# Unit Y320: The Viking Age c.790-1066

NOTE: BASED ON 3 X 50 MINUTE LESSONS PER WEEK

TERMS BASED ON 6 TERM YEAR.

This theme focuses on the development of Viking Scandinavia and Viking overseas expansion. Learners should consider both the reason for and extent of political, religious, economic, social and cultural change that ensued as a result of Viking raids and settlement. Learners should consider how far, and for what reasons, this relationship changed. The strands identified below are not to be studied in isolation to each other. Learners are not expected to demonstrate a detailed understanding of the specification content, except for the named in-depth studies, but are expected to know the main developments and turning points relevant to them.

| **Key Topic** | **Number of Lessons** | **Indicative Content** | **Extended Content** | **Resources** |
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| Viking Society, Administration and Livelihood | 1 | The similarities and differences between the Viking homelands | * The origin and nature of Viking cultural identity. * The significance of the Scandinavian topography, climate and geographical place in the world in relation to the rest of Europe and how this was a catalyst for expansion. * The importance of navigation by sea and how developments in ship building were key to the development of trade and expansion in the Viking world. | Roesdahl, E. D.M Wilson (eds.), *From Viking to Crusader. The Scandinavians and Europe 800-1200* (New York,1992)  Graham-Campbell, J., *The Viking World* (London,2001)  Graham-Campbell, J.(ed) *Cultural Atlas of the Viking World* (Oxford,1994)  Haywood, J., *The Penguin Historical Atlas of the Vikings* (Oxford 1997) |

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|  | 4 | The key features of Viking age hierarchical society  The nature of the Viking economy in the homelands  The significance of the law in Viking society | * The nature and role of Viking hierarchical society at the beginning of the eighth century and how this impacted on people’s lives (aristocracy, the free, slaves). * The occupations of the different members of society, how their role contributed to a thriving economy through skilled trades and how this was significant to regional and international trade. * The role of Women in Viking society and the extent of their influence within Viking society. * The significance of laws and customs in ensuring a well ordered society. * The use of the ‘thing’. * The degree to which individuals could climb or descend down the social ladder. | Jesch, J., *Women in the Viking age* (Woodbridge, 1991) |

