***Portfolio Unit 1***

1. What have we done?

We introduced the Anglosaxon literature, with a general context; taking about the beginning, the society, their cultural life, the orality, characteristics of their poems as the metrical pattern, the themes, the collections… and the prose.

1. What have we learned?

We learned how the Heptarchy (7 kingdoms) affected the literature as it stablished unstable frontiers, it’s related with the origin of England and the English as a language.

Also, it’s really important to take into account that Anglo-Saxons were soon Christianised in Britain, and that’s why in the literature (clearly in poetry) there is a mix between the religious values and the pagan ones.

Therefore, there are some historical events as Vikings (plundering monasteries), King Alfred of Wessex (stopped the advance of the Danish great army, dividing England into 2 parts: English territories and Danelaw), the Danish army (defeated the English and the battle of Maldon) that could also affect.

We need to emphasize the orality as it was the begging of the literature: it was passed down from generation to generation with no substantial changes. Needing to talk in front of an audience makes some modifications in the poems as they used a simple syntax, was redundant, even repetitive to make it easy to remember and it avoided silences.

1. What do I find relevant?

What we learned it’s relevant nowadays as it’s the method to know about their beliefs, their society, the historical events… Because of the information that it’s hides between the lines.

There is one problem that it’s completely related with today’s problems, and it’s that many of the incidents were been told subjectively.

There some ways to deal with this: getting information from other points of view to try to be the most possible objective, as well as possible in that time, as nowadays, although it’s necessary, it’s easier.

1. Doubts and questions.

What I don’t understand completely it’s related with the themes. We have studied that in the poems there is a mixture of the pagan and Christian elements, but sometimes it’s difficult to make associations between them. Why don’t they just follow one of them? It would be easier if they make a poem just about the Christianity or the pagan, without combining them.

1. Using the model of the exam.

Question: Why do you think that there were problems about the authorship and anonymity?

There were problems about the anonymity because there were some topics that were controversial, and some authors didn’t want people to know their opinion, as they could have problems with that.

The problems with the authorship was related especially with the orality, because as it was passed down from generation to generation many of the times the author was eluded.