

# Year 7 revision guide term 1

# About the assessment

## Content

You should revise the following topics as they may appear in the exam.

1. The Anglo-Saxons
2. The Claimants to the English Throne
3. The Battle of Stamford Bridge
4. The Battle of Hastings

## Skills



1. Can you correctly identify primary and secondary sources?
2. Can you place events in chronological order – including BCE/CE?
3. Can you write a PEE paragraph?

Where else can I revise from?

Quizzes	Information	Video	Detailed information
			

# The Anglo-Saxons

The Anglo-Saxon period lasted from the year 410, when historians think the Romans left England, to 1066 when the Normans invaded.

Sources suggest that people known as the Angles and the Saxons were people who migrated to Britain around the 4th and 5th centuries. They travelled from areas of Europe that would now identify as northern Germany, France and Scandinavia. Anglo-Saxons was the name given to this group of people who formed together in England.

It is often said that the Anglo-Saxons invaded Britain after the Romans had left but we are not actually sure exactly what happened. It is likely that many people peacefully migrated to Britain before the Romans left.

Anglo-Saxon England was split into seven main kingdoms. You can find out more about them on the map.

To learn more about them, check out the BBC Bitesize link or look at your factfiles.



# Who should be King?

When Edward the Confessor died in 1066, there were three main claimants to be king:

## **Harold Godwinson**

Harold Godwinson was from Wessex, in England. He was a wealthy nobleman, and it is claimed that Edward the Confessor named Godwinson as his successor on his deathbed. Harold Godwinson's sister, Edith, was married to Edward, making Harold the king's brother-in-law. Wessex was the largest kingdom in England and his claim would have been well supported by a large proportion of the English population.

## **William of Normandy**

William was a Duke who controlled Normandy, a large region in northern France. William was a distant relative of Edward the Confessor and claimed Edward had promised him the throne in 1051.

William also said that Harold Godwinson had sworn an oath that he would help William take the throne after Edward, in return for helping Godwinson when he had been stranded in Normandy in 1064.

## **Harald Hardrada**

Harald Hardrada was a Viking and king of Norway. He was also a distant relative of King Cnut, who had previously been a king of England when the Vikings had invaded. Harald Hardrada also had the support of Tostig, who was Harold Godwinson's brother.

The two brothers had fallen out. Tostig had been the ruler of Northumbria since 1055, but people rebelled against his rule. The rebels said Tostig had been a selfish and strict leader. Harold Godwinson had advised Edward the Confessor that he should support the rebels, rather than his own brother! Edward agreed, and Tostig was replaced as Earl of Northumbria.

There were a number of ancestors of previous Viking invaders still living in the north of England, and they were supportive of Harald Hardrada's claim to the throne.



Watch the video to find out more about them!



# The Battle of Stamford Bridge

In September 1066, Harald Hardrada and a force of 8000 Viking warriors invaded the north of England. They advanced to York and their numbers were boosted by supporters from Scotland and northern England.

The new king, Harold Godwinson, had been waiting in the south of England, anticipating an invasion from William from France. He quickly marched his army 185 miles north and reached Harald Hardrada's men in just four days, taking them by surprise.

The two sides went to battle at Stamford Bridge, just outside of York. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle recorded that a Viking warrior blocked the bridge, stopping Harold Godwinson's army from crossing. One of Godwinson's soldiers floated under the bridge in a barrel and stabbed the Viking through the slats in the bridge, allowing the rest of the English army to cross the river.

After a violent battle, Harold Godwinson was victorious. Both Hardrada and Tostig were killed and the remainder of Hardrada's army were allowed to return to Norway.

Why did Harold Godwinson win the battle? Key reasons:

- In two days King Harold assembled an army of 15,000 men, which included roughly 3,000 of his elite troops - the housecarls.
- His army travelled so quickly they caught the viking army by surprise!
- The Vikings were caught off-guard - the army wasn't together, many of them were resting and didn't have their armour on!



Watch the video to find out more about the battle!

