

V I K I N G S



G.C.S.E Revision Guide

Name:.....

Viking Expansion 750-1050

<u>Homelands</u> Overview		Increase of Viking raids	
How hard was life in Scandinavia?		Which countries suffered?	
Viking life and culture		Causes of invasion of heathen army	
Expansion		Success of 'heathen army'	
Long ships		Impact of invasion on England	
Viking Society		Importance of Jorvik	
Trading in Europe		<u>Settlers in the West</u> Settling as a Viking	
Religion and Beliefs		Success of Icelandic settlements	
Organisation of religion		Challenges in Greenland and North America	
<u>Volga Vikings</u> Viking expansion in Russia		Most successful settlement and why	
Creation of Kiev		<u>Great Danes</u> Legacy of Harald Bluetooth	
Trade with Constantinople		Viking conversion to Christianity	
Arabs and the Northmen		Skill or luck - Svein in England	
<u>Raiders and Invaders</u> Why did young men raid?		Svein vs. Cnut Anglo Danish Empire	
Fights and battles			

Overview – Vikings in their homelands of Scandinavia

The study of Viking homelands (Scandinavia) tells us all about their society and culture.
In understanding this, we can begin to see why they expanded abroad.

Beliefs and Culture:

Viking society was based on farming/hunting:

- Viking society was tribal - they had diverse cultures based on where they lived e.g. the Saami were a tribe in Sweden famous for hunting
- Vikings prayed to the goddess of agriculture (Sif) - long, golden hair representative of wheat
- Pagan graves reveal jobs as farmers i.e. iron sickles for making linen & tools for spinning wool / master metalworkers i.e. jewellery from silver

Viking society was based on family:

- In the farmhouses, Vikings told stories called sagas to pass on knowledge
- Remembrance - the Jelling Stones (10th C Denmark) raised by King Gorm the Old in memory of his wife Thyra.

Viking society was warlike:

- Vikings prayed to Gods of war e.g. **Odin**, **Loki** (mischief) & **Thor** (hammer **Mjolnir**). Believed when killed in battle went to **Valhalla** (honour in fighting/death)
- Vikings encouraged to avenge injuries against their dead relatives
- Laws of late Viking period = all free men expected to own and carry a weapon e.g. battle axe
- Youth = weapons training in hunting, sports and raiding
- **Berserkers** - believed that **Odin**, god of war, gave them protection and superhuman powers

Viking society was based on equality/democracy:

- **The thing** - assembly of free men where disputes are solved and political decisions made e.g. the Lawspeaker (judge) told the **Swedish King Olof** (c.980-1022) that the people, not the king, held the power and the King gave in
- Women equal to men - could lead (e.g. **Oseberg Ship Burial** - Queen 834 AD) and be **shield maidens** (warriors in battle)
- BUT - **hierarchy** existed (slaves, thralls, karls, jarls, kings)

VIKING HOMELANDS



Country	Features
Denmark - the Danes	Nowhere in Denmark is more than 35 miles from the sea. Close to the European power-centres of the Holy Roman Empire and France. Fertile and well-populated. Main trading town: Hedeby
Norway - The Norwegians	Thousands of off-shore islands, with fjords that head deep inland. The north of Norway is in the Arctic circle where it snows 365 days a year. Sparsely populated with poor soil. Main trading town: Kaupang
Sweden - The Swedes	The largest country in Scandinavia. Full of lakes and thick forests, its coastline looks east to the rivers of Russia and the Baltic. Main trading town: Birka

The Viking Stereotype: Vikings as Warriors

Read the following information about Viking society.

Decide if the informative proves that the Vikings WERE or were NOT warlike.

Beliefs in warlike gods

- The most powerful god was the one-eyed **Odin**. He was god of warfare, justice, death, wisdom and poetry.
- However, the most popular god, however, was **Thor**. With his hammer **Miollnir**, he was the main defender of the gods against the giants.
- Vikings believed that a warrior killed in battle went to **Valhalla**
- Valhalla was the location of Odin's 'Great Hall' where dead heroes feasted at long tables
- A dead person was buried with some of their belongings/treasure to take to the next world
- These beliefs suggest a culture focused on honour in battle and death.

Ships

- The Vikings were daring masters of the sea.
- The **shallow draught** of these ships meant that they were able to reach far inland by river and stream, striking and moving on before local forces could muster.
- An average speed of 10 to 11 knots could have been achieved, or perhaps rather more in short bursts.
- Crews of 25 to 60 men would have been common, seated on benches on open decks, although the largest ships could have carried as many as 100 or more.
- Square sails and the use of oars allowed ships to travel faster.
- Fearsome figureheads would be raised at stem and stern as a sign of warlike intent, underlined by rows of shields mounted along the sides for defence or show.
- These could be removed while at sea.

Defence

- Types of military engagement might range from small-scale family feuds or gang-raids to full-scale pitched battles.
- Remains of **ring forts** constructed in the late tenth century could have housed between 6,000 to 9,000 inhabitants.
- Their date suggests that they were royal defensive and administrative centres, possibly built by **Harald Bluetooth** to unify the country at a time of conflict with the German Empire.
- Vikings on campaign abroad sometimes constructed temporary **winter camps** e.g. at **Repton** in Derbyshire.
- There the Danish Great Army, which had landed in East Anglia in 865, took shelter over the winter of 873-4.

Weapons & warfare/tactics

- Laws of the late Viking period show that all free men were expected to own weapons.
- The main offensive weapons were the spear, sword and battle-axe, although bows and arrows and other missiles were also used.
- Weapons were carried not just for battle, but also as symbols of their owners' status and wealth.
- The famed, double-handed broad axe is a late development, typical of the late 10th and 11th centuries.
- Weapons training began in youth in hunting, sports and raiding.
- Aspiring warriors sought armed service with famous Viking warriors, therefore a leader therefore needed to wage war frequently in order to keep his following and maintain power against rivals.
- A '**shield-wall**' was used for better protection; their chiefs were well defended by a close bodyguard.
- The famous '**berserkers**', may have fought in groups, and believed that Odin, the god of war, gave them both protection and superhuman powers so they had no need of armour.
- They would work themselves into a battle frenzy so intense it is said they bit on the edges of their shields, and could even ignore the pain of wounds.

Everyday life

- Pagan graves are useful because the bodies were fully dressed and accompanied by personal belongings.
- Women often had the **iron sickles** with which they harvested the flax for making linen
- Very occasionally they had beautifully carved boards of whalebone on which they rubbed a high gloss on to the linen.
- Farmhouses in the 9th and 10th centuries were long rectangular buildings.
- Cooking, eating, storytelling and sleeping all took place in this one room, along with weaving and carving bone pins and whatever else was needed.
- They were master metalworkers, fashioning exquisite jewellery from silver, gold and bronze.

Settlement & trade

- In areas across the world, Vikings settled and established **trading centres**.
- Vikings had industries such as leather-working, bone comb-making, textiles and metalworking.
- Crucial to urban development is the discovery of coin-making dies, for the Viking economy had previously been based not on currency but on silver bullion and the exchange of goods.

Women

- Most women's lives were tied to the home, but they had great influence within this sphere.
- The keys with which many were buried symbolise their responsibility for, and control over, the distribution of food and clothing to the household.
- Some women made their mark through exceptional status or achievement.
- One of the richest burials of Viking Age Scandinavia is that of the **Oseberg 'queen'**, buried in a very grand style with a richly-decorated ship and large numbers of high-quality grave goods in 834.
- Merchants' scales and weights found in female graves in Scandinavia suggest an association between women and trade.
- Democracy
- In the tribal culture of Scandinavia the members of a clan were obliged to avenge injuries against their dead and mutilated relatives.
- A balancing structure was necessary to reduce tribal feuds and avoid social disorder.
- The '**thing**' was the assembly of the freemen of a country, province or a hundred.
- At the thing, disputes were solved and political decisions were made.
- The thing met at regular intervals, legislated, elected chieftains and kings, and judged according to the law, which was memorized and recited by the "law speaker" (the judge).
- In theory one-man one-vote was the rule.

The Viking Stereotype: Vikings as Warriors

The Vikings WERE warlike	The Vikings were NOT warlike

The Vikings WERE warlike

The Vikings were NOT warlike

SOCIAL HIERARCHY



JARL

Rights:

Responsibilities:



WOMAN

Rights:

Responsibilities:

BONDI

Rights:

Responsibilities:

THRALL

Rights:

Responsibilities:



VIKING LAW AND ORDER:

'The Thing' - assembly of free men and women where important decisions were made

VIKING LONGSHIPS

Feature	Definition/Advantages
Rudder/Steering Oar	An oar at the back of the ship which would allow the ship to quickly turn around and change direction. It could also be lifted out of the water so the ship can enter shallower water than most ships.
Sailing Mast.	An innovation from the start of the Viking Age - this allowed ships to be carried by the wind and travel much faster and travel a great distance without exhausting their rowers.
Oak Hull.	A strong and flexible material keeping the ship light - many longships were light enough to be carried over land by their crew.
Oar Holes.	Most longships had both oar-holes and a mast. This meant Vikings could travel by rowing, including against the wind and in shallow waters.
Stern and bow.	The front (stern) and bow (back) are carved into a sharp shape to 'cut' through the water, making Viking ships extremely fast.
Figurehead.	The front of the ship would be carved into an animal-head or a dragon to intimidate enemies. The example is shaped like a bear's jaw.

TRAVEL BY LAND

TRAVEL BY SEA

TRAVEL BY RIVER



Q2 - Write a clear and organised summary that analyses hierarchy in Viking society

P	P	P
E	E	E
E	E	E

Q3 - Explain the importance of Viking beliefs and rituals

P	P	P
Ev	Ev	Ev
Ex	Ex	Ex

Q4/5 - 'The study of Viking society in their homelands of Scandinavia shows that they were more than just warriors.' How far do you agree with this statement?

