



Knowledge Organiser: Yr 7 History;

How did the crises of 1066 develop?

1066 - Who should be the next king of England?

Harold Godwinson:

Nationality: Saxon (English)

- * Most powerful man in England.
- * Promised the throne by Edward the Confessor.
- * Controls the army.
- * Brave and heroic fighter.



William Duke of Normandy:

Nationality: Norman (France)

- * Offered the throne by Edward the Confessor on his deathbed.
- * Godwinson said William should become king when Edward died.
- * Many powerful friends including the Pope.



Harald Hardrada

Nationality: Norwegian

- * King of Norway so have lots of experience as a leader.
- * believes he has the right to be King and want to rebuild Canute's great Viking empire.
- * Viking reputation of being fierce.



1

What were Harold Godwinson's first actions on becoming king (Battle of Gate Fulford)

- The Battle of Fulford was fought on the outskirts of the village of Fulford just south of York in England
- Fought on 20 September 1066, when King Harold Godwinson and Tostig Godwinson, his English ally, fought and defeated the Northern Earls Edwin and Morcar
- Tostig was Harold Godwinson's banished brother. He had allied with King Harald of Norway and possibly Duke William of Normandy.
- The earls of York could have hidden behind the walls of their city but instead they met the Viking army across a river.
- All day the English desperately tried to break the Viking shield wall but failed
- The battle was a victory for the Viking army.



2

Why is Stamford Bridge important to the events of 1066

- Fought on 25 September 1066, between an English army under King Harold Godwinson and an invading Norwegian force led by King Harald Hardrada and the English king's brother Tostig Godwinson.
- After a hard battle, both Hardrada and Tostig, along with most of the Norwegians, were killed.

3



Who had the best army at the Battle of Hastings?

Anglo-Saxon

Housecarls (trained soldiers)
The Fyrd (Ordinary people)

Norman

Knights (On horses)
Archers (Could fire arrows)



4

What happened at the Battle of Hastings?

- Fought on 14 October 1066 between the Norman army of William, the Duke of Normandy, and the Anglo-Saxon army of King Harold Godwinson, beginning the Norman conquest of England.
- Efforts of the Normans to break the English Shield Wall did not work
- The Normans adopted the tactic of pretending to flee (feigned retreat).
- The Saxons chased after them before the Normans turned around and attacked with their cavalry.
- The Norman Archers picked off many of the surviving Anglo-Saxons
- Harold's death, probably near the end of the battle, led to the retreat and defeat of most of his army.
- After further marching and some skirmishes, William was crowned as king on Christmas Day 1066.



5

Why did William win the Battle of Hastings?

- William's Tactics
- Harold's Mistakes
- Harold's Bad Luck
- William's leadership
- The Norman army was better



6

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