The Two Viking Ages of Britain:

- P. H. Sawyer, ‘The Two Viking Ages of Britain: a Discussion’ - 163-207
- Cannot be represented in the wider world- only representative in Britain especially England. Ireland has a consistent number of raids but in England there was a break.
- First Viking Age- earliest raids in 790’s- Portland in 786-802, Kent 790’s and Lindisfarne 793 (lots of information due to its shocking quality), Jarrow 794, Lambay Island (Ireland) 795.
- People believed Vikings were brought as an effect of the poor behavior of the Anglo-Saxons and god sent them to punish them.
- At first it’s the north and east that are raided the most between 800-813 then raids all over island from 830’s.
- In 839 first Viking army stays for the winter- usually uncommon. Shows their confidence and strength of their armies are growing.
- Coastal attacks on Wessex in 830’s, London and Southampton in 840’s and King of Northumbria killed in 844.
- May well have been more but have to go on what we have got.
- High point- The Great Army in England- 80 odd men or more.
- Great Army appear in East Anglia in 865, then move to take York and kill competing Kings of Northumbria in 867.
- Vikings good at using the different Anglo-Saxon conflicts to their own benefit.
- They go back to East Anglia and kill King Edmond in 869.
- Then go to Dumbarton in Scotland and sack it and take it in 870.
- Ranging all over England, Ireland and France.
- They go where they think they are going to get the best benefits.
- 874- they defeat and drive out King of Mercians.
- Early-mid 870’s Wessex comes under severe pressure being repeatedly invaded.
- In 900- eastern Mercia, Northumbria and some of Wessex was now controlled by Vikings and no one Viking King- alious groups.
- The Picts and Kingdom of Dal Rita have come together under the Kingdom of Alba due to Viking invasion.
- Vikings have really shaken things up in Britain.
- Ivarr- Viking who comes over with the Great Army gives rise to this long lived dynasty- high point mid 9th coming into the 10th century- they had Dublin, York and west midlands.
- Vikings who ruled Dublin felt a strong ancestral connection towards York.

Sources:

- Vikings remain pagan and they do not write things in mass for us to read and use meaning we have to rely on foreign texts- Viking’s victims.
- E.g. Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, Irish annals, Frankish annals.
- Didn’t portray them in the best light and give very little detail on where and why they came. Only get the opinion of monks and churchmen’s view of Vikings.
- Scandinavian written sources include early inscriptions, but longer texts generally much later and of uncertain reliability- show little about the impact of Viking invasion on society.
- Kings Sagas relied on parts of information that have been preserved and many rely on myth and imagination- great literacy though.
- Lots of archeological remains- e.g. material from Great Army Viking camp at Torksey, Lincolnshire including metallic coins etc. (picture on slides).
- Reptom- mass burials of at least 249 individuals dating to early 870’s.