**Video analysis**

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated**A.**

This clip is from the first series of ***The Last Kingdom***, a television series based on Bernard Cornwell's ***The Saxon Stories***. It is historical fiction, set in Northumbria in the 9th Century.

This clip shows the Battle of York, the Danes form a shield wall, however the Anglo-Saxons appear to be unaware of this tactic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2LI9jc0EAI>

**A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generatedB.**

This clip is from ***Vikings*** an historical drama series created and written by Michael Hirst for the **History Channel**, it is based on the 9th Century Sagas of the Norse Viking hero Ragnar Lothbrok.

This clip shows a beach skirmish where a shield wall is used by a small number of experienced warriors.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTYz439cA5w&t=85s>

**A screenshot of a social media post

Description automatically generatedC.**

This clip is a promotional video for ***The Last Kingdom***, a television series based on Bernard Cornwell's ***The Saxon Stories***. (See clip **A**) The Stunt Coordinator explain how they represent a shield wall and warfare.

This clip demonstrates a number of historical inaccuracies, such as the use of cavalry, the square unpainted shields and the strange Testudo formation.

Read the **Carham Battle Tactics** sheet, then answer the following questions in full, detailed sentences.

# The article *How Historically Accurate is season 1 of The Last Kingdom?* <https://dailyhistory.org/How_Historically_Accurate_is_season_1_of_The_Last_Kingdom%3F> may be useful.

# Video Analysis Questions

* Explain what is shown in clip A.
* How are the warriors represented?
* What can we learn, from clip A about shield walls?
* What can you infer from clip A?
* What can you infer about warfare in the 11th Century from clip A?
* Explain why Clip A is a good representation of a shield wall.
* Explain why Clip A is a poor representation of a shield wall.
* Explain what is shown in clip B.
* How are the warriors represented?
* What can we learn, from clip B about shield walls?
* What can you infer from clip B?
* What can you infer about warfare in the 11th Century from clip B?
* Explain why Clip B is a good representation of a shield wall.
* Explain why Clip B is a poor representation of a shield wall.
* Explain what is shown in clip C.
* How are the warriors represented?
* What can we learn, from clip C about shield walls?
* What can you infer from clip C?
* What can you infer about warfare in the 11th Century from clip C?
* How far does Clip C explain why so many historical inaccuracies are shown?
* List the similarities and differences between clips A and B
* Which clip is the better representation of a shield wall?
* How far are these accurate representations of the shield wall tactic?
* How useful are these clips for an historian enquiring into warfare in the 11th Century?
* How useful are these clips for an historian enquiring into The Battle of Carham?
* Should TV companies use historical fiction to interpret battles?
* How far are these fair representations of warfare in the 9th Century?
* Is it fair to use historical fiction set in the 9th Century to interpret an 11th Century battle?
* What can we learn, from these clips, about re-enactment?
* What can we learn, from these clips about historical fiction?
* What can we learn, from these clips, about representations of 11th Century Warfare on TV?
* What can we learn, from these clips, about representations of 9th Century Warfare on TV?
* Explain which would be the most useful to an historian, these clips or the explanation from Carham2018.org.uk

**Tasks**

* Write a letter to the producers of The Last Kingdom, explaining how well they have represented a shield wall.
* Write a letter to the producers of Vikings, explaining how well they have represented a shield wall
* Produce a storyboard for a video clip, to show the formation, strengths and weaknesses of a shield wall.
* Produce your own video clip showing a shield wall and Boar’s Head formation.