

JS. 2 Why did William win the battle of Hastings?

The battle of Hastings was fought in October 1066 and was the result of two men fighting over the English throne. It is named the battle of Hastings because the two armies clashed near the town of Hastings. The two men fighting were Harold Godwinson, the ~~then~~ King of England at that time, and William of Normandy. Both men were great leaders but William would ultimately come out on top. We will now find out why.

To start with, William's army was well prepared for ~~the~~ the battle to begin with, bringing along cavalry, archers and an unbelievable amount of foot soldiers. This helped William to win easily after the Saxons shield wall was broken. Now that the Saxons were unprotected, the superior Norman troops quickly swarmed and slaughtered them.

One of the main factors of William's victory was his luck and fortunate timing. When the wind changed in William's favour and he could sail across the channel, Harold was busy fighting Harald Godwinson and his Vikings in the north. This meant that when William arrived, there were no soldiers there to give him trouble. By the time Harold had returned, William had been preparing for battle

for two weeks. This wasn't enough. Much of Harold's army was tired from the marching and were not very effective in battle. When the Saxons were unprotected from the shield wall, they were to try to put up a good fight, and so the Normans butchered them with ease.

~~William's secret to the Saxons~~
 One of the skills that shone out from William that day was his skills of leadership. Mixed with his trickery and tactical ~~history~~ genius, this made an almost unstoppable band. ~~He~~ He was well ~~to~~ ~~lead~~ ~~the~~ ~~armies~~ ~~from~~ the Saxons out of their last great tactical advantage and make them ~~ambushed~~ run into open field, ready to be slaughtered by the Normans. This, in many peoples opinion, is the main reason William won the battle.

Harold's mistakes were also a great contributor to his loss. Harold's archers not been left in the north, and Harold's army had not left the shield wall, much would have been different. Until the shield wall was broken, the Saxons appeared unbeatable and if it had not broken, the battle may have ended in Harold's favour. The breaking of the shield wall was definitely one of the main reasons William won the battle.