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| Duke William’s army at Hastings | |
| Advantages | Disadvantages |
| * William’s troops had new tactics that had not been seen by Harold’s army before (e.g. mounted knights, feigned retreat) * His knights were heavily armoured, fast, and were trained to couch a lance for maximum damage. * All of his infantry were heavily armed with swords, shields and chainmail. * His archers could fire from long distances, at an enemy which were not armoured. * The Pope had blessed the army, so they were fighting with God on their side. | * They had to fight uphill, so knights and archers were not as effective. * Some of the foot soldiers were not as experienced as his mounted knights. * Norman soldiers were used to fighting wars of movement, so did not know how to deal with a shield wall. |

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| King Harold’s army at Hastings | |
| Advantages | Disadvantages |
| * His army was fighting on home ground, so knew the land. * His housecarls were battle hardened after years of fighting Vikings. * They had the best position, on top of the hill. | * The fyrd were bad disciplined and inexperienced. * They had no horses, so were grounded to fighting on foot with little movement. * His army were exhausted from walking the length of the country after Stamford Bridge. * Earls Morcar and Edwin were not there, so he didn’t have much support from Mercia and Northumbria. * He lacked archers, so could not do much damage to the enemy whilst defending their position. |

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| Duke William’s army at Hastings | |
| Advantages | Disadvantages |
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| King Harold’s army at Hastings | |
| Advantages | Disadvantages |
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Read through each fact below. In your book decide if it is a:

1. Strength of Harold’s army
2. Weakness of Harold’s army
3. Strength of William’s army
4. Weakness of William’s army

* The fyrd were bad disciplined and inexperienced.
* They had no horses, so were grounded to fighting on foot with little movement.
* His army were exhausted from walking the length of the country after Stamford Bridge.
* His housecarls were battle hardened after years of fighting Vikings.
* They had the best position, on top of the hill.
* He lacked archers, so could not do much damage to the enemy whilst defending their position.
* They had to fight uphill, so knights and archers were not as effective.
* Some of the foot soldiers were not as experienced as his mounted knights.
* William’s troops had new tactics that had not been seen by Harold’s army before (e.g. mounted knights, feigned retreat)
* His knights were heavily armoured, fast, and were trained to couch a lance for maximum damage.
* All of his infantry were heavily armed with swords, shields and chainmail.
* His archers could fire from long distances, at an enemy which were not armoured.