| **Key Topic** | **Number of Lessons** | **Indicative Content** | **Extended Content** | **Resources** |
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|  | 5 | The extent to which the idea of Kingship and royal power changed throughout the period  The turning points in royal power, accession, and the political developments that this entailed  The relationship between the ideology of kingship and the conversion to Christianity | * The extent to which Viking society developed from regional loyalties to a consolidation of power and administration through kingship. * The historical difficulties faced in uniting Norway and the methods used by Harald Finehair and Olaf Tryggvason to try and unite Norway. * The consequence of Harald’s take-over in the Norwegian expansion towards Iceland and Scottish islands by some of the ousted aristocracy. * The development of kingship and royal power and the role of this in creating centralised rule. * The comparative role and impact of the Danish kings on administration and the notion of kingship and accession. * The role of Olaf Skotkonung in uniting Sweden under his rule. * The significance of royal building projects such as the Kanhave canal, Danevirke, Jelling and towns such as Hedeby, Ribe and Birka as evidence of royal power. * The extent to which the introduction of Christianity by kings was significant in the unification of Denmark, Sweden and Norway under the rule of a single king. * The impact of kingship in the creation of a Scandinavian national identity through kingship. | Sawyer, P.H., *Kings and Vikings,* (London 1982) |
| Warfare and raids | 6 | The causes and development of Viking raids in England and Scotland  The stimulus for Scottish unity  The extent to which the motives and nature of raids development over time | * Motives for raids; * Unique naval technology * Exiled members of the elite becoming privateers * Improvement in mining and extracting iron * Increase in contact with Europe through trade * Growing population known as the “youth bulge effect” | Roesdahl, E. D.M Wilson (eds.), *From Viking to Crusader. The Scandinavians and Europe 800-1200* (New York,1992)  Graham-Campbell, J., *The Viking World* (London,2001)  Graham-Campbell, J.(ed) *Cultural Atlas of the Viking World* (Oxford,1994) |
|  |  | The impact of the economies, politics and culture of the host country  The key turning points in the 860’s  The re-emergence of Wessex  The rise and fall of the second Viking age | * Refusal from Charlemagne’s Christian empire to trade with the pagan Norse * Viking warrior culture and religion * Isolated monasteries, undefended monasteries * Reactions to the Lindesfarne and Iona raids both politically and socially by Anglo-Saxon society. * The significance of Viking raiding, settlement and warfare in Scotland’s unification and the destruction of the Picts. * The significant extent of settlement due to the influx of aristocratic Vikings who sent for their household retinues and slaves, intermarriage and a royal houses of Scotland and Norway joining through marriage. * The nature of the first Viking raids as seasonal and uncoordinated. * The development of raiding in regards wintering in foreign lands in fortified camps for raids to then begin in the spring. * The turning point of the 860’s as a coordinated invasion by the Great Heathen Army in England, resulting in conquest and settlement. * The role of Alfred and his responses after 879, reorganisation of the fyrd, building of a fleet of ships, network of fortified burghs, diplomacy. * The impact of the response that resulted in denying the freedom of movement of Viking armies and which allowed Wessex to counter attack. * The role Athelstan of in continuing the West Saxon takeover of England by taking York and destroying Viking power and influence culminating at the battle of Brunanbruh and the expulsion of Eric ‘Bloodaxe’. * The causes of “second Viking age”; * St Brices day massacre * The wealth of England due to a centralised tax system * Weak leadership * Unification of Denmark * Payment of Danegeld * The political, economic and social impact of the conquest of England by Swien Forkbeard and Hartha Cnut. * The decline and fall of Cnut’s Anglo-Scandinavian empire. | Haywood, J., *The Penguin Historical Atlas of the Vikings* (Oxford 1997)  Smyth A.P., *Scandinavian Kings in the British Isle 850-880* (Oxford 1977)  Ritchie, A., *Viking Scotland* (London, 1993)  Jesch, and D.N. Parsons (eds.), *Vikings and the Danelaw* (Oxford 2001)  Stenton, F.R. *Anglo-Saxon England*, (rev. ed.) Oxford 1971  Richards, J.D., *Viking Age England*, (London 1962) |
