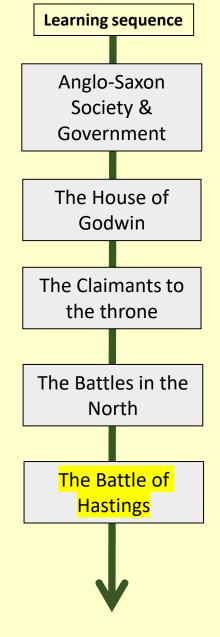
Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88.

KT1 – Anglo-Saxon Society and the Norman Conquest, 1060-66

Tier 3 Vocabulary	Definition
Cavalry	Soldiers on horseback
Manoeuvres	Special moves/ tactics used during a battle by troops.
Feigned retreat	Pretending to run away so that the enemy chased them and could be surrounded.
Elite	The best



1. Troops

Who will win: Anglo-Saxons or Normans?

Type of Soldier	Advantages	Disadvantages
Anglo-Saxon Housecarls		
Anglo-Saxon Fyrd		
Norman Knights		
Norman Archers		
Norman Foot soldiers		

Harold's housecarls

Housecarls: advantages

Housecarls: disadvantages

A disciplined shield wall protected housecarls against arrows and was very hard to break. The housecarls' heavy axes caused severe injuries and took down horses.

Depended on discipline and endurance. Once the shield wall was weakened, its advantages disappeared; opponents could charge through and cause chaos.

Weapons: javelin, long axe (1.3 m handle, big swing), sword. The housecarls were trained to swing their axes with such force that they could cut a horse's head off.

Elite skills: shield wall, longhandled axe; discipline and endurance. Harold's housecarls were the best foot soldiers in Europe. Would fight to the death to defend their king.

Shields: usually round, wooden shields with central metal boss. Housecarls formed the shield wall, with troops two or three lines thick behind it. Housecarls practised making a temporary gap in the wall for axemen behind to strike, then closing the wall again.

Armour: chain mail or metal plates sewn onto leather. Coneshaped helmet with nose-piece. Similar design to Norman armour.



Who will win: Anglo-Saxons or Normans? Harold's Anglo-Saxon Army

Fact file

Anglo-Saxon housecarls

Who were they?

Professional soldiers, highly trained, well paid and fiercely loyal to Harold.

How were they armed?

Their main weapon was a battle axe. The handle was a metre long and the axe head was made from sharpened iron. Óne swing of the axe could cut the head off a horse or split a man's head in half. Sometimes they used a double-edged sword. They carried shields, and wore short coats of chain mail and pointed iron helmets.

What were their tactics? In defence, they formed a shield wall. In attack, they swung their axes. They fought on foot.

Fact file

Anglo-Saxon fyrd

Who were they? Working men who were called up to help the king in time of danger. Led by the king's thegns, they were trained as fighters.

How were they armed?

The thegns had swords and spears and some were archers; the ordinary working men used their own farming tools like axes, pitchforks and scythes.

What were their tactics? The fyrd fought on foot and engaged the enemy in hand-to-hand fighting.

1. Troops

Who will win: Anglo-Saxons or Normans?



Type of Soldier	Adva	ntages		oisadvantages
Anglo-Saxon Housecarls				
Anglo-Saxon Fyrd				
Norman Knights				
Norman Archers				
Norman Foot soldiers				
	I Do	We Do	You Do	

William's knights

Gonfanon: a battle pennant used for signalling manoeuvres (a special move troops carry out).

Weapons: lance, also javelin, sword, mace.

Horse: specially bred to be strong enough to carry an armoured knight and trained for battle.
William had to bring his war horses (called destriers) across the Channel.

Knights: advantages

Devastating charges; height advantage for the mounted knight to strike downwards in combat.



Horses vulnerable to attack, advantage of charge lost when charging up hill.

Shield: kite-shaped, to protect left side and leg.

Armour: chain mail. Probably not onesie-style as shown in Tapestry but with flaps to cover legs. Coneshaped helmet with nose-piece.

Saddle, stirrups, spurs: the knights' saddles held them tightly in place on their horse so they could use their arms freely. The stirrups allowed them to stand in the saddle for a powerful lance-thrust; the spurs helped in manoeuvres.

Elite skills: years of training to fight on horseback, special manoeuvres.

William's Norman army

William's Norman army was very different from Harold's Anglo-Saxon one.

Fact file

Norman knights

Who were they? William's best soldiers, highly trained, well paid and loyal to William.

How were they armed? They had spears, swords and heavy iron clubs covered in spikes.

What were their tactics?

They charged at the enemy, riding on strong war horses, cutting down the enemy's foot soldiers.

Fact file

Norman archers

Who were they? Trained and well-paid members of the army.

How were they armed?
They had bows and arrows
but very little armour.

What were their tactics? They could fire up to six arrows a minute, killing a man from 180 metres away.



Fact file

Norman foot soldiers

Who were they? The main part of William's army.

How were they armed? They had swords and shields.

What were their tactics?
They went in for the kill after the knights and archers had done their work.

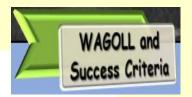


1. Troops

Who will win: Anglo-Saxons or Normans?



Type of Soldier	Advantages	Disadvantages
Anglo-Saxon Housecarls		
Anglo-Saxon Fyrd		
Norman Knights		
Norman Archers		
Norman Foot soldiers	I Do We Do	You Do



Describe two features of William's army at the Battle of Hastings.

This question is **worth 4 marks**. You get **2 marks per feature**.

A feature is something distinctive or characteristic e.g. one feature here might be the system of earldoms. Each feature needs a supporting detail. This is some specific information that shows you understand the feature.

Self-assess Have you included: □One clear feature of William's army at the Battle of Hastings □A supporting detail for the feature □Another clear feature of William's army at the Battle of Hastings □Another supporting detail

Describe two Hastings (4).	o features of William's army at the Battle of
One feature of	f William's army at the Battle of Hastings was
For example,	
Another featu	re of William's army at the Battle of Hastings was
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I Do We Do You Do