EX.N.2

QUESTIONS:

1. What was the reason behind the Norman invasion?
2. How did the Normans defeat the English?
3. Did the local population promptly accept the Normans?
4. What changes did Norman rule bring?

ANSWERS:

1. Edward the Confessor died childless in 1066 and his brother-in-law Harold Godwineson was crowned King of England. In the same year, William, duke of Normandy, asserted that he had earlier been promised the throne by Edward so he decided to invade England, claiming his authority throughout the island.
2. The Normans did not move far inland, they waited instead for a possibly English reaction.
3. No, it didn’t. The English strongly opposed William, who had to put down these revolts and re-establish his authority.
4. Norman rule brought lots of changes in Anglo-Saxon society. The old Anglo-Saxon aristocracy was replaced by the Norman one, together with the administrative system of feudalism. There was a king who provided lands to barons, who offered protection to peasants.

Lots of churches were built to adorn towns and villages. Closer ties to Western Europe were established: this may explain the injection of Norman French into Old English, developing today English language.

EX.N.3

QUESTIONS:

1. Do you like history? Why is it important?
2. Does the place where you live have any historical relevance?
3. Can you name places that are important in your national history?
4. Have you ever been to England? Have you visited any of the places you have studied?
5. Would you like to visit some of the places you have studied in these pages? Which ones? Why?

ANSWERS:

1. Yes, I do. It is important to discover where we come from, our tradition, culture, customs and language.
2. Yes, it does. I live near Aquileia, an important Roman town founded in South Friuli to defend from barbarian populations from the North.
3. In Italy, lots of towns have an historical importance: Milan, Florence, Rome, Turin. In my region Trieste is the most important.
4. Yes, I have. I visited London, Cambridge and Stratford Upon-Avon.
5. I would like to visit Canterbury because it was an important religious centre.