|  | 6 | Viking raiding and trading in Ireland, Wales, Isle of Man  The extent to which the motives and nature of raids development over time  The impact of the economies, politics and culture of the host country | * Raiding of Ireland’s wealthy monasteries using great rivers and lakes to attack deep inside Ireland. * The difference in settlement in Ireland compared to other countries was that of ‘parasitic settlement’. * The role of longphorts in establishing a base and were supported by the local population by them providing food. * The development of Dublin as an area of manufacture and trade between the British Isle and Scotland. * The impact on Irish political landscape by the Vikings acting as mercenaries in the conflicts between the regional kings of Ireland. * The decline and expulsion of Viking warriors due to the vulnerability of longphorts, unity in Ireland under Brian of Munster and in fighting between competing groups. * Causes of Raiding in Wales due to expulsion of Ingimund from Dublin. * The comparatively small role of Wales as part of the trading network in the Irish Sea and suffering some costal monastic raids. * The importance and role of the Isle of Man as a wealthy trading hub. * The significance of the Isle of Man’s geographical position between major centres of Viking activity combined with its fertile landscape as a wealthy trading hub. | Roesdahl, E. D.M Wilson (eds.), *From Viking to Crusader. The Scandinavians and Europe 800-1200* (New York,1992)  Graham-Campbell, J., *The Viking World* (London,2001)  Graham-Campbell, J.(ed) *Cultural Atlas of the Viking World* (Oxford,1994)  Haywood, J., *The Penguin Historical Atlas of the Vikings* (Oxford 1997)  Hall, R.A A-C (ed), T*he Vikings in Ireland* (Roskilde, 2001)  Johnson, R., *Viking Age Dublin* (Dublin, 2004) |
|  | 5 | Viking raiding and trading in the west | * The nature and evolution of raids against the Carolingian Empire. * The efforts of Charlemagne and Louis to repel raids through coast guards with vulnerable coastal towns succumbing to small lightening attacks. * The advancement of organised raids into the heart of Frankia with royal backing was caused by a number of factors; * Internal political strife * Interior rivers * Vikings strategic use of river Islands * Payment of Danegeld * Recent defeats in England * Decline of the Frankish army and defences * The significance of the siege of Paris and the decision of the Charles the Fat * The decline of raids due to the impact of the defeats of Viking raiders by local forces that could react more quickly led by counts and the invasion of the Great Army in England led to a reprieve from raids in Frankia * Turning point with the coronation of military minded kings (Count Odo and Arnulf) and the improvement of defences that finally repelled raids. * The extent of the initial success in the conquest of Brittany as a result of Rollo’s Norman Duchy. * The cause of the migration and expansion into Iceland and Greenland due to economic and political factors. * The role of Iceland in providing natural resources to be manufactured and traded. | Roesdahl, E. D.M Wilson (eds.), *From Viking to Crusader. The Scandinavians and Europe 800-1200* (New York,1992)  Graham-Campbell, J., *The Viking World* (London,2001)  Graham-Campbell, J.(ed) *Cultural Atlas of the Viking World* (Oxford,1994)  Haywood, J., *The Penguin Historical Atlas of the Vikings* (Oxford 1997)  Wallace-Hardrill, J.M., *The Vikings in Frankia in Early Medieval History*, (Oxford 1975) |
|  | 4 | Viking raiding and trading in the East | * The nature of Sweden’s relationship with the east and the trading, raiding and eventual conquest of Russia. * The importance of the Baltic, Lake Ladoga as a staging post and the internal rivers such as the Dnieper and Volga rivers in their success. * The positive and wide-ranging impact of the trade of furs and slaves for Arab silver from the Middle East. * The significance of rulers in expansion into Russia such as Rurik, Oleg the Wise and Vladimir the Saint and the causes and methods of their success. * The failure of Viking attempts to capture Constantinople (Mikelgard) it in the 9th and 10th centuries by Oleg the Wise. * The positive impact of diplomatic trade links with Kiev with Constantinople and ties through the creation of the Varangian Guard. * The decline of links with Byzantium in the 11th century with decline of the empire and the silver mines ran dry. | Roesdahl, E. D.M Wilson (eds.), *From Viking to Crusader. The Scandinavians and Europe 800-1200* (New York,1992)  Graham-Campbell, J., *The Viking World* (London,2001)  Graham-Campbell, J.(ed) *Cultural Atlas of the Viking World* (Oxford,1994)  Haywood, J., *The Penguin Historical Atlas of the Vikings* (Oxford 1997)  Ellis Davidson, H.R., *The Viking Road to Byzantium*, (London 1976) |
