to show visitors the Cellarium. This is because this feature has both local and national significance. For example, during the 12th and 13th century, the abbey expanded its wool trade and increased its land holdings, meaning that more sheep came under its control. The sheep were sheared and their wool stored in the Cellarium, prior to being sold to cloth merchants. Therefore as a guide I would show the cellarium to a visitor as it was a sign of the enormous wealth of the abbey.

Question		Evidence		Explanation	
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