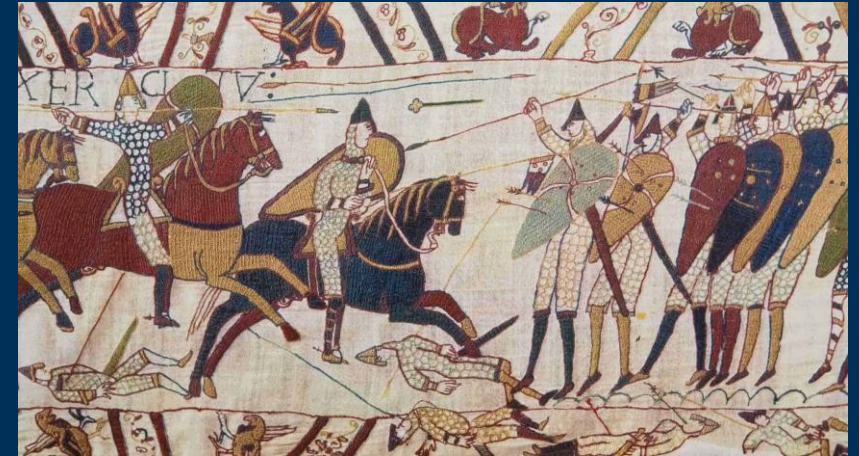




# The Battle of Stamford Bridge: Consequences

There were several consequences of the Battle of Hastings. These included:

- Harold Godwinson's Army were tired as a result of the Battle – and they had lost several of their best men! This meant that they were at a disadvantage for when they went to fight William of Normandy at Hastings.
- Harold Godwinson kept the throne of England – for now! Harald Hardrada was dead, so there was one less claimant to the English throne.
- The defeat of Hardrada marked the end of the Viking Era. The Vikings arrived in 300 boats, but left in less than 30! They were no longer a threat to England and people no longer lived in fear of Viking invasion.



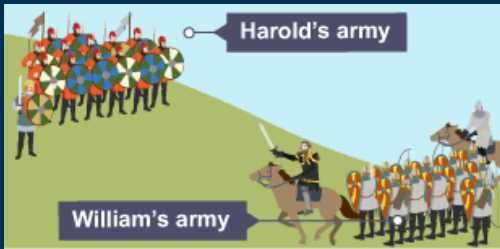
# The Battle of Hastings

Who had the advantage?

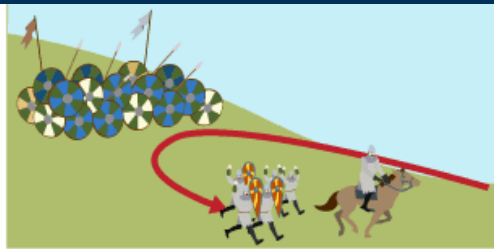
	Harold Godwinson's army	William's Norman army
Types of soldiers	Harold's army was largely made up of the fyrd and housecarls.	William had a range of soldiers available to him: cavalry, archers and foot soldiers.
Fighting experience	Harold's army had a mix of fighting experience. The fyrd were part-time soldiers who were called up to fight when needed. They had little training and were not well armed, often using farming tools for weapons. The housecarls were well-trained, professional soldiers.	It is believed that William's army had more fighting experience overall.
Size	It is believed Harold had between 7,000 and 8,000 soldiers at Hastings.	Most historians think William's army was also between 7,000 and 8,000 soldiers.
Energy	Harold's army were tired from just defeating Harald Hardrada at Stamford Bridge.	William's army were well-rested and ready for battle.



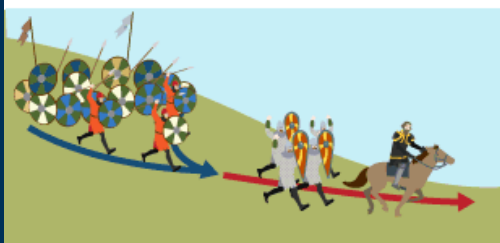
# The Battle of Hastings



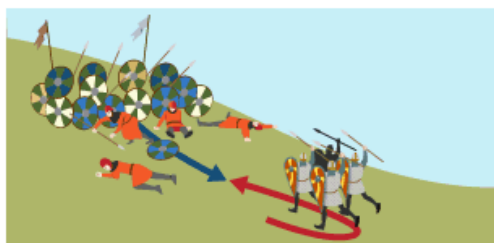
1. The position at the start of the battle. Harold's army is at the top of Senlac Hill. William's is at the bottom.



2. William orders his army to charge up the hill, but Harold's army forms a shield wall, blocking their attack. William's army pretends to retreat.



3. Harold's army follows them down the hill, breaking up the shield wall.



4. William's army turn around and attack now the shield wall is gone.



5. Harold is killed and the battle is over. William won the Battle of Hastings and is later crowned King of England.

Why did William's army win?

- **Tiredness:** Harold's army had to march north to fight Harald Hardrada at Stamford Bridge, before turning back to march to the south to face William at Hastings. Many of the English army had been killed and the those who were left would have been extremely tired.
- **Tactics:** William's army pretended to retreat, tempting Harold's army into losing their strong defensive position to run after them. William's army was then able to turn round and attack Harold's weakened position.
- **Army strength:** William had a greater range of soldiers for the battle. As well as foot soldiers, he had a cavalry and more skilled archers. This gave his side a big advantage in the range of tactics and attacks they could carry out.
- **Leadership:** William was on horseback and had an overview of the whole battlefield. When a rumour went round his army that he had been killed, he lifted his helmet to show them he was still alive. In contrast, Harold was on foot and was unable to stop his army losing their discipline and chasing down Senlac Hill after William's retreating soldiers.