Introduction -

Agree -

Agree -

Disagree -

Disagree -

Conclusion -

Eastward Expansion:

The Volga Vikings

Viking exploration began with raids (seeking glory to enter Valhalla and resources they didn't have in Scandinavia). This then led to more peaceful trade and settlement in some areas and violent conquest in others.

It was mostly the Swedish Vikings who travelled eastward. Traders began to explore the rivers of (what is now) Russia and Ukraine. They sailed on the river Volga which is the longest and widest river in Europe. It begins north of what is now Moscow and flows south to the Caspian Sea. In the eighth century, Vikings sailed down the Volga making their way south to meet the great trade routes of central Asia. Some crossed the Caspian Sea and travelled to Baghdad. Some travelled down the Dnieper to reach the Black Sea to reach Constantinople (now Istanbul). Historians have named these Eastern explorers the 'Volga Vikings'.

Staraya Ladoga → Important trading town for the Vikings. It was a meeting point for many different traders - here people would talk of the exotic goods in rich bazaars of Baghdad and Constantinople.



Scandinavia lacked precious metals such as gold and silver. But it did have desirable goods which could not be found elsewhere. The products that the Viking traders took south had to be high in value, small in bulk and able to withstand long journeys.

The Vikings traded:

- Swords
- Walrus ivory
- Honey
- Falcons
- Furs
- Slaves
- Amber



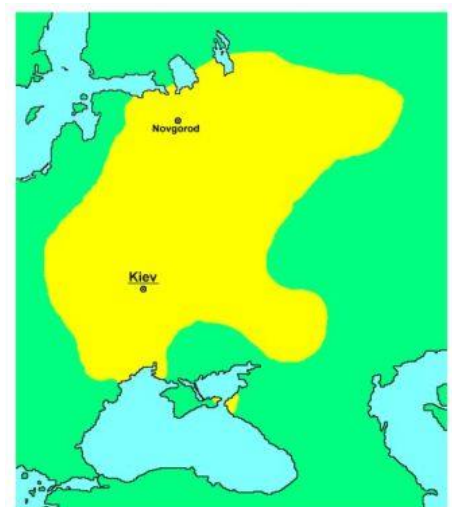
As early as the eighth century, Vikings began to establish a series of small settlements along the river systems of Western Russia. These were places where they could stop to repair their boats, collect food and supplies and pick up news. At first, these settlements were rough and ready places where the Vikings met and traded with the local Slav population and other traders. Over time, the Rus population of these settlements grew and they became small towns. By the 850s the Vikings were so well established that they had control over these towns and surrounded them with strong defences.

However, even before they were invited back to establish law and order over the Slavs, Swedish Vikings had established a presence in the area, and established trading contacts with Arabic merchants across the Caspian Sea. The raiding campaign on Constantinople in 860 by these Swedish Vikings marked the beginning of not only a long-distance trade exchange but also an exchange of military service between the Byzantine Empire and Viking Scandinavia.

Novgorod and Kiev

The Rus towns of Novgorod and Kiev became particularly important to the Vikings. Think of three reasons why the Vikings would value these towns:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



● - Kievan Rus', greatest extent, 11th century

Riurik - Novgorod

Riurik established Novgorod as the capital 860. The name means 'New Fortress' as it was heavily defended.

It was ruled over by Riurik and later, Oleg.

Novgorod was a strategically important town as the Vikings could control the rivers and trading routes from the North.

Oleg - Kiev

Riurik's heir, **Oleg**, joined together neighbouring villages in order to create the large trading town of **Kiev**.

Oleg became ruler of Kiev in 882.

Kiev was a strategically important town as the Vikings could control the rivers and trading routes from the South.

Vikings in Russia



The heirs of Riurik ruled over Russia for around 700 years!

Vladimir

Vladimir ruled over Kiev from 978-1015.

He became an Orthodox Christian in 988. Vladimir united his people under one religion, giving them a common purpose.

He also married the sister of the Byzantine Emperor and created an alliance between the Vikings and the Empire. This alliance strengthened the trade relations between the Vikings and the Byzantine Empire.

The new religion brought many changes, such as: Greek alphabet, law, political style, education, music and literature.

Yaroslav the Wise

Yaroslav, who was Vladimir's son, ruled over Kiev from 1019-1045.

He increased the city's wealth and power.

He built a grand and elaborate building called the Golden Gate which included a Christian church.

The Abbasid Caliphate: Baghdad

Arab -Viking Relations

The Viking raids across Europe brought them into contact with other cultures, including Muslim Arabs. Although there are no known Viking settlements in the Arab lands, both cultures interacted with each other through their exploration of Europe. In their quest for silver and silk, the Vikings



discovered and accessed valuable trade routes to throughout modern Russia that led to an extensive trade exchange with the Arab world. The Vikings gained wealth and treasures through their raids but soon realised the potential of a peaceful trade exchange.

Why did the Vikings want to go to Baghdad?

Baghdad was very attractive to the Vikings. It was a circular city - with a great mosque at its centre as well as the caliph's palace. There were military buildings and beautiful gardens. Four roads led from the centre through the main gates of the city and out into the suburbs. Baghdad had a population of over a million, with many craftsmen, merchants, workshops, bazaars, houses, mosques and hospitals. The Vikings must have marvelled at the sights of the city, but they were mostly interested in the goods. Baghdad had strong connection with wider Muslim world which stretched from central Asia to southern Spain, and also connected the long distance routes to China and Asia. The Vikings were keen to trade with Baghdad's merchants as they knew that luxury goods from the wider Muslim world could fetch high prices in Scandinavia.

However, relations were not always peaceful:

912 - Viking fleet crossed the Caspian Sea and raided Baku.

943 - Vikings captured and held the city of Berda for several months.

Arab scholars (written accounts of Vikings)

Ibn Fadlan's report is remarkable in that it is a first-hand account by an Arab observing the Viking Rus' in their everyday life. He admires their perfect physiques just like the Byzantine Emperors admired the physical strength of their Varangian Guards.

The sexual behaviour of the Volga Vikings, described by Ibn Fadhlān

They have no modesty when it comes to defecating or urinating and do not wash themselves when intercourse puts them in a state of ritual impurity. They do not even wash their hands after eating. Indeed, they are like roaming asses.

They come from their country in the North, anchor their ships in the Volga River, and build large wooden houses on its banks. In every such house there live ten or twenty, more or less. Each man has a couch, where he sits with the beautiful girls he has for sale. Here he is as likely as not to enjoy one of them while a friend looks on. At times several of them will be thus engaged, each in full view of the others. Now and then a merchant will come to a house to purchase a girl, and find her master thus embracing her, and not giving over until he has full had his will.

What can you learn from this about Viking sexuality?

The burial practices of the Volga Vikings, described by Ibn Fadhlān

I was told that when their chiefs die, they consume them with fire. When I heard that one of their leaders had died, I wanted to see this myself. First they laid him in his grave, over which a roof was erected, for the space of ten days, until they had completed cutting and sewing his funeral clothes.

His family asks his girls and servants, 'Which one of you will die with him?' One will answer: 'I'. When the day had come that the dead man and the girl were to be committed to the flames, I went to the river where his ship lay, but found it had already been drawn ashore. The dead man lay at a distance in his grave, from which they had not yet removed him. Next they brought a couch, placed it in the ship, and covered it with Greek cloth of gold, wadded and quilted, with pillows of the same material. ... A woman, whom they call the 'Angel of Death', came and spread articles on the couch. It was she who was to slay the girl. They drew the dead man out of the grave and clothed him. They carried him into the ship, seated him on the quilted covering, supported him with the pillows, and brought strong drinks, fruits, and herbs to place beside him. Finally they brought a cock and hen, slew them, and threw them in, too. It was now Friday afternoon, and they led the girl to an object they had constructed which looked like a door-frame. They lifted her and lowered her several times. Then they handed her a hen, whose head they had cut off. They gave her strong drink and admonished her to drink it quickly.

After this, the girl seemed dazed. At this moment the men began to beat upon their shields, in order to drown out the noise of her cries, which might deter other girls from seeking death with their masters in the future. They laid her down and seized her hands and feet. The old woman known as the Angel of Death knotted a rope around her neck and handed the ends to two men to pull. Then with a broad dagger she stabbed her between the ribs while the men strangled her. Thus she died. The family of the dead man drew near, and taking a piece of wood, lit the ship. The ship was soon aflame, as was the couch, the man, the girl, and everything in it.

What can you learn from this about Viking cultural practices?

-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Byzantine Empire: Constantinople

Constantinople was at the heart of the Byzantine Empire.

To the Vikings in the east, the city of Constantinople was simply known as 'Miklagard' - the Great City. Constantinople was a Christian city with many fine churches and other buildings. But what attracted the Viking traders most, where the city's bazaars and exotic goods.

At the time, Constantinople was one of the world's most important trading centres. The Vikings brought much sought after furs, amber, and slaves to the Byzantines (and thus the Arab market.) Such treasures were so valued that Byzantium awarded the Varangians privileged trading status by regulating the trade, providing insurance for their goods, and awarding generous privileges for the Varangian merchants.

In return, the Vikings received oils, wine, fruits, silk textiles, jewellery and silver coins. The silver coins were used to ensure chieftains' political power and influence. Gift giving in general was an important practice in Viking society, as Jarls and men of high social standing used the custom to secure and expand their political position in exchange for loyalty and support. The Vikings realised the opportunities to gain personal wealth by not only engaging in trade with the empire but by also offering their military service to the Byzantine Emperors (e.g. Harald Hardrada.)

