



Magdalen College School
7+ English Comprehension Sample Questions

An Extract from *The Battle of Hastings*



William's army had 8,400 men and they were much fitter, they also had trained on horseback. Harold's army did not have nearly as many men and didn't have men on horseback. When Harold heard the news he and his army raced down to meet them. The battle lasted about 18 hours and the Saxons made a big mistake. They broke the line of shields and the Normans fled. The Saxons raced down after them and as soon as they got down the Norman army turned around and started to slaughter them. Then William shouted, "Fire your arrows in the sky!" So the archers drew their bows and fired. Harold looked up and an arrow fell in his right eye and killed him. William was crowned king on Christmas day 1066.

Written by a Year 3 pupil from Magdalen College School, with questions devised by a pupil and teacher from the school

Artwork by a Year 3 pupil from Magdalen College School

1. What event is this passage describing?

_____ (1)

2. William's army had:

840 men 8,400 men

1,066 men 84 men (1)

3. What was William's army like?

_____ (2)

4. What was the Saxon army's big mistake?

_____ (2)

5. Into which eye did the arrow fall?

_____ (1)

6. What does the word 'slaughter' mean?

hug kill

carry crown (1)

7. Who was crowned king on Christmas Day 1066?

_____ (1)