# PEE Paragraph (point, evidence, explanation)

## Explain why William won the Battle of Hastings

One factor that led to William winning the Battle of Hastings was how tired Harold's army was. For example, just twenty days before the Saxon army had fought and defeated a large Viking army at Stamford Bridge. This made it more likely William would win because the Saxons won but they lost many of their best warriors and those that were left were injured and tired – especially when they had to then quickly march 250 miles south to get to Hastings.

Point

Evidence

Explain

This is a well-structured paragraph as it addresses the key part of the question which was why William won the battle of Hastings. It has evidence and an explanation.

The answer includes two pieces of evidence, firstly the battle of Stamford Bridge and secondly the 250 mile march back to Hastings. This helps persuade the reader why William was in a better position at the start of the Battle.

## Why write a PEE paragraph?

A PEE paragraph is nothing special. It is just a way to help you develop and explain your ideas. The better you can explain your ideas the more marks your will score!



# PEE Paragraph (point, evidence, explanation)

**Why not try your own PEE paragraph and ask your teacher to check it.**

**Year 7:** Why not try writing a different answer to the following question:  
Explain why William won the Battle of Hastings

A blank sheet of cream-colored paper with horizontal ruling lines. A silver paperclip is attached to the top left corner. The paper is set against a white background.

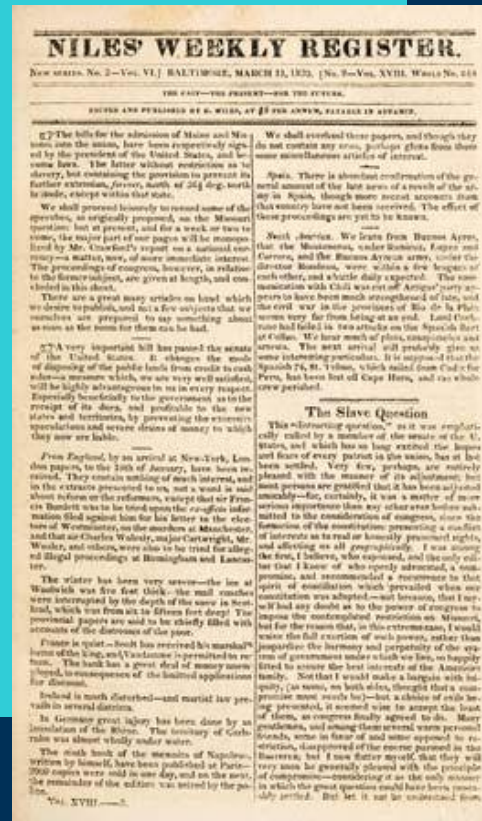
# Source Skills: Primary or Secondary?

**Primary Source:** A primary source is a piece of information that was created during the time you're studying.

For example, if you read a diary written by a soldier during World War II, that's a primary source because it's from someone who lived through it. Other examples include letters, photographs, or official documents.

**Secondary Source:** A secondary source is something that was created after the event happened, by someone who wasn't directly involved.

For example, a history book that explains what happened in World War II is a secondary source because the author wasn't there. Other examples include articles, documentaries, or essays written about a topic.



**Practice questions:** Are these primary or secondary sources?

- A page from the Domesday Book recording who owned land in an English village in 1086.
- A modern textbook extract explaining why William the Conqueror built so many castles.
- A 13th-century charter issued by King Henry III granting rights to a particular town.
- A recent academic article arguing that the Black Death changed peasants' living standards.
- A medieval chronicle entry written by a monk describing the murder of Thomas Becket in 1170.
- A YouTube lesson from 2022 explaining how the feudal system worked.

# History Skills: Chronology

When you put events in chronological order, you put them in the order in which they happened.

In History, chronological order is most useful to understand the order that things happened over a longer period of time.

To help with this, we use a system of dates, and key terms like **BCE** and **CE**.

**BCE** stands for 'Before Common Era' and **CE** stands for 'Common Era'.

You can find out the order of any set of dates by following these key rules:

1. **BCE** always comes before **CE**
2. In **BCE**, bigger numbers happened earlier.
3. In **CE**, smaller numbers happened earlier.

**Practice:** Can you put these dates in chronological order?

1463 CE  
1066 BCE  
10 CE  
800 CE  
999 BCE