839 - First Viking contact with Constantinople → friendly relations established (850s - some warriors joined the Byzantine armies)	907 - Oleg of Kiev attacks Constantinople, but fails.	911 - Oleg agrees on a trade treaty with the city. This put strict rules on the behaviour of the Vikings, but they were allowed to fix their ships and use the baths!	911-940 - Oleg's trade treaty lasts for about 30 years
940s - Oleg's son, Igor tries to attack Constantinople again, but the Vikings are defeated by Greek Fire and are burned to death in their ships	945 - Igor negotiates a trade treaty. This limited the amount of Vikings in the city to 50 at once. It prevented the Vikings from carrying weapons and limited the amount of silk the Vikings could trade.	950s - The Vikings dominated trade in the city.	Late 900s - The Vikings join the personal bodyguard of the Byzantine Emperor called the 'Varangian Guard.'

Plan an answer for each of the following questions:

Q2 - Write a clear and organised summary that analyses Viking contact with the Arab world.

P	P	P
Ev	Ev	Ev
Ex	Ex	Ex

Q3 - What was the impact of Viking contact with Constantinople and the Byzantine Empire? Explain your answer.

P	P	P
Ev	Ev	Ev
Ex	Ex	Ex

Q4/5 - How far do you agree that the Vikings' impact in Russia was greater than it was in the Byzantine empire? Give reasons for your answer.

Introduction -
Agree -
Agree -
Disagree -
Disagree -
Conclusion -

Raiders and Invaders:

Contact with Western Europe

Viking raids can be separated into three categories.

1. Seasonal and uncoordinated, targeting monasteries and undefended towns in the summer months and returning to the homelands in winter.
2. Vikings built camps in winter in Western Europe which allowed an earlier start to raids in the spring, at this time permanent settlements were made in Scotland and Ireland. Vikings focused on the wealth and plunder to be had in this part of Europe.
3. Conquest and settlement, this began in 865CE in England when a large Viking army landed in East Anglia; after conquering East Anglia, Northumbria and Mercia fell and the Vikings made an extensive settlement with Jorvik at its centre and the Danelaw was established.

Summary of key events:

Attacks on monasteries as they had no defences and a lot of wealth. Vikings also wanted to undermine the Christian faith.	Monastery in Lindisfarne raided in 793 - the first major Viking raid in Britain. Similar raids on Jarrow, Iona; then a 30-year lull until Sheppey in 835.
The Vikings held monks to ransom for profit	Great Heathen Army conquered half of Britain by 878 after invading in 865, creating Danelaw.
GHA led by Halfdan and Ivar the Boneless.	Vikings collected Danegeld (protection money) from Anglo Saxons.
Orkney and Shetland Islands raided by the Vikings approx. 800AD	Viking battle tactics and weapons (e.g. swords, shields, shield walls, berserkers).
Vikings raided Ireland in 795 and continued to do so for 40 years.	GHA army splits in 875 to control Northumbria and attempt to capture Wessex. Battle of Edington marked the end of Viking attacks on Wessex.

No one is entirely sure why the Viking raids began so suddenly. Several reasons were developed at the time. Historians have come up with 5 reasons for Viking expansion westward. List them below:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Viking Raids

Raids by Vikings in Britain, especially largely undefended monastic sites began at the end of the 8th century. By the end of the 9th century there were large-scale settlements of Scandinavians in various parts of Britain, and they had achieved political domination over a significant territory.

8th June 793 → Raid on Lindisfarne

In 793, **Alcuin of York** wrote to the Higbald, the bishop of Lindisfarne and to Ethelred, King of Northumbria, complaining about the unexpected attack on the monastery of Lindisfarne by Viking raiders, probably Norwegians sailing directly across the North Sea to Northumbria. Over the next few decades, many monasteries in the north were destroyed, and with them any records they might have kept of the raids. We know no historical details of the raids in Scotland, although they must have been extensive.

Monasteries

Monasteries were easy targets because they were:

- Isolated coastal areas
- Extremely vulnerable to raiders in ships
- Undefended
- Monks were unarmed - no weapons

Vikings raided monasteries for the following reasons:

- Steal precious gifts and valuable items
- Gold, silver objects
- Wine
- High quality textiles e.g. silk
- Plentiful supplies of food
- Religious books/gospels (e.g. Golden Book from Canterbury)
- Hold monks at ransom

Raids on the British Isles and France



The Vikings left no written record of their invasions but historians have been able to piece together their journeys through the documents left behind by Christian monks.

England:

- 789AD - Norwegian Kings attack Portland, some small raids in Dorset
- 793AD - Lindisfarne monastery raided
- 850AD - Vikings winter for the first time in England
- 865AD - Danish great army invades England
- 867AD - Danes capture York
- 870AD - Danes conquer East Anglia

Scotland (Orkney and Shetlands)

8th century - land occupied by the Picts

c.800 - Vikings began to settle in Orkney and Shetland - used these islands as a base to raid England e.g. Iona

Ireland:

760's - Vicious raids took place on the rich monasteries of Ireland, the use of inland Rivers were used to the Vikings' advantage to navigate and raid deep into the country. Ireland was also a focus for the slave trade.

839-840AD - A large force invaded and wintered over in fortified camps known as *longphorts*. These grew into Dublin, Wexford, Cork and Waterford.

874-914AD - "Forty years rest" in Ireland whilst raiding continues in England and France.

917AD - Vikings recapture Dublin.

Francia:

810AD - King Godfred raids and Vikings winter in Francia for the first time.

843-845AD - Frisia under intermittent Danish control.

845AD - Hamburg and Paris sacked, first Danegeld paid by the Franks.

885-6AD - Vikings besiege Paris.

911AD - Raiding ceases when Rollo founds Normandy.

Q2 - Write a clear and organised summary that analyses Viking raids on the British Isles and France [9 marks]

P	P	P
Ev	Ev	Ev
Ex	Ex	Ex

Q3 - Explain what caused the Vikings to begin raids in Western Europe [10 marks]

P	P	P
Ev	Ev	Ev
Ex	Ex	Ex

Q4/5 - 'The Vikings raided Western Europe because monasteries were easy targets.' How far do you agree with this view?

Introduction -

Agree -

Agree -

Disagree -

Disagree -

Conclusion -

Viking settlements in the West:

JORVIK (YORK)

Location: Northumbria, England

- Successful trade and production of goods
- Religious tolerance between Vikings and Christians
- Capital of Danelaw (Viking-controlled England)
- Home of highly skilled workers (e.g. coinmakers, weavers, blacksmiths)

SCOTLAND AND IRELAND

- Rich farmland and large towns
- Already occupied by Scots and Irish people!
- Easy access to Europe
- Slave-trading was popular in Ireland.
- However Vikings clashed with the locals despite the benefits of trade in their countries

ICELAND

Location: Island in the Mid-Atlantic Ocean

- Harsh winters
- Volcanoes => fertile soil
- Uninhabited
- Irish and Scots slaves/wives travelled here.



GREENLAND

Location: Far-northern Europe

- Mostly uninhabited ice/glaciers
- Waters full of fish, whales, walrus, seals
- Source of fur due to high numbers of wolves, bears, caribou.

FRANCIA

Location: Frankish Empire (now known as France)

- A powerful and wealthy European kingdom
- Strong Christian centre
- Willing to make deals with Vikings (e.g. giving them Normandy in exchange for loyalty/service)
- Rivers for easy transport and attacks



FAROE ISLANDS

Location: North of Scotland

- Cold, treeless, no people
- Vikings referred to them as 'sheep islands'
- Fishing and whaling, raising sheep
- But Vikings needed to import wood to make and repair ships.

Scotland, Ireland and France

The Vikings first appeared in the west as traders or raiding warriors. But some Vikings became settlers. Between 800-1000 CE the Vikings moved westwards from Scandinavia and made new homes on the fringes of Western Europe and far out across the North Atlantic.



We have very little written evidence to help us piece together the settlement of the Vikings - so historians rely heavily on archaeological evidence to reveal where and when the Vikings chose to settle in their new lands.

Scotland and the Islands

- Shetland and Orkney Islands c.800
- Far north east coast before 825
- West coast and Hebrides islands by 825
- Isle of Man 850

Burials on these islands suggest most Vikings were pagan as they have been buried with goods such as swords and shields. After their **conversion to Christianity in 1000**, it is more difficult to tell if a person buried was of Viking origin.

Vikings took over Picts lands and were taking over small, but well established settlements. Local chiefs ruled initially - but by 1000, the kings of Norway set up the Earldom of the Orkneys which covered the areas listed above.

Historians dispute whether the Vikings were responsible for the disappearance of the Picts - did they wipe them out or did they settle and live alongside them?

Ireland

902 - Vikings expelled from Ireland.

914 - Viking armies re-occupied trading bases at Dublin, Wexford and Waterford.

The absence of place names suggests that few Vikings moved inland. Irish chieftains resisted any attempt at Viking conquest but were happy to sell their captured enemies to the Vikings as slaves. Vikings gradually became part of Irish life. They **converted to Christianity**, **intermarried** and became Gaelic speakers.

Vikings were finally defeated in 1014 at the Battle of Clontarf and were expelled from Ireland. However they had already lost their Viking identity by this point.