| Settlements | 6 | The impact of settlements socially, culturally, politically and economically on the those around them | * The degree of cultural change that took place in Scandinavia from an economy based on farming to that based on trade. * The consequences of this shift; * The growth of urban centres * The diversification of the economy * Increased expansion * The trade in raw materials from newly acquired territories * The manufactured goods industry * The growth of kingship * The changing relationship between urban centres in Scandinavia and in England with kingship by kings creating political centres. * The degree to which urban living impacted on the lives of people from farming plots of land to trading and for mobile traders to become urban dwellers. * The significance of York as the Viking capital of England and a centre of urban settlement. * The relationship of between trade supporting a high degree of specialist trades. * The impact of the Danelaw on the economy and culture In Anglo-Saxon England. * The permeation of Old Norse into the English language and through place names. * The impact of Scandinavian intensive farming techniques which resulted in increased food production. * The changes in law, customs and administration to the native Anglo Saxons. * The role of King Cnut in his political prowess and the development of regular commerce across the North Sea. * The extent to which raiding failed in the Iberian Peninsula. * The extent of Viking settlement in Normandy, featuring around the coastal areas and the creation of a ruling elite. * The assimilation of the Viking minority into Frankish language, culture and religion. | Roesdahl, E. D.M Wilson (eds.), *From Viking to Crusader. The Scandinavians and Europe 800-1200* (New York,1992)  Graham-Campbell, J., *The Viking World* (London,2001)  Graham-Campbell, J.(ed) *Cultural Atlas of the Viking World* (Oxford,1994)  Haywood, J., *The Penguin Historical Atlas of the Vikings* (Oxford 1997)  Hines, J., A. Laneand M. Redknap (eds.), *Land, Sea and Home* (Leeds 2004)  Clarke, H., and Ambrosiani, B., *Towns in the Viking Age*, (Leicester 1991)  Smyth, A.P., *Scandinavian York and Dublin* (2Vols.), (Dublin 1975) |
| Culture and Religion | 4 | The influence of Religion on cultural practices and politics in the Viking world | * The relationship between different sections of Viking society and the different Gods. * The nature of the Gods and what they correspond to in everyday life. * The extent to which the Vikings believed Norns controlled their everyday life. * The importance of open air sits such as Uppsala for rituals and sacrifices and the use of holy places such as hillsides, springs and groves of trees. * The significance of funeral rites in Viking culture and religion to ensure that the soul does not return as a revenant. * The differences between the use of barrows filled with grave goods were used as monument as their social position compared with the use of stone ships or ship settings to cremate the dead of ordinary classes. * The extent to which Harald Bluetooth’s conversion permeated Viking society in Denmark and Norway. * The impact of Norwegian Kings Olaf Tryggvason and Olaf Haraldsson’s coercion to make their subjects convert and be baptised during their rule. * The role of Olaf Tryggvason in the conversion of Iceland. * The reactions to conversion and the incorporation of Jesus into the collection of Norse Gods reflected in art, culture and codes of conduct. * The change in burial practices and the abandonment of grave goods due to Christianity. | Roesdahl, E. D.M Wilson (eds.), *From Viking to Crusader. The Scandinavians and Europe 800-1200* (New York,1992)  Graham-Campbell, J., *The Viking World* (London,2001)  Graham-Campbell, J.(ed) *Cultural Atlas of the Viking World* (Oxford,1994)  Haywood, J., *The Penguin Historical Atlas of the Vikings* (Oxford 1997)  Sawyer, P and B, Sawyer, *Medieval Scandinavia. From conversion to Reformation* (Minnesota, 1993)  Ellis Davidson, H.R., *Gods and Myths of Northern Europe*. (London 1964) |
|  | 4 | The role of Viking art, fashion and culture in society | * The characterisation of ornamentation of everyday objects and how art developed into six successive styles. * The purpose of runes as memorial, legal and practical ways of accounting or communicating information, the use of rune stones. * The influence of the gods and ancestor in choosing a child’s name in naming customs. * Eddaic poems as a collection of Skaldic Verse. * Skaldic verse purpose of public performance the rhyming verse to help retain this in memory to praise a chieftain of his deeds. * Fame and actions of individuals were culturally and religiously important and skaldic verses reinforced this. * The use of the kings sagas and the Icelandic sagas as historical evidence, the purpose of the sagas as a record of history and culture of the age. * The different styles of Viking dress between the sexes and different classes in Viking society combined with the differences between form and functionality. * The use of jewellery as a symbol of wealth and importance. * The occurrence of feasting due to seasonal, religious or to celebrate a special occasion, the key features of Viking feasts. |  |

