Queenof8s GAC – History notes

Literature
- Largest known collection of Anglo-Saxon writing's Exeter book
  ⇒ Mix of sermons, poems, biographies of saints, grammar advice

Church infrastructure
- Only stone building would have been a church → found in some villages
- Most churches were built as private chapels for Thegns
- Tower often served as shelter protection
- Not Anglo-Saxon greatest achievements

Culture
  o The Alfred Jewel
    » Jewel attached to a wooden pointing stick
    » Belonged to monastery
    » Tells story of Alfred – great king of Wessex = Alfred had me made
    ⇒ Sign of remarkable skills

Art
  o Engraving was a perfect skill
    » Silver
    » Represents the 5 senses through 5 images
    » Rare item – stolen by Vikings and Normans
    » England famous for metal work
    » Foreign merchants came to England to buy work from English craftsmen
    » English men outstandingly skilful
    » Women highly skilful at working with gold thread

Buildings
  o Mostly built in wood, clay, straw
    » Little evidence
    » Fire was a constant threat

Westminster Abbey
  » Edward spent a lot of time in London
  » Built a palace at Westminster
  » There was already an abbey, with Robert of Jumieges – Edward paid for a new abbey to be built
  » Built in Norman style – stone, round arches
  » Tallest in all Anglo-Saxon England
  » Edward tried to make it beautiful to show the power of England to the rest of Europe
- Opened on 28 December 1065 = KE too ill to assist – died in January 1066
Castles in Normandy
- Way for knights to defend their land
- Most made of earthworks and timber
- Only made for knights to be safe – not community

Ringworks
- Buildings surrounded by earth and timber, palisade and a ditch

Motte and bailey
- Within the bailey there was a manmade mound of earth called motte
- On top of motte, the keep served as a castle
  - It didn’t take long to build them
    - A few days RW
    - A few months MB

Church in Normandy
- Rollo was a pagan
- But he soon converted to Roman Catholic church
- Normandy started building many churches and monasteries
- Pope praised Normandy for high standards of church and devotion of Nuns and monks
  - Normandy became famous for its beautiful churches

William
- Father died at early age
  - At 8 he became nu duke of Normandy
- Knights turned against each other, for power and land, his guardians killed
  - Learnt to be careful of whom he trusted
  - Normandy was unstable
- As he grew – skilfully negotiated with king of franks – oppressed rebellions
- He proved to be skilful, great warrior, merciless in front of enemies
- Married Matilda of Flanders (powerful county bordering Normandy) – marriage alliance
  - Both religious – distant cousins – marriage against church rules – got special permission from pope
  - Had to build 2 abbeys, one each in Caen

The succession Crisis
- King Edward died in January 1066 – no child – no successor
- Dying words
  - From the biography of Queen Edith (sister of Godwinson + wife of Edward)
  - 4 people at death bed = Queen Edith, Archbishop Stigand, Godwinson, servant.
  - ‘I commend this woman and all the kingdom to your protection’
- KE promised throne to 2 people – Godwinson and William
Queenof8s **GAC** – History notes

**Williams preparation for INVASION**

- Sent men to Rome to win support of Pope
  - Told Pope Edward promised him England – Harold’s oath and how he broke it – Stigand had crowned him – symbol of English church corruption
  - The pope gave him his support and Papal Banner to carry in battle
  - Used this to convince others that he could win
- Offered great rewards to the many that supported him
- In the spring he started building extra ships and moving supplies and weapons to the coast

**In England**

- Harold sent an army south coast in case William attacked
- April 1066 South coast attacked by Tostig (Harold’s exiled brother - ex earl of Northumbria)
- Driven away by May
- By June 1066 nothing had happened
- Needed man to grow crops

**Battle of Fulford**

- In the North East Tostig and Hardrada army arrived
- Harold gathered an army to march North
- On **20 September** Earls Edwin and Morcar fought but the Norwegian army was too strong - 9k men
- Earls Edwin and Morcar escaped but Tostig and Hardrada invaded YORK

**Battle of Stamford bridge**

- 25 September, Harfara and Tostig had moved army near York (Stamford bridge) waiting for Anglo-Saxons to surrender before they moved south to invade the rest of the kingdom
- They didn’t know Godwinson’s army had managed to travel from London to York in barely a week
- The English threw a surprise attack
  - Godwinson gathered housecarls (well armed professionally trained Danish soldiers which served English monarchs since Canut – extremely agile and strong) as he marched to York
  - Warm day – Norwegians weren’t wearing their Armor
  - See Englishmen approaching – send one of the most powerful Norwegians stood on the bridge
  - Every English that crossed was killed – no way of attacking
  - **POSSIBLE MYTH** → One of the English found an empty barrel, floated himself under the bridge and speared the Viking between the legs
  - The bridge was crossed by the English and the battle won
- Both Tostig and Hardrada died
- Tostig buried by Harold in York
In March William was back to England

On Easter he had his 2nd coronation
   » The pope had sent 2 cardinals to England to crown the king and show the Pope’s blessings

- Church believed that killing in war was sinful
- But if you suffered before your death your soul would go to heaven in less time
- There was another way for William, he could pay for a new church to be built
   → In 1070 he ordered the construction of Battle Abbey, it opened in 1094 (after W’s death)
- Knights and lords did something similar

Church reform
- W worked with the Pope’s cardinals to make changes to the corrupt English church
   1. Stigand replaced as Archbishop of Canterbury
   2. Other Senior church leaders replaced by Normans, showed sympathy for rebels imprisoned for life
   3. W ordered all monasteries to provide money or men to serve as knights (common practice in Normandy) = dealing with uprisings was expensive
      » He robbed many monasteries and found that some nobles were hiding their possessions in England
- William had stopped following English traditions

Early Summer 1070

➢ Ely and Hereward
- Island in East Anglia surrounded by marshland = Fens
- Small town built on the island around the abbey
- On Could not keep marching up and down to subdue rebellions in the North
* June, Danes arrived with reinforcements at Ely
   » Took the town with no resistance
   » The English believed the Danes had come to free them from W
* At the same time a thegn called Hereward raided the town of Petersbourgh and took all its riches when he heard the abbey was going to get a new Norman Abbot
* Hereward presented the riches to Danes to thank them for fighting Normans
* He joined forces with the Danes and they created a base at Ely
- William quickly arranged to talk with Svein and convinced him to go back home, Svein knew his men weren’t well fed because of the harrying of the North
- Hereward was now alone and weak
- William returns in Normandy
- In 1071 Hereward position had strengthened
   1. Abbot of Ely gave his support to Hereward
   2. Other English bishop joined forces and brought with him new rebels
   3. Edwin and Morcar joined Hereward
   4. Warriors from across England made their way to Ely
- William decided that he should come back and gathered an army and marched to east Anglia
* William besieged Ely, blocking provisions from arriving into the city
* W started to build a bridge over the marshland
   » The man were heavy with their army and many drowned – bridge unstable
* William recruited a witch to cast a spell against Hereward