France

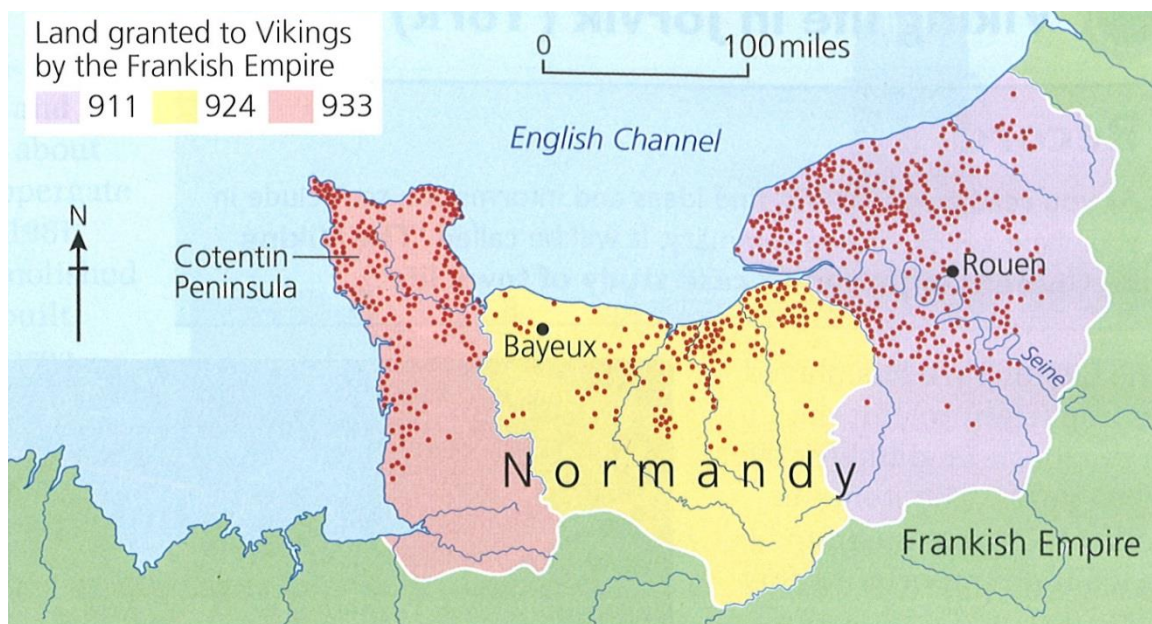
From 800, France suffered waves of Viking raids.

None of these raids led to significant settlement in France.

However, in 911 the French King, Charles the Simple, defeated a Viking leader called Rollo in battle. He offered Rollo lands in the north of France, including Rouen and the mouth of the River Seine. Rollo promised to be a loyal Christian. He swore to be loyal to Charles and guard the lands and Seine from any more raids.

Rollo and his successors expanded Normandy westwards.

First they took the lands around Bayeux 924 and then Contentin 933.



The dots on the map show places with Scandinavian names.

What does this tell us about Viking expansion in France?

The Vikings in Normandy quickly took on a French identity - marrying into local families and became French speakers. They became strong Christians. They also adopted a French form of warfare that relied heavily on knights on horseback. Trade with Scandinavia declines as links were established with Britain. When Duke William of Normandy invaded England in 1066, he did so as a French speaking Norman - he was a 'Northman' in name alone.

1. Identify the main similarities and differences between the Viking settlements in Scotland, Ireland and France.

Similarities	Differences

2. Explain some reasons for these differences.

Invasion of England – 865

Great Heathen Army

840s - Random raids in England

850s - Armies began to winter in England

860s - Began to assemble larger armies with the clear intent of conquest.

865 - Forced the East Angles to help supply an army

866 - Captured York

867 - Took over the southern part of the kingdom of Northumbria.

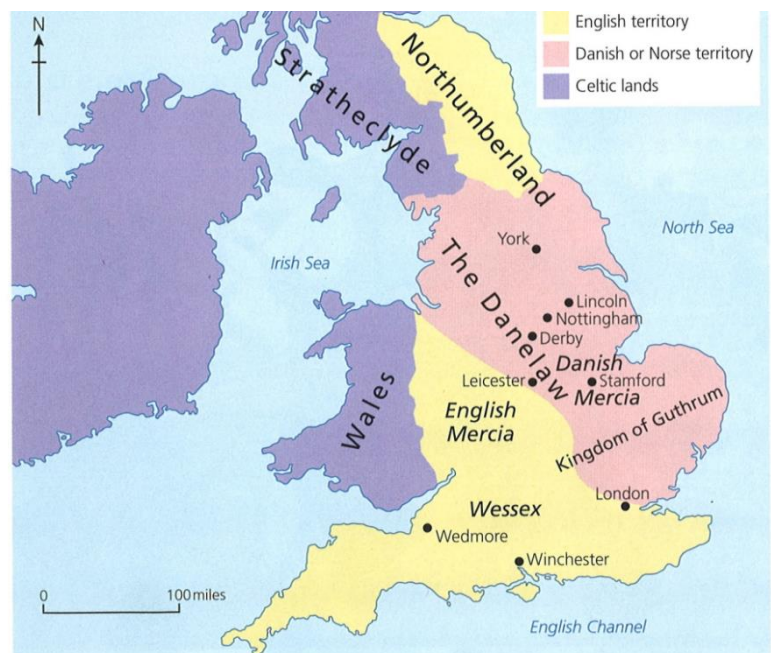
The Anglo Saxon Chronicle refers to the 'Great Heathen Army'. This army was led by three brothers, Halfdan and Ivar 'the Boneless' and Ubbe. The army was somewhere between 500-2000 men. For the next 14 years, this large force of Danish warriors rampaged across England, overwintering where they knew they could get supplies and demanding Danegeld - protection money - from the Saxons.

By 878, the Great Heathen Army had conquered the Anglo- Saxon kingdoms of East Anglia, Northumbria and Mercia. Only Wessex managed to withstand the onslaught.

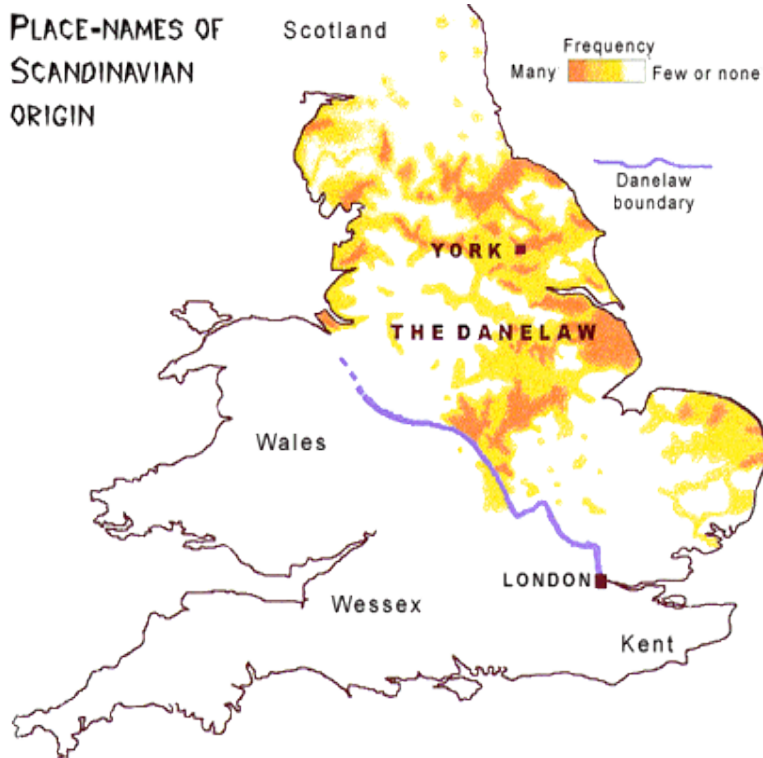
The Danelaw

878 King Alfred of Wessex and Guthrum the Danish Leader reached a peace agreement at Wedmore in Somerset. Sometime later, they made this more formal with the Treaty of Wedmore which established a line across England. This line was intended to be a permanent boundary between the Saxons and the Danes. King Alfred had all the area south and west of this line - extending his Kingdom of Wessex to include the western half of Mercia.

The Danes ruled the areas to the east and north. They were free to settle there and live according to their own laws and customs. By the eleventh century, the Danish area was being called the Danelaw, because of the different legal code practised here, based on Danish Law. Just two generations after the raid of Lindisfarne, the Vikings held nearly half of England.



England: The Danelaw



As part of the **Treaty of Wedmore**, the land to the north and east of this line would be under Viking rule, with Scandinavian laws and customs.

This Viking part of England became known as The Danelaw.

Today, some historians refer to The Danelaw as 'Scandinavian England'.

Although the Vikings only held this land for less than 50 years, it had a lasting impact.

In Danelaw, many warriors of the Vikings armies settled.

Instead of wandering about, raiding and plundering, they started supporting themselves by farming and trading. Estates were often broken up and the villages and land were shared out amongst the Vikings.

Sometimes the previous custodian had been killed in battle, or had fled. Others were dispossessed by the Vikings but, in some cases, the Vikings introduced a new custom - buying land for money, because many of them had become wealthy through plundering and their share of **Danegeld**.

Farms and village communities needed both men and women to run them, so the Vikings would have had to find themselves wives.

Some Viking settlers adopted the English open field method of lowland farming, where the land was suitable for this. In the less fertile uplands, they herded sheep and cattle.

The descendants of Alfred the Great certainly thought of The Danelaw as 'Viking' and continued the effort to bring it back under English control

By the time this was eventually done, the Vikings had stamped something of their own character on the people, language, customs and administration of The Danelaw.

Among the finds are Jorvik were many coins. These help us to identify the warrior kings who used Jorvik as their base. From this capital, they ruled their lands in the north of England.