# Unit Y320: The Viking Age c.790-1066– Depth studies

NOTE: BASED ON 3 X 50 MINUTE LESSONS PER WEEK

TERMS BASED ON 6 TERM YEAR.

*yOU COULD CHOOSE TO INTEGRATE THIS WITHIN THE SECTION ABOVE, SHOULD YOU WISH TO TEACH THIS CHRONOLOGICALLY, HOWEVER PLEASE NOTE QUESTIONS ON THE THEMATIC ESSAY ARE THEMATIC IN NATURE, WHEREAS THE DEPTH STUDIES ARE ROOTED IN INTERPRETATIONS.*

| **Key Topic** | **Number of Lessons** | **Indicative Content** | **Extended Content** | **Resources** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Raids on England in the late eighth and ninth centuries | 6 | The extent of the impact of raids on England in the late eighth and ninth centuries | * The degree to which Viking motives changed from opportunistic raids to satisfy immediate needs to carefully calculated invasions with the aim of conquest to achieve more long term goals. * The influence of the Viking threat on everyday life in Anglo-Saxon England. * The extent of the detriment to those who had been raided and the psychological impact on those surrounding areas. * The impact of raids on the local economy and food production. * The impact on the Anglo-Saxon church and the abandonment of frequently targeted monasteries. * The extent to which Viking raiding was detrimental to Anglo-Saxon culture by the theft and destruction of monastic libraries, cultural artefacts and works art. * The significance of the actions and movement of the Great Heathen Army in its conquest of England. * The creation of the first Danelaw settlements. * The development of a much more mobile standing army by Alfred combined with a network of Burghs (fortified settlements) in response the Great Heathen Army. * Effect of the Great Heathen Army in breaking up Anglos Saxon power structures by eliminating the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms leading to a unification of England when the Danelaw was conquered. | Roesdahl, E. D.M Wilson (eds.), *From Viking to Crusader. The Scandinavians and Europe 800-1200* (New York,1992)  Graham-Campbell, J., *The Viking World* (London,2001)  Graham-Campbell, J.(ed) *Cultural Atlas of the Viking World* (Oxford,1994)  Haywood, J., *The Penguin Historical Atlas of the Vikings* (Oxford 1997)    Graham-Campbell, J., R.A. Hall, J. Jesch, and D.N. Parsons (eds.), *Vikings and the Danelaw* (Oxford 2001)  Stenton, F.R. (rev. ed.) *Anglo-Saxon England* (Oxford 1971)  Richards, J.D., *Viking Age England*, (London 1962) |
| The Danelaw | 6 | The origins and extent to which the Danelaw changed life in Anglo-Saxon England | * The origins and definitions of the Danelaw as the consequence of the conquest by the Great Heathen Army. Vikings settled in England here under their own laws and customs. * The creation of the five boroughs in which there were fortified towns in which urban living thrived. * The development of small villages with fortified long halls by Scandinavian settlers. * The introduction of well laid out fortified towns led to a mercantile economy with long distance trade networks, which caused the economy to thrive. * The development of a mixed rural economy of agriculture supplement by craft working. * The extent to which the settlers ruled the Danelaw with a well-defined sense of identity and purpose. * The development of a distinct Anglo-Scandinavian culture through integration and assimilation. * Nature of the use of stone carving taken from the monasteries and placed in the secular world as monuments to ownership and military might as evidence of cultural interchange. * The turning point in religion as we see burials in line with local Christian tradition bearing no resemblance to the pagan burials before them. * The extent to which politics shifted in the Danelaw from Danish to Norwegian influence. * The importance of York as one of Europe’s most economically diverse and flourishing defend market town. | Roesdahl, E. D.M Wilson (eds.), *From Viking to Crusader. The Scandinavians and Europe 800-1200* (New York,1992)  Graham-Campbell, J., *The Viking World* (London,2001)  Graham-Campbell, J.(ed) *Cultural Atlas of the Viking World* (Oxford,1994)  Haywood, J., *The Penguin Historical Atlas of the Vikings* (Oxford 1997)  Graham-Campbell, J., R.A. Hall, J. Jesch, and D.N. Parsons (eds.), *Vikings and the Danelaw* (Oxford 2001)  Stenton, F.R. *Anglo-Saxon England*, (rev. ed.) Oxford 1971  Richards, J.D., *Viking Age England*, (London 1962) |
| The Vikings in Ireland | 6 | The extent of change and impact of the Vikings in Ireland on Ireland’s political, social and economic life | * The impact of Initial opportunistic raids on coastal monasteries. * The role of uncoordinated squabbling Irish kingdoms which offered ineffective resistance to Viking raids as an encouragement for further raiding. * The turning point of the permanent settlement in Dublin for conquest and political control. * The significance of struggle between the Norwegians and the Danes for control of Ireland, Reactions to the expulsion and the Danes and the ensuing consequence of 40 years rest. * The extent to which the Irish based Vikings desire to rule York led to phases of involvement in Ireland and stifled ambitions to settle or gain wider control. The use of Ireland and the urbanisation of Dublin as a trading base resulting in the creation of a thriving economy based on trade with the native Irish and the rest of the Viking world. * The eventual assimilation the Irish Norse by conversion, intermarriage and adoption of Gaelic language. * Had little influence in politics in their own right but often used as mercenaries due to their fighting prowess. * Dublin as a fortified longport which left them vulnerable to attack causing them to leave for Frankia in 847. * The internal fighting over Dublin by the Norwegians and Danes and subsequent expulsion by Olaf the White. * Under Olaf the remaining Vikings assimilated in Irish political life. * Phases of involvement and the recapturing of the longphorts to due to opportunities form raiding England and Frankia declined. | Roesdahl, E. D.M Wilson (eds.), *From Viking to Crusader. The Scandinavians and Europe 800-1200* (New York,1992)  Graham-Campbell, J., *The Viking World* (London,2001)  Graham-Campbell, J.(ed) *Cultural Atlas of the Viking World* (Oxford,1994)  Haywood, J., *The Penguin Historical Atlas of the Vikings* (Oxford 1997)  Hall, R.A A-C (ed), T*he Vikings in Ireland* (Roskilde, 2001)  Johnson, R., *Viking Age Dublin* (Dublin, 2004) |

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