

Can you make ten cards on different reasons William won the battle of Hastings? To include: European context, Normans in Sicily and the papal banner.

1. **Military Strategy and Tactics:** William employed innovative military tactics, such as the use of archers, infantry, and cavalry in a coordinated manner, which gave him an advantage over Harold's forces.
2. **Feudal System and Knights:** William's army was composed of well-trained knights who were bound by a feudal system, providing a disciplined and organized force.
3. **Papal Banner:** William received the blessing of the Pope and fought under the Papal Banner, which gave his cause a religious legitimacy and boosted morale among his troops.
4. **Norman Experience in Sicily:** Many of William's knights had gained combat experience in campaigns in Sicily, which provided them with valuable skills and battle-hardened expertise.
5. **Harold's Exhausted Troops:** Harold's army had just fought and won a significant battle against Norwegian invaders at Stamford Bridge, leaving them fatigued and at a disadvantage against William's fresh forces.
6. **Naval Superiority:** William's fleet was able to control the English Channel, denying Harold's forces any hope of reinforcement or resupply.
7. **Use of Defensive Shield Wall:** William's troops effectively utilized a shield wall formation, which provided them with superior defensive capabilities against the English forces.
8. **Psychological Warfare:** William's army used psychological tactics, such as feigned retreats, to lure Harold's forces into breaking formation, creating chaos on the battlefield.
9. **Divided English Forces:** Harold's army consisted of a mix of housecarls (professional warriors) and hastily gathered fyrd (militia), leading to potential issues with coordination and morale.
10. **Harold's Fatal Injury:** Harold was killed in the battle, which not only caused a significant loss of leadership for the English, but also demoralized his troops.