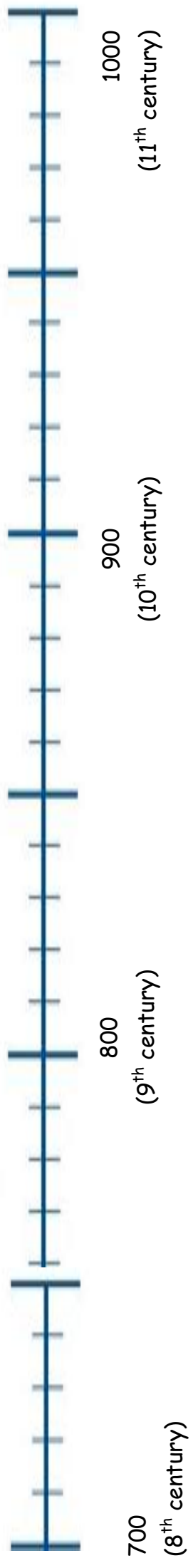
- **866–927** – There were eleven Viking or Viking-controlled rulers, many of whom had close links with Dublin.
- **927–39** – The town was brought back under Anglo-Saxon control by Athelstan, King of Wessex, who expelled the Vikings from most of England.
- **939** – Olaf Guthfrithsson, King of Dublin, regained Jorvik.
- **954** – Eric Bloodaxe (who may have ruled Norway for a short period) was driven out of Jorvik. The town as well as the Viking lands it controlled once again became part of the Kingdom of England.
- **After 954** – Jorvik became York and was ruled by an earl who was always appointed by the English king. Some earls had Scandinavian origins.

What does this tell us about the history of the Jorvik kings?

In Danelaw, Vikings began to mint their own coins. It was an early sign of how they accepted Anglo Saxon ways. There was a very production mint at Jorvik that produced thousands of coins at a time. One side of Viking coins show a Christian cross - whereas the other side shows Viking emblems such as a sword of the hammer of Thor.

What do these coins tell us about Viking religion?

Create a timeline showing Viking contact with the west



Q2 - Write a clear and organised summary that analyses Viking contact with France

P	P	P
Ev	Ev	Ev
Ex	Ex	Ex

Q3 - Explain the impact of Viking settlements in Ireland and Scotland

P	P	P
Ev	Ev	Ev
Ex	Ex	Ex

Q4/5 - 'How far do you agree that Viking success in establishing the Danelaw between 865 and 879 was due to their military strengths? Give reasons for your answer. [18 marks]

Introduction -

Agree -

Agree -

Disagree -

Disagree -

Conclusion -

Iceland, Greenland and North

America

The Vikings made their way across the formidable Atlantic Ocean, through the dangers of freezing storms, icebergs and wild winds.

They began to settle in:

- Faroe Islands (190 miles off Scotland)
- Iceland (900 miles away from Norway)
- Greenland (1700 miles away from Norway)
- Newfoundland (off the coast of North America)

Many settlers left Norway due to the lack of arable land - although the islands of the North Atlantic were bleak and their winter's cold, they did have plenty of good grazing land, which belonged to no one. Viking sagas tell a different story. They state that the Norwegian Jarls who led these expeditions resented the growing power of Harold Fairhair (the first ever King of Norway) and left to live different lives in different places - but the dates don't match up. They first began to bring animals to graze on the Faroe Islands - this was the first step in Viking expansion across the Atlantic.

Iceland

Viking sagas state that Gardar the Swede was the first Viking to see Iceland as he was blown off course during a voyage from Scotland to the Faroe Islands in 860. Floki Vilgerdason was set out to explore the island. He was caught by bad weather and forced to spend the winter there. He and his crew nearly died, but were astonished to see the fresh green pasture when spring time came. They were also impressed by the amount of walrus along the coastline. These would fetch a high price in Europe. People took over Norwegian animals and left them to survive the winter. Once they knew they could rely on the livestock for food - they would settle. Floki named it Iceland and from 870 people began to settle there. In 874 - Reykjavik became the first settlement. The climate was harsh, and growing cereals was difficult, but rearing animals, fishing and hunting provided a basic living. Knarrrs were used to transport people (migrants and slaves) as well as animals.

Houses were made of:

- Walls of stone
- Sod (turf) roof
- Timber (imported from Norway - as once they cut down the trees, no more grew)

1095 - Population was 50,000 and in 2016 it was still only 350,000 - with most residents being directly descendent from Viking settlers.

Althing

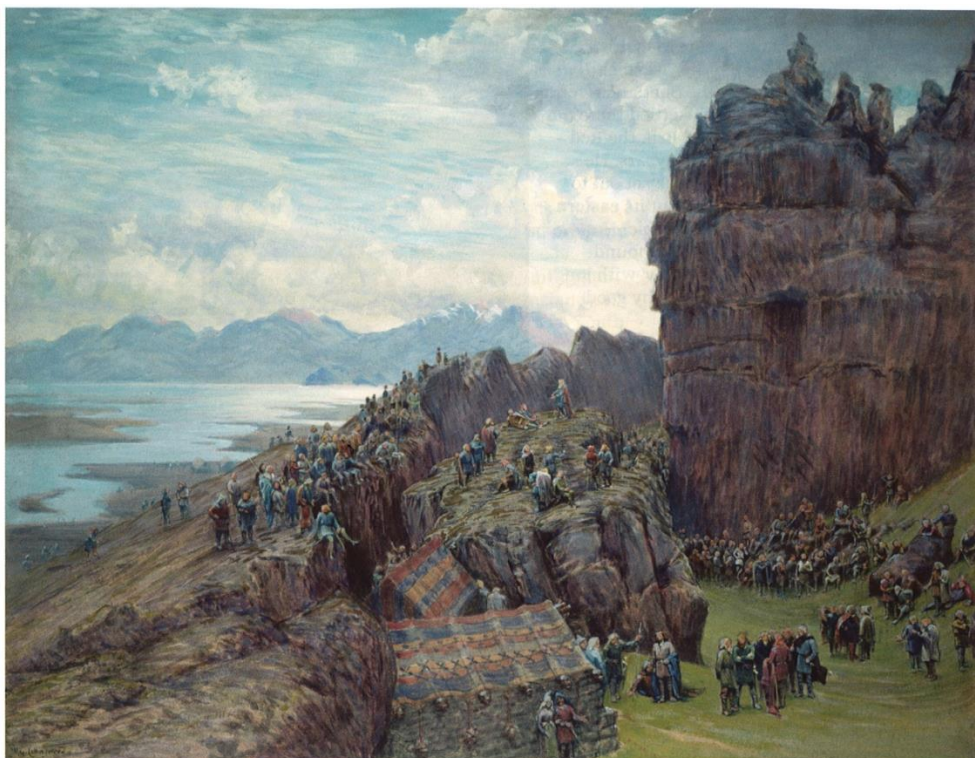
Recreation of Viking society - free farmers and about 40 chieftains and no kings. Initially there were quarrels over land and borders, however local assemblies called Things settled these disputes and were presided over by the godar (chieftain).

930 - All-Iceland assembly took place - this was an *Althing*. These would continue to be held in the open air until 1799. All free men could attend and were usually the social event of the year. The Law Speaker would be stood on the highest point and the meeting would begin with a recital by the Law Speaker of the laws of Iceland - this took two days.

Only free men could vote in the proceedings of the Althing but this was more democratic than the monarchies being established in Scandinavia at this time.

The biggest decision to be made was in 1000 when the people debated over whether or not to convert to Christianity. The Law Speaker was left to decide and he - although a pagan - decided that Iceland should be a Christian country.

Use the information above to annotate the artist's depiction below.



Greenland

Most of Greenland is covered with ice - the southern tip reaches a warmer climate (similar to the Shetlands).

983 - Vikings began to settle when Erik the Red was banished from Iceland for three years. He had heard of a land to west and decided to investigate. He reached a new land that was icebound and uninhabitable. He sailed on and found that the western coast was much like Norway - with long fjords reaching deep inland and bordered with good pasture for grazing.

He called this place Greenland with the hope of attracting settlers.



986 - Erik set off from Iceland with 25 ships filled with people and their livestock. Only 14 made it. But soon, two settlements were established on the west coast.

Confusingly - the more northern settlement became known as the 'Western Settlement' and the one in the south became known as the 'Eastern Settlement'.

Life was tough in Greenland but the land was more fertile than that of Iceland. The settlers may have been able to grow crops as well as keeping cattle, sheep and goats. They caught fish, seals and whales from the sea and hunted bear, deer and birds on land.

They relied on trade with Iceland and Europe. Their biggest imports were timber, metal and grain. They traded polar bear and arctic fox furs, falcons, seal and walrus hide, whale baleen and walrus ivory tusk.

At their peak, there was around 4000 Vikings in Greenland with 280 farms scattered along the fjords. Their settlements did not resemble towns. Some sagas state that Vikings traded with local tribes of Eskimo or Inuit people, but as far as we know, the groups never lived alongside one another. The Vikings called them 'skraeling' which means barbarians.

Make a list of challenges the Vikings had to face when settling in Greenland:

-
-
-
-
-

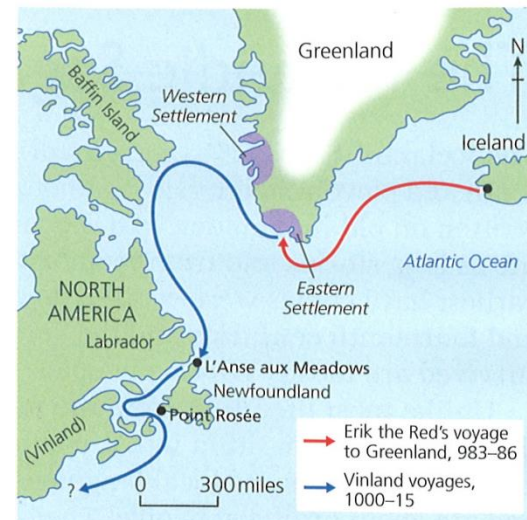
North America

According to the sagas, in about 1000, a Viking ship was blown off course and briefly sighted land even further west than Greenland. This was reported to Leif Eriksson (who was the son of Erik the Red) who then bought a ship and hired crew and sailed in the hope of finding a new settlement.

