THE NORMAN INVASION

The Normans conquered England in 1066 at the Battle of Hastings.

William, Duke of Normandy, attacked the England because Edward the Confessor promised him the crown but Edward's brother-in-law, Harold Godwineson ,took possession of the throne.

Although William was more distantly related to Edward than Harold.

William finally crossed the English Channel and landed in Pevensey on 28 th September. The Normans waiting instead for a reaction from the English. Harold’s men were mostly foot soldiers, whereas William used archers and mounted warriors. After Harold’s death the Normans won the battle.

For the next years William put down English revolts and imposed a firm central administrative control based on the system of feudalism; the feudal system was organized in a hierarchal system, on top was the Pope , because religion was the most important value of the Middle Ages. The king was after the Pope and then there were vassals and lords. The king gave land to the vassals and lords , in change they gave military service. The relationship between the king and lord and vassals were based to loyalty and fidelity.

Then come knights , they come from aristocracy; and then there were serfs with their families.

The Norman Conquest brought sweeping changes. The Anglo-Saxon aristocracy was replaced by William’s followers, the Normans built several new churches and after norman invasion there were three different language: Norman-French ( the Norman), Old English (population) and Latin (clergy) .