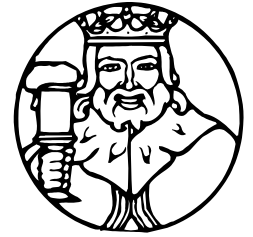


Why did William win in 1066?



Key Question 1: Did Harold rush in to things?

When William invaded Harold was in Yorkshire fighting the Vikings led by Hardrada. William had time to build a wooden castle at Pevensey near Hastings. Harold won the battle in the north and quickly marched his men back to the south. Some of his advisors told Harold to wait and let the men rest before they fought the Normans. It was also harvest time. Many of the men in Harold's army wanted to go home and gather in their crops. Other advisors told him to fight straight away because the Normans were burning villages near Hastings. The said a King should look after his people. Harold decided to fight the Normans straight away. Was this the correct decision?

Put the title Why did William win in 1066? at the top of your page. Remember to write down the date as well.

Task 1:

Write out the question: **Did Harold rush in to things?**

Use the paragraph at the top of the page to answer this question as fully as you can. If you think it was a **good** decision explain why. If you think it was a **bad** decision explain why.

Key Question 2: Was William army better equipped?

William had taken a lot of time to be ready to invade England. He had built many weapons for his soldiers. Many of the Norman soldiers were on horseback. They wore a lot of armour and used lances to attack the Saxon soldiers from a distance. Most of Harold's soldiers fought on foot. They had heavy shields and used swords. They found it difficult to attack the Normans on horses. The Norman archers used Longbows. They were quite big but easy to fire. A good archer could shoot 20 - 30 arrows a minute. The Saxons used Crossbows. They were very powerful and could shoot a long way. Crossbows were very hard to shoot and took a long time to reload. A good crossbow archer could shoot around 5 - 10 arrows a minute. Some of Harold's soldiers had battle-axes. They had to be used with both hands. They were very heavy but if swung well could kill people dressed in armour very quickly. They cut through armour more easily than a sword. Both sets of soldiers had swords.

Task 2:

Write out the question: **Was William's army better equipped?**

Use the above paragraph to decide who had the best weapons, the Normans or the Saxons. Remember to give at least **one** reason for your choice.



Key Question 3: Did William outwit Harold at Hastings?

The Battle of Hastings took place on 14th October 1066. Harold's men were on the top of a hill. This was the best position to fight in, as the Normans would have to attack uphill. This meant they were more likely to tire out first.

The Normans charged up the hill. The Saxon shield wall held against them. Many Normans were killed and they retreated.

The Normans then charged again. Then they ran away. The Saxons ran after them down the hill. It was a trick. William's soldiers turned round and started attacking Harold's soldiers. Many were killed.

Soon Harold and his brothers were killed. The Saxon soldiers ran away in defeat when they found out the king had died. Legend says an arrow in the eye killed Harold.

Task 3:

Write out the question: **Did William outwit Harold at Hastings?**



Use the above paragraph to decide if the Norman trick caused the Saxons to lose at Hastings.

Think back to the other questions. Are there any other reasons for the defeat?

Conclusion

Now put the heading CONCLUSION.

You need to write a paragraph explaining which of the three reasons for Williams win is the most important. Try to give at least two ways that reasons is the most important.



Here is a sentence to help you with this.

I think the most important reason why William won in 1066 is.....
This is because Also,.....