Vinland

The sagas record how Leif first encountered a bare land of rock and glaciers, probably Baffin Island, and then a low, forested coast, probably Labrador. But after sailing further south he wintered at a place he called Leifsbuðir. Leif claimed that the climate there was so mild that he saw grapes growing and he called the region Vinland (Wineland). If grapes did grow at the place he found, it must have been quite far south. Some historians think he may have used the name to flatter the newly discovered land, just as his father Erik had done with Greenland.

Leif and others made two more expeditions to Leifsbuðir but they failed to make a permanent settlement. Many historians view the 'Vinland' story in the sagas as fiction but archaeology has some intriguing clues that suggest it may have existed after all.



▲ Viking voyages and settlement to Greenland and Newfoundland, 983-1015

Archaeologists have found convincing signs of a Viking settlement in Newfoundland in the extreme north.

The evidence includes:

- Foundations of a house
- 7 other buildings
- 125 artefacts
- Iron nails
- Viking dress pin
- Glass bead
- Bone needles

There is no evidence of farming, but there are strong signs of ship-repairing and metal working. This may have been a repairs base for Viking ships sailing even further south.

Archaeologists have decided that this site was probably inhabited by a small group with a single chief who were there for less than 20 years. No other people seem to have lived in this area the time.

There is also evidence found of a settlement in the far south west of Newfoundland:

- Turf walls
- Blackened rock where a fire had been to heat a bog iron to prepare iron (this is how the Vikings would make their weapons and tools)

Again - there is no evidence of anyone else living in the area. There is no concrete evidence to tell us how long this area was occupied or when.

The site may provide evidence that the Vikings travelled further west and reached the mainland of America.

Q2 - Write a clear and organised summary that analyses the Viking settlement in Greenland

P	P	P
Ev	Ev	Ev
Ex	Ex	Ex

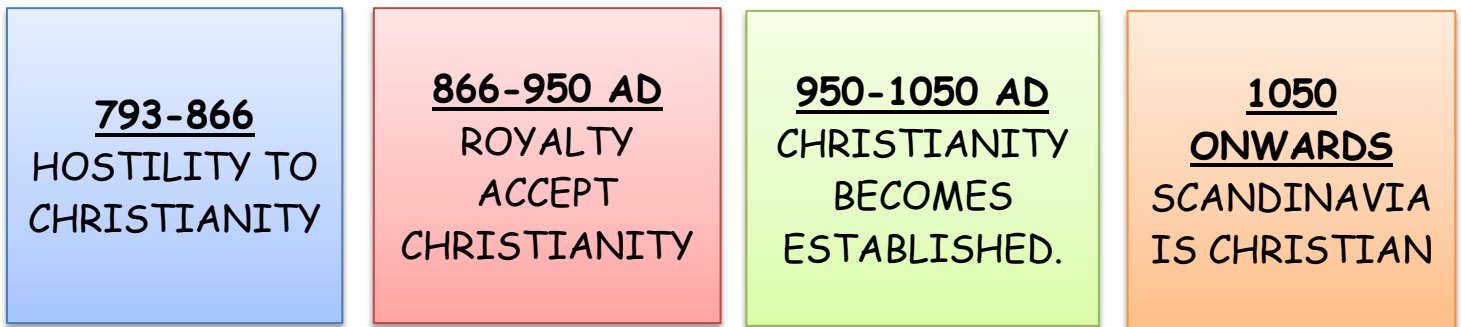
Q3 - Explain the impact of Viking settlements Iceland

P	P	P
Ev	Ev	Ev
Ex	Ex	Ex

Q3 - Explain the impact of Viking settlements North America

P	P	P
Ev	Ev	Ev
Ex	Ex	Ex

Conversion to Christianity



Why did the Vikings convert to Christianity?

Rank these reasons from (1) most significant to (6) least significant.

Reason	Ranking
Many raiders and high status Vikings took Christian women as wives or mistresses. These women wanted their children raised as Christians and could convert their husbands.	
When Viking rulers made agreements with Christians, Christians often demanded that they convert to Christianity as part of the deal. E.g. Vladimir	
Christians would travel to Scandinavia and preach to the common people and rulers. Many allegedly performed miracles.	
Christianity's message of the promise of salvation was favourable to low status Vikings and thralls, as everyone would be equal in the afterlife.	
The church was full of literate and well educated people and could communicate across Europe. This would be useful to the Vikings.	
Almost all of Europe was Christian and many people did not want to trade or have alliances with pagans.	

Viking Leaders – Great Danes

You **NEED** to know about the main 3 Viking kings and the **IMPACT** their reign had on Denmark (and any other lands they controlled.)

For each king, write down their strengths and weaknesses as well as any key changes they made.

	Harald Bluetooth	Svein Forkbeard	Cnut the Great
Key details	Son of King Gorm the Old, the first ruler of the Danish kingdom and founder of the Jelling Dynasty. Born 911 CE, became King of Denmark & Norway.	Known as Forkbeard due to his long, cleft beard was the son of Harald Bluetooth & forcibly deposed him to become king of Denmark. Was born around 960 CE.	Canute (or Cnut the Great) was born around 995 CE and was the son of Svein Forkbeard.
How were they significant?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defences • Conversion to Christianity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruthlessness • Military successes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empire • Relations with Christianity



Overview of the Great Danish Kings

Harald Bluetooth

1. Defences:

- Oversaw numerous public works to consolidate economy and military control e.g. constructed Ravnings Bridge (760 long) & Ring Forts in 5 locations e.g. Trelleborg
- BUT: lost Norway to the Germans at Danevirke in 974 AD

2. Conversion to Christianity

- Converted & contributed to growth of Christianity (Jelling runestone: "he made the Danes Christian.") Peaceful transition.
- Religion helped him to gain further power over local leaders & better trade/interaction with the West
- BUT: had limited success in Denmark/Norway

Svein Forkbeard

1. Ruthlessness:

- Great, violent warrior: overthrew father
- Led campaign vs. England (laid waste to large areas in 990s)

2. Military successes

- Defeated contesters to the throne - Eric and Olaf
- Declared King of England on Christmas Day 1013
- BUT: never crowned & ruled for only 5 weeks until death, lost Denmark to a Swedish King whilst in England

Cnut the Great (Canute)

1. Empire:

- Only man to be King of England, Denmark & Norway (also ruled part of Sweden)
- Ruled well and gained favour with English subjects by sending most of army back to Denmark
- Humble man - showed he was not a god (ordered tide to come in, knowing it would)
- One of the first Viking leaders to have coins minted in his honour

2. Relations with Christianity:

- Many Skalds honoured Cnut with verses to his military success & generosity to the Church - his gifts were widespread e.g. repaired all raided English Churches / monasteries
- Made treaties with Holy Roman Emperors, Henry II and Conrad II and had good relations with the Pope's of his time (made pilgrimage to Rome in 1026)

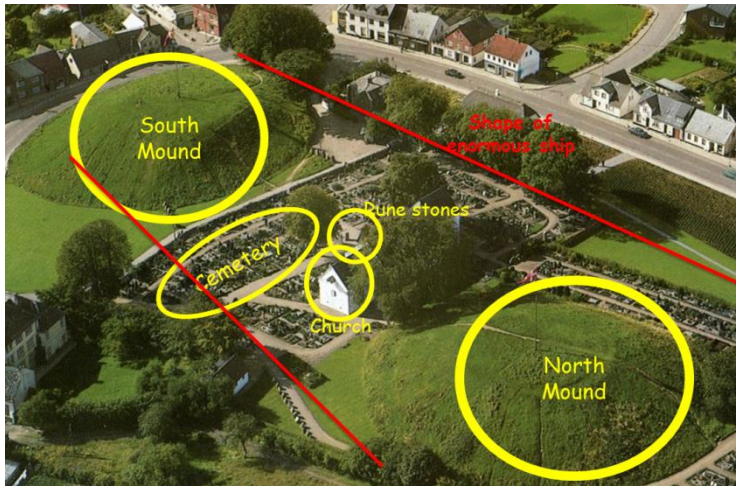
Harald Bluetooth

King of Denmark - 958-986

King of part of Norway - 963-974

Jelling

- Stone marked enclosure in the shape of a ship
- 350 metres in total
- Rune stones in front of church entrance



← Great stone-marked ship dominated scene.

Small burial chamber stood on the enormous North Mound - the South Mound was not there, nor was the church.

Giant rune stones were placed there by Bluetooth's father, Gorm the Old.

The rune states: *'King Gorm made this monument in memory of Thrya, his wife, Denmark's adornment.'*

Conversion to Christianity

965 - Bluetooth was baptized as a Christian.

Possibly impressed by a priest or could not resist the spread.

If Denmark remained Pagan, it would encourage attacks from Christian kings.

He made 3 powerful statements in **Jelling** to make it known he was now Christian.

