

# Did the historian Marc Morris get it right about the significance of the Norman Conquest?

Lesson Enquiry Question	Substantive knowledge covered	Key terms
Who should be king?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The throne was contested after Edward the Confessor died without an heir.</li> <li>The idea that a Saxon monarch should have a legitimate claim to the throne and be backed by the leading barons (the Witan).</li> <li>Introduce the qualities that a medieval monarch needed including ensuring England was well protected.</li> <li>The importance of oath making and taking in this period.</li> </ul>	Heir Witan Oath
Was England ripe for invasion?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Society was mainly made up of peasant farmers.</li> <li>Religion was hugely important to medieval society including monarchs.</li> <li>The Saxon army was made up of a professional element (Housecarls) and a volunteer force (fyrd).</li> </ul>	Peasant farmers Housecarls Fyrd
What should Harold do?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monarchs relied on support from loyal Barons who provided them with soldiers.</li> <li>Harvests were hugely important to all.</li> <li>Saxon armies travelled and fought on foot.</li> </ul>	Monarch Heir Alliance Harvest Earl
Battle of Hastings and did the artist to his homework before drawing the Battle of Hastings?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes the similarities and differences between Saxon and Norman armies including the fact that Normans fought with knights.</li> <li>The use of the feigned retreat.</li> </ul>	Knights Archers Foot soldiers
For people living at the time was the Norman Conquest a change for the better?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Few Saxon Lords remained after the Norman invasion, many new Norman Lords arrived and held huge areas of land.</li> <li>Rebellions took place and in the north the Normans put down one such rebellion brutally.</li> <li>Some aspects of life for poorer farmers changed very little.</li> <li>Monks lived in monasteries and the Normans wanted to ensure they followed strict rules of Christianity.</li> </ul>	Monasteries Loyalty Monks
Did the historian Marc Morris get it right about the significance of the Norman Conquest?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many aspects of life changed, including the ruling elite, castle building and the introduction of the French language. Some of these changes had a long lasting impact.</li> <li>England looked away from Scandinavia and towards Europe.</li> <li>Many aspects of ordinary life such as medicine and farming methods did not change.</li> </ul>	Castles Latin