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# Yr 7 Assessment 1 - Why did William Win?

*Read the sources carefully and use these to help you to write the answer to the question. If you wish to follow the template provided, you may do so.*

*Source 1*

*“William’s army advanced steadily in good order. They carried the Pope’s banner proudly at their head. In front, William placed foot soldiers with crossbows and arrows; second came his heavily armed infantry, clad in hauberks (coats of mail): finally came the squadrons of knights. In their midst, William sat proudly astride his horse, controlling the whole army.*

*Harold’s army was a vast host, gathered from all the provinces of England and reinforced by their allies, the Danes. They did not dare to fight on equal terms, so they took up their position on a hill with a forest behind them. They dismounted and drew themselves up in close order on foot...*

*The Norman foot soldiers then attacked, in spite of the difficulty of the ground. They hurled spears and javelins at the English. The latter resisted bravely and returned the fire with spears, axes and stones. It seemed that our troops would be overwhelmed by the missiles.*

*Then our knights crashed into the enemy with their shields, anxious to use their swords at close quarters. The English remained on high ground and kept close order. They were also superior in numbers and in the way their spears broke our shields. Thus they pushed our knights down the hill.”*

*At this point the Normans thought William had been killed. He was nowhere to be seen. Suddenly!*

*“William stood boldly in front of those in flight. “Look at me well, I am still alive”. He restored their courage and our knights turned to face the following English and cut them down...*

*Heartened by their success our men marched up the hill a second time. They realized they would suffer heavy losses, but then remembered the trick of retreating. They turned around and pretended to die. Several thousand English quickly gave pursuit. The Normans suddenly turned their horses, surrounded the enemy and cut them down. Twice this trick was employed with great success and at last the English tired under constant pressure...” The Normans finally won the battle.*

*Written by a Norman soldier in 1071. He was not present at the battle, but he later became William’s chaplain (personal priest).*

*Source 2*

*“After the battle of Stamford Bridge, the King heard of Duke William’s arrival with a huge army at Pevensey. He marched with all haste to London. He knew that many of his men had died at Stamford Bridge and that much of his army had not yet arrived. Yet he continued with all speed into Sussex to meet his enemy. On 22nd October, before a third of his army had arrived, he joined battle with William. The English army had a very small space; and many soldiers, seeing the difficult position, deserted King Harold. Even so he fought bravely from dawn til dusk, and the enemy’s army made little impression upon him until, after a great slaughter on both sides, the King, alas, fell. Nearly all the barons of England died with him”.*

*Written by a Saxon monk, much later.*

Why did William win the Battle of Hastings?

# So, how am I going to answer this?

I’ll need to write an essay. This means putting together an argument about why William won by writing a number of paragraphs investigating aspects of the problem.

I will have to use evidence of what happened from the sources and explain why it happened in the essay. I can discuss different things in different paragraphs. At the end, I can give my conclusion on why William was able to win the battle.

# Perhaps I could start each paragraph something like this...

The Battle of Hastings was not a foregone conclusion. It could have gone either way, with Harold winning and William losing or vice versa. However, events before the battle did have an effect because... (I can discuss what had happened in the months and weeks before the battle that might have affected the outcome of it).

On the day of the battle, William’s good fortune was evident because... (I can consider things that were working in favour of William but not in favour of Harold).

William also showed skill and bravery too. This was shown by... (I can talk about the way that William and the Normans fought here that helped them win).

Harold was not doomed to lose from the very beginning though as... (I could discuss how Harold fought and how he might have won. I could also consider the mistakes or bad luck he suffered during the battle as well).

In conclusion, William won because... (I can explain the key reason(s) why William won here to finish. This should not just be opinion – I should be able to explain clearly why William won in the end).

# PHEW! – I RECKON THAT’S A GOOD ESSAY ANSWER!