1. Built wooden church on central axis of 'ship' - bringing Christianity into the Pagan enclosure
 2. Body was found in a grave which historians believe belongs to Gorm the Old. This means Bluetooth reburied his father in a Christian manner.
 3. Bluetooth ordered a second rune stone to be put on the sight which declared: *'...Harald who won for himself all of Denmark and Norway and made all the Danes Christian'*
- However, many Vikings continue to pray to the old Viking gods. Thor's hammer emblems were still being made/worn.
 - Conversion made Christianity the official Danish religion.
 - Gradual and peaceful transition.
 - Priests were appointed, schools started and bishops supported royal rule.
 - Churches were built and Christian baptisms and weddings became the norm.
 - **This was Bluetooth's most important achievement.**

Building the Nation

Bluetooth spent the rest of his reign trying to secure and strengthen his kingdom:

- Created new single kingdom of Denmark
- Exaggerated claim that he ruled ALL of Norway - he ruled over Vik in the south, but lost it again in 974

Connecting the nations

- Bluetooth moved the capital from Jelling to Roskilde so he could be closer to Norway - this became the centre of royal power
- Roskilde faces seaways and allows for movement around Danish mainland
- 978 - Built oldest known bridge in Scandinavia (Ravning Enge)
- Made travel and trade much easier → hence 'Bluetooth' wireless devices = connecting people together

Defending the nation

- Built walls around Hedeby, Ribe and Aarhus (coins minted here which improved trade)
- Vulnerable point is where it joins Germany
- 968 - Strengthened long standing defences/ramparts which stretched over 30km
- 974 - Germans beat Bluetooth's armies and captured Hedeby.
- Also lost control of lands in Norway

Dominating

- 980 - Bluetooth ordered great fort built at Trelleborg
- 3 more forts built across Denmark
- Not just for soldiers but ordinary men, women and children
- Only occupied for a short time
- Not in the right place to defend against invaders
- Forts could have been built to show off Bluetooth's power - enhance prestige and impress subjects
- Military bases - designed to subdue local chieftains and to warn them against rebelling against him. Bluetooth knew he might face resistance and rebellion at any time - these may help to stabilise the country

Defeat and Death

- 985/986 - Bluetooth's OWN SON Svein rose in rebellion against him
- Bluetooth died from wounds he received in battle.
- Buried in Roskilde Cathedral - as requested
- Some believe South Mound at Jelling is a memorial to him.

Harald Bluetooth

Religion	War
Trade	Land

Svein Forkbeard

King of Denmark - 986 - 1014

King of most of Norway - 1000 - 1014

King of England - His last few weeks in 1014

Achievements in Denmark

- 983 - Recaptured Hedeby
- 985/6 - seized throne from Bluetooth
- He had support from Pagan chiefs
- Tolerant of Pagans
- Ended the work-tax that made Danes build/repair fortresses
- Continued minting money - trade
- Expelled German bishops - fear of German influence
- Boosted growth of Christianity - invited English Christians to lead Church in Denmark
- Guaranteed security for foreign traders



Opportunities in England

- 993 - Joined forces with Norwegian warrior OLAF TRYGGVASON and sailed away with a powerful fleet to raid the coast of England.
- Olaf had already attacked England in 980s and was paid a Danegeld - he was given 10,000 pounds (weight) in silver to leave
- England was an easy target and richer than Denmark
- England was seriously weak at this time
- King Ethelred of England was only 12 and his reign was full of treachery and cowardice from his advisors
- Flow of silver from England stopped in 970 and Forkbeard needed ensure it continued to appease the Jarls who may turn against him
- 993 - Forkbeard and Olaf raid England
- They raid Sussex and Hampshire
- 994 - Ethelred offered Olaf more money which he took and returned to Norway and ignored partnership with Forkbeard
- Olaf then declared himself KING OF NORWAY

New lands in Sweden

- Forkbeard returned to Denmark and found a Swedish king called Eric had taken control in his absence
- Svein Forkbeard forced Eric back to his lands - and when Eric died in 995 Forkbeard married his widow = very brave
- Apparently, she already murdered two other kings
- Marriage was a clever political move - Denmark was safe from further Swedish attacks
- Forkbeard now turned on Olaf Tryggvason in Norway
- 5 years at war - finally defeated Olaf in 1000
- Forkbeard and the King of Sweden shared out the lands
- Olaf's betrayal backfired - Forkbeard had more lands than ever before

- Money gained from England + new lands in Norway and an alliance with Sweden, all looked settled.
- **Massacre in England → St Brice's Day Massacre - 1002**
- Bodies were stripped, decapitated and tipped into grave
- King Ethelred ordered surprise attack on all Danes in England
 - Clearly wanted revenge on Forkbeard

King Svein Forkbeard's Fury

- He was enraged and over the next 5 years he returned to burn and loot England
- Between 1003-7 → Captured and burned Exeter, Wilton, Salisbury, Norwich and Thetford,
- He also attacked East Anglia, Kent, Hampshire and Reading.
- He was bought off with 36,000 of silver - These payments of Danegeld rose to 48,000 in 1012 - consisting of jewellery, church plates and coins.

Treachery of Thorkell the Tall

- 1008 - King Ethelred built a defensive fleet - but it was lost in a storm
- Viking raids soon reappeared and were led by Thorkell the Tall - one of Svein Forkbeard's most powerful Danish Jarls.
- 1011 - Raided and burnt Canterbury and took Archbishop Aelphege prisoner
- English failed to pay a huge ransom and the Archbishop was brutally killed in 1012 by Thorkell's men at a drunken feast
- Thorkell then moved onto attack Mercia.
- THEN! In 1012, Thorkell decided to CHANGE SIDES and fight for King Ethelred for 48,000 pounds of silver.

Danish Conquest - 1013

- Huge Danish fleet sailed to England led by Forkbeard = Professional army
- Sensed English resistance was collapsing and it was time for a full scale invasion.
- He sailed to the heart of the Danelaw and gained support for the Danes who declared him their king.
- He then marched south, taking Oxford, Winchester and Bath. Only London held out - defended by Ethelred and Thorkell
- However, after the fall of Bath - both Thorkell and Ethelred fled to France.
- Christmas Day 1013 - Without having to fight a major battle Svein Forkbeard became King of England

Svein Forkbeard's Kingdoms

- Formidable warrior
- Extensive lands
- All set for a great empire
- BUT - died five weeks after becoming King of England after falling from his horse
- He was buried in Roskilde alongside his father.

Svein Forkbeard

Religion	War
Trade	Land

Cnut the Great

King of England - 1016-1035

King of Denmark, Norway and part of Sweden by 1030

Winning back the crown

- 18 years old when he came to power
- Forced to return to Denmark
- Upon his return, he found his brother had proclaimed himself King of Denmark.
- He had to choose which kingdom to fight for - he chose England
- 1015 - Sizeable army and large fleet (7,000-10,000 men)
- 1016 - Fought a series of battles across Southern England
- April 1016 - King Ethelred died and was succeeded by Edmund Ironside
- Cnut defeated him at the battle of Ashington in Essex
- Peace Agreement - Cnut took all England north of the River Thames and Edmund would hold Wessex.
- Edmund died a few weeks later and by 1016 Cnut was King of **ALL** England



Taking Control of England

- Cnut provided peace - some at a severe cost:
- Fleet to drive off other Vikings
- Standing army to defend and crush rebels
- Geld (tax) on Saxons to pay for armies
- Executed some Anglo Saxon leaders
- Replaced leaders and gave lands to Danish Jarls = Anglo-Danish aristocracy
- Strict laws - Danelaw customs
- Married Ethelred's widow - Emma as a guarantee of peace

Cnut and the Church

- Effort into building good relations
- Treated Pagans with tolerance in Scandinavia
- Gave land and relics to monasteries
- More relics meant that more people would go on pilgrimage
- More pilgrims means more trade
- Exempted town of Canterbury from geld payments as an apology for the murder of their Archbishop
- Penance for murder of King Edmund in 869 (who was killed by the Great Heathen Army)
- Good relations with the church led to benefits

- Pope accepted him as a true Christian
- Anglo Saxon archbishops, bishops and clergy supported him throughout his reign
- New laws and armed forces → England was in a period of great stability

Cnut = European King

- Little attempt to unite his lands - but had an Anglo-Scandinavian Empire
- 1017 - Normandy → Cnut's marriage to Emma of Normandy helped to keep peace and maintain trade across the English Channel.
- 1018 - Denmark → Cnut's brother died and he became the king. Cnut returned to England after his coronation in Denmark.
- 1021 - Scania (southern Sweden) → Took control after years of fighting with Thorkell the Tall. Cnut gained control of the trade routes between the North Sea and the Baltic. He also created an alliance with Poland - this benefitted English trade through the Baltic.
- 1028 - Norway → Cnut began to campaign against the ruthless King of Norway, Olaf Haraldson. Olaf blinded or executed anyone who did not convert to Christianity. Cnut defeated him and drove him out of the country.
- 1031 - Scotland, surrounding islands and Ireland → Cnut was accepted as the overlord in the Isle of Man and by the King of Scotland. The rulers of the Orkneys were his vassals. This peace helped maintain trade.

Recognition in Rome

- Attended coronation of Holy Roman Emperor, Conrad II
- Cnut stood shoulder to shoulder with Western Christians such as kings, dukes, archbishops etc.
- Cnut received recognition as the GREAT EUROPEAN MONARCH - other than the Holy Roman Emperor.

The end of an era - 1035

- Cnut died in Shaftsbury in 1035
- Buried in Winchester
- Succeeded by first and then another of his sons
- Neither had the same skills as king
- By 1042 - they had lost Norway and then England
- Edward the Confessor became king.
- The line of the 'Great Danes' had ended.

Cnut the Great

Religion	War
Trade	Land

Q4/5 - "How far do you agree that the achievements of Svein Forkbeard were greater than those of Harald Bluetooth? Give reasons for your answer. [18 marks]

Introduction -

Agree -

Agree -

Disagree -

Disagree -

Conclusion -

Q4/5 - 'He deserves to be known as Cnut the Great.' How far do you agree with this statement? [18 marks]

Introduction -

Agree -

Agree -

Disagree -

Disagree -

Conclusion -

Other key Viking leaders

Highlight the:

Strengths

Weaknesses



Erik the Red (c.950-1003)

Erik Thorvaldsson is remembered for having created the first Norse settlement in Greenland. Erik the Red was exiled from his Viking homeland in Iceland for 'some murders' committed around 982 and looked to explore new lands. Popular history credits Erik as the first person to discover Greenland, but the Icelandic sagas suggest that earlier Norsemen discovered and tried to settle it before him.

