**Correzione della verifica:**

1066 is a crucial date in the history of England and of whole Northern Europe: it’s the date of the first and last conquest of the English territories. It determined the meeting of two cultures, indie, after William conquest, the rulers of North-Western Europe spread into Britain and changed what existed already, on the socio-cultural, economic and political level.

The death of Edward ( called the “The Confessor” because of his construction of the Westminster Abbey), king of England, led to a rivalry between three contenders: Harold, Edward’s brother-in-law, William, duke of Normand and Harold Hardrada.

First Harold was crowned king but, when Hardrada heard about the coronation, he prepared to invade Britain. He suddenly reached York, but there he fell and his armies were defeated by Harold’s. At the same time William crossed the English Channel with his supporters and, settled near Pevensey, reaching Hastings. There what is known as “The Battle of Hastings” took place. William defeated the enemy and became king of England. His victory was the key turning point to the changes (/to incoming transformations/ to the future transformations). William and the Norman nobles introduced knighthood, castles and feudalism.

You must remember that king William was at the same time duke of Normandy, so he had to move to France lots of times. He wanted to find a solution to control English territories, therefore he introduced the feudal system.

Feudalism changed the way of living in the whole England, influenced the English culture from many following centuries and made radical changes from the administrative point of view.

Feudalism was based on a pyramidal system, in which the king was at the top and it was based on loyalty.

Indeed William split up the English lands between himself (about 20%), the church (about 25%) and the remaining lands were given to those Normans who had fought with William during the Battle. They had to take an oath, in which they guaranteed some taxes to the king, to be loyal to him and to provide soldiers if and when necessary.

With the redistribution of the lands and the hierarchical changes, William allowed to his Norman loyal supporters to have all the power they wanted.

The Norman French court replaced English nobles, sometimes becoming dukes or barons.

Other relevant changes can be found taking into consideration the use of the three languages spoken; Latin by the Church and the clergy and the lawyers, Norman French by the court and Old English by the common people.

The English spoken today derives from the one spoken in London, which has been widely influenced by the Norman vocabulary.

In addition in 1085, William ordered some officiers to do a census, in most parts of England, asking: which lands people owned, how much land they owned, if they had serfs or slaves, how many of them they had, how much animals they had, such as cows and sheep, how many ploughs they had, how many corn mills and so on. Therefore, a scribe had to write the results of the survey onto parchment, creating what is known as *The Domesday Book*. It is called Domesday Book because of its value as judgment point of reference, indeed “Domesday” means “The Judgment Day”.

The book has been fundamental for the nowadays historian, because it provided such detailed information about most of England. It allows to know relevant dates about what the English society was like at the time, also morphologically and hierarchically.

All the replacements William did during his reign were based on the culture of Northern Europe, especially of Scandinavian people. Indeed the Normans came from Scandinavia and then moved of the North-western France, Normandy.