4a. Describe two key features of William’s troops at the Battle of Hastings

**(4 marks)**

**One key feature of William’s troops was the use of mercenaries. William had been given a papal banner to support his invasion and had used this to recruit soldiers for hire from across Normandy, France and Europe. He offered them a place in heaven in return for their swords.**

**Another key feature was his heavy cavalry. William had brought knights with him from Normandy who were highly trained. Their horses could bite and head-butt, and the men were trained in couching a lance to ensure maximum damage. They held it in a way that allowed the force to be concentrated at the tip of the spear.**

4b. Explain why there was a succession crisis in 1066.

**One reason why there was a succession crisis in 1066 was because of Edward the Confessor’s death. This was because during his reign, Edward was lauded as being a very strong Christian and as a result had taken a vow of celibacy. As a result, Edward and his wife Edith did not produce an heir to the English throne. Although Edward had identified an heir with Edward the Exile; he died in 1057. This caused a crisis because it meant there was no natural successor to Edward and the Witan were forced to look at various competing claims. In addition, Edward had promised the throne on his death bed to Harold Godwinson. This caused a crisis because it conflicted with previous deals involving the English throne. Namely that the throne should have passed to Harald Hardrada’s father rather than Edward. This heightened tension with the Norwegians.**

**Another reason was because Edward had promised multiple men the throne of England. This was because Edward had spent his teenage years in exile in Normandy. Whilst there he had formed a strong bond with his distant cousin William – the future Duke of Normandy. In 1066, William claimed that Edward had promised him the throne in return for his help in reclaiming England from the Vikings. This caused a crisis because it completely conflicted with Edward’s promise to Harold on his death bed. The Witan were therefore faced with two men who both claimed Edward had promised them the throne. This caused tension between the Kingdom of England and the Duchy of Normandy therefore heightening the succession crisis.**

**A final reason was because of Harold’s embassy to Normandy in 1065. This was because whilst on campaign with William, Duke of Normandy Harold allowed himself to manipulated. According to the Norman sources, such as the Bayeux Tapestry, Harold had sworn on holy relics to support Duke William’s claim to the throne of England. This caused a crisis because it gave William a legitimate claim to the throne of England, supported by the Church. It created tension because it meant the Witan would be faced by a potential Norman invasion in the event of Harold’s coronation which was becoming likely by January 1066.**

‘By 1075, William had a secure control of England’

How far do you agree?

You **must** also use information of your own. **(16 marks)**

**On the one hand William I did have a secure control of England by 1075. Feudalism had been introduced in the wake of early Saxon resistance to strengthen Norman control of the kingdom. Much like the previous hierarchy, the King was at the top followed by his lords, barons and finally peasants. William brought all land in England under control of the crown and introduced the concept of ‘tenants’. This allowed him to secure England as it meant all land was owned by him and if any of his ‘tenants’ acted against him he could use the land to control them by taking it off them. He also used it control people through the use of incentives e.g. the marcher earldoms which he gave to his followers in return for their support. Feudalism also introduced knight service to England. 6,000 knights were created in Norman England which allowed Norman lords to protect themselves and their property. This allowed William to secure England as it meant he could raise an army of professionally trained troops quickly in the event of an invasion or rebellion. He could use them to suppress any opposition in England such as with Hereward the Wake. All knights owed 40 days of service directly to the crown which boosted its strength further.**

**In addition to feudalism, William also used the Church to help him secure England. William introduced many reforms to the English Church which allowed him to use it as a tool to subjugate and control his kingdom. William oversaw all Church councils and his approval was needed for key decisions. He also appointed Archbishop Lanfranc who was had been run William’s monastery of St Stephens in Normandy. This allowed him to secure England as it meant the Church could promote the idea that William was the legitimate king. Also during rebellions, the Church would act to prevent the crown being toppled. An example of this can be seen during the 1075 rebellion when Lanfranc prevented support for the rebellion growing by excommunicating the rebels. Bishop Wolfsan also raised an army to prevent the various rebellious fractions from uniting.**

**However, William’s introduction of feudalism and other policies for controlling the kingdom often caused resentment and rebellions. Rebellions like that of 1075 are proof that by 1075 William did not have complete control of his new kingdom.**

**The revolt was caused by the king's refusal (in his absence – he had been in Normandy since 1073) to sanction the marriage between**[**Emma**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emma_de_Guader,_Countess_of_Norfolk)**(daughter of**[**William Fitzosbern, 1st Earl of Hereford**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Fitzosbern,_1st_Earl_of_Hereford)**and [Adelissa de Tosny](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Adelissa_de_Tosny&action=edit&redlink=1" \o "Adelissa de Tosny (page does not exist))) and**[**Ralph de Guader**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ralph_de_Guader)**,**[**Earl of East Anglia**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earl_of_East_Anglia)**in 1075. They married without his permission. Then, in William's absence, Ralph,**[**Roger de Breteuil, 2nd Earl of Hereford**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roger_de_Breteuil,_2nd_Earl_of_Hereford)**(his new brother-in-law), and [Waltheof, 1st Earl of Northumberland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waltheof,_1st_Earl_of_Northumberland" \o "Waltheof, 1st Earl of Northumberland) began the revolt;**[**[2]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revolt_of_the_Earls#cite_note-2)**but it was plagued by disaster.**The fact that two of William’s **own Norman earls raised their banners against their own king is proof that William did not have secure control of his kingdom. However, it should be noted that the way the church and crown worked collaboratively in dealing with this shows that William did have control as it Lanfranc and Wulfstan were able to crush the rebellion easily.**

**In conclusion it is clear that by 1075 William did have secure control of England. Feudalism allowed the crown to securely control all land and use it to keep tenants in chief in line. Although rebellions did often occur, such as in 1075, William’s policies ensured that the kingdom was kept secure. The Church and crown often worked in collaboration to ensure that all rebellion was swiftly put down. Although it may be argued that rebellions were symptoms of insecurity, the way it was swiftly dealt with adds support to the statement in question.**