Why did the Vikings invade the British Isles?

Chronology: When did change happen?

What changed?
The power and impact of religion was weakened by the attacks.
Anglo-Saxon life was impacted by the threat of Viking raids.
What stayed the same?
People continued living in Britain.
Communities still needed food, homes and leaders.
Why did it change?
The Vikings targeted religious establishments so they could improve their wealth and gain valuables to trade.
Key idea: Change happened over time — it was not instant.

Settlers or Invaders: Who caused change?

What changed?
The Vikings were seafaring raiders who attacked monasteries.
Danelaw was introduced in the East and was part of England that followed Danish law.
What stayed the same?
People still farmed and built communities.
Leadership and protection were still important.
Why did it change?
The Vikings were aggressive at the start and various treaties were created to try and prevent further death.
The Vikings were not only interested in raiding the country and started to settle in some areas.
Key idea: The Vikings came to Britain for a multitude of reasons and not just to steal valuable items.

Settlements: How did people live?

What changed?
Monasteries and priories were damaged or destroyed by Viking raids.
Vikings started to settle and introduced new ways to defend settlements.
What stayed the same?
Farming remained important.
Trade continued.
Society still had different social groups.
Why did it change?
The Vikings were not just interested in stealing treasure and started to settle in areas of Britain.
The Vikings demonstrated a desire to leave a peaceful life in Britain and as a result Danelaw was created.

Religion: Why did beliefs change?

What changed?
Vikings raided and attacked priories and monasteries.
Some Vikings settled in the country and did not follow a religion.
What stayed the same?
Religion continued to be important in people's lives.
People looked to religion for guidance and meaning.
Why did it change?
More heathens settled in the country and were not influenced by religion.
Religious buildings were destroyed and followers were killed.
Key idea: Religious change happened slowly.

Evidence: Were the Vikings only focused on invading?

What changed?
Religious establishments were attacked and raided, which weakened the power it had in some areas.
Vikings started to settle down in areas of Britain and begun farming and trading with other tribes. Danelaw was established in the East.

What stayed the same?
Farming continued to be an important aspect of life in Britain.
Trade links remained in place.

Why did it change?
Danelaw was introduced to try and limit the Viking invasion of Britain.

Key idea: The Vikings were not solely focused on invading and demonstrated a desire to settle in Britain as peaceful farmers.

Legacy – What still affects us today?

Major trading hubs were created that are still used today.

Legal systems were introduced that have influenced modern implementation.

Linguistic developments have influenced modern language.