Erik the Red was the first permanent European settler and the most powerful man in Greenland, becoming both greatly respected and wealthy. He managed to set up two

successful settlements that lasted almost until the time of Columbus. The settlement flourished, growing to 5000 inhabitants spread over a considerable area. However one group of immigrants brought with it an epidemic that ravaged the colony, killing many of its leading citizens, including Erik himself.

Although Erik himself remained a follower of Norse paganism, his son Leif Erikson eclipsed his father's fame by bringing Christianity to Greenland and becoming a world-wide known Icelandic explorer.



Harald Hardrada (c.1015-1066)

Harald Sigurdsson was given the nickname Hardrada (roughly translated as "hard ruler"), was King of Norway from 1046 to 1066. In addition, he unsuccessfully claimed the Danish throne until 1064 and the English throne in 1066.

Prior to becoming king, Harald used his tremendous warrior skills in exile as a mercenary and military commander in Kievan

Rus' and in the Byzantine Empire for 15 years. In Constantinople, he soon rose to become the

commander of the Byzantine Varangian Guard, and saw action on the Mediterranean Sea, in Asia Minor, Sicily, possibly in the Holy Land, Bulgaria and in Constantinople itself, where he became involved in the imperial dynastic disputes. Harald amassed considerable wealth during this time.

When Edward the Confessor died in 1066, Harald claimed that his father and descendants had been promised the English throne by King Hardicanute. King Harold (Godwinson)'s army took Hardrada by surprise at Stamford Bridge. It was a hot day and the Norwegians had taken off their byrnie (a chainmail shirt). Harold and his English troops devastated the Norwegians and Hardrada was killed.

Modern historians have often considered Harald's death at Stamford Bridge, which brought an end to his invasion, as the end of the Viking Age. Harald is also commonly held to have been the last great Viking king, or even the last great Viking.

Rollo (c. 846-932)



One of the most famous Viking chieftains was Rollo the Walker, so called because he was such a giant that no horse strong enough to carry him could be found, and therefore he always had to walk. Rollo came from a noble warrior family of Scandinavian origins. After journeying to Scotland and Ireland, in 885 seven hundred ships, commanded by Rollo and other Viking chiefs sailed to the mouth of the river Seine and captured the city of Paris.

Rollo became the first ruler of the region of northern France which would become Normandy. Normandy was in a sad state when Rollo became duke; but he ruled wisely and well and was honoured by all men. The laws which he gave out were fair and the farmers and tillers of the land were protected so that the land became rich and prosperous. Robbers and murderers were dealt with so severely that they ceased to frequent that duchy. Over time, Rollo and his Vikings converted from Norse paganism to Christianity and intermarried with the local women.

After his death, his son William I of Normandy succeeded him, and the offspring of Rollo became the Dukes of Normandy. Rollo's family line includes William the Conqueror of England and his legend continues today as he is one of the ancestors of the present-day British royal family.

Overview

Viking Revision - Conquest

Settlement	Description	Evidence
<p>Rus c. 850 CE</p>	<p>New Russian Viking settlements in Kiev and Novgorod were becoming large trade cities.</p> <p>The 'Kievan Rus' were ruled by the Rurik dynasty, who crushed those who opposed them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viking hoard found near Saint Petersburg (coins with graffiti in Old Norse runic) • Ibn Fadlan's observations of the Rus (details their customs & lack of hygiene) in the east.
<p>Jorvik c. 866 CE</p>	<p>Viking invasion of England in 865 - Jorvik conquered by "Great Heathen Army" - became thriving settlement and trading centre</p> <p>Archbishop records the city was: "full and wealthy beyond words with riches and merchants"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (but written in Wessex) • St Oswald, Archbishop of York (10th C) - but Danish • Viking hoards e.g. Vale of York Hoard (coins mixed Christian and pagan imagery showing newly Christianised Vikings)
<p>Danelaw 878 CE</p>	<p>Viking Guthrum and Alfred the Great came to Treaty of Wedmore - gave Danes land (Danelaw) but Guthrum forced to convert to Christianity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laws were issued for "all the nations, whether English-men, Danes or Britons" • Place names ending in 'by' e.g. Whitby (meaning farmstead in Viking Norse) • 3,000 Scandinavian place names in Britain
<p>Normandy 911 CE</p>	<p>Charles the Simple & Rollo made Treaty - gained land in north and agreed not to plunder if converted to Christianity and married Princess Gisla. Expansion of lands in Northern France → Normandy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annals of St Vaast (exaggerated and biased: "there was no road nor place where the dead did not lie")

Viking Revision – Discovery

Settlement	Description	Evidence
<p>Faroe Islands c.872-930 CE</p>	<p>Two sagas claim a man named Grímur Kamban was the first man to discover the Faroe Islands between 872-930 CE. Life based on farming, trading and converted to Christianity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town of Akraberg = akur means cereal field. • 2 Hiberno-Norse ring pins and a Jew bracelet identified as being from the Irish Sea region discovered at Toftanes
<p>Iceland c.874 CE</p>	<p>Discovered by accident (Norwegian Viking blew off course). Vikings like coastal regions & fertile woodlands. Land was divided to give equal resources e.g. Oxnadalur = farms are uniformly spaced. Year 1000 - Conversion to Christianity at the ALTHING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Íslendingabók (the book of Iceland) says that around 930 CE, the land was fully settled. The population was around 25,000 people. • DNA analysis shows that 80% of the male Icelandic ancestry derives from the Vikings.
<p>Greenland c.982-5 CE</p>	<p>Erik the Red discovered after being outlawed for murder, he called it the green land because it was fertile in sheltered areas. 1000 CE - son Leif Eriksson brings Christianity to Greenland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The remains of 450 farms have been found in the Eastern Settlement & 40 in the Western • Lasted 500 years then disappeared
<p>North America c.986 CE</p>	<p>Created a small settlement near L'Anse aux Meadows called 'Vinland'. Exploited natural resources e.g. furs/timber. Ended colony in a few years due to conflict with indigenous people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,400 Viking objects found e.g. bronze fastening pin, bone knitting needle

Exam Practice:

Have a go at the following exam on lined paper.
You completed number 5 in a previous task, so have a go at 4.

Section A

Viking Expansion, c.750–c.1050

Answer questions 1 (a–c), 2 and 3.

1.
 - (a) Name **one** Viking god. [1]
 - (b) Name **one** of the major rivers that Vikings used to sail deep into Russia. [1]
 - (c) Give **one** example of a country that was ruled by King Cnut as part of his empire. [1]
2. Write a clear and organised summary of Viking contact with the Arab world. Support your summary with examples. [9]
3. What caused Viking raids in the west between 793 and 850? Support your answer with examples. [10]

Answer **either** question 4 **or** question 5.

- 4.* "The study of Viking society in their homelands of Scandinavia shows us that they were much more than just warriors". How far do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. [18]
- 5.* How far do you agree that the Vikings were quickly converted to Christianity? Give reasons for your answer. [18]

Going Further - Useful websites

Viking Homelands

Who were they? <http://jorvik-viking-centre.co.uk/who-were-the-vikings/>

Overview <http://www.history.com/topics/exploration/vikings-history>

In-depth overview- <http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Vikings>

In-depth overview - http://archaeology.about.com/od/vterms/qt/viking_age.htm

Society - <https://www.q-files.com/history/vikings/everyday-life-in-viking-times/>

Rune stones - <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/ancient/viking-runes-through-time.html>

Ship burial - <http://www.ancient-origins.net/history/10th-century-chronicle-violent-origiastic-funeral-viking-chieftain-002865>

Ships - <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/ancient/viking-ships.html>

Sea faring - <http://www.ancient-origins.net/news-history-archaeology/new-study-reveals-vikings-navigate-after-dark-using-sun-compass-092345>

Volga Vikings

Rus - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rus%27_Khaganate

Volga trade - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volga_trade_route

Radio 4 podcast - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00vr8g>

Byzantine - <http://www.soldiers-of-misfortune.com/history/varangian-guard.htm>

Arab world - <http://www.thenational.ae/world/europe/when-the-arabs-met-the-vikings-new-discovery-suggests-ancient-links>

IbnFaldan <http://archive.aramcoworld.com/issue/199906/among.the.norse.tribes-the.remarkable.account.of.ibn.fadlan.htm>

Raiders and Invaders

Lindisfarne - <https://www.lindisfarne.org.uk/793/>

Viking raids - <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/ancient/who-were-vikings.html>

Viking warfare <http://www.viking.no/e/travels/eraid.htm>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/vikings/weapons_01.shtml

Viking warriors - <http://www.vikinganswerlady.com/VALWarfare.shtml>

Viking Invasion - http://www.timeref.com/episodes/viking_invasions.htm

Settlers

Jorvik - <http://jorvik-viking-centre.co.uk/who-were-the-vikings/how-did-they-live/>

Danelaw <http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Danelaw>

Settlers lesson ideas

http://www.history.org.uk/resources/primary_resource_3741_132.html

http://www.channel4learning.com/apps26/learning/microsites/E/essentials/history/units/viking_bi.shtml

http://www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on/past_exhibitions/2014/vikings/old_norse_origins.aspx

British Isles - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norse_activity_in_the_British_Isles

Viking settlement - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viking_Age

Kings

Harald Bluetooth - <http://www.britannica.com/biography/Harald-I-king-of-Denmark>

Harald Bluetooth - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harald_Bluetooth

Kings/leaders <http://www.history.com/news/history-lists/6-viking-leaders-you-should-know>

Jelling - <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/697/video>

Good luck in your exams 😊

