

# Grade 9 Answer

## Explain Importance

8  
Marks

### Question:

Explain what was important about the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

(8 marks)

### Answer:

The Battle of Hastings, fought on October 14, 1066, was crucial in establishing Norman control over England, fundamentally altering the country's political landscape. The battle resulted in the decisive defeat of King Harold II and his Anglo-Saxon army by William, the Duke of Normandy, who claimed the English throne based on a promise made to him by Edward the Confessor. This victory not only allowed William to become King of England but also marked the beginning of a new era of Norman rule. The successful use of cavalry, combined with tactical innovations such as feigned retreats, played a significant role in the Normans' victory, showcasing the effectiveness of their military strategies compared to those of the Anglo-Saxon forces. The aftermath of the battle led to the consolidation of power by the Normans and the establishment of a new aristocracy, effectively dismantling the Anglo-Saxon elite. Furthermore, the Battle of Hastings had lasting implications for English society and governance. Following his victory, William initiated a campaign known as the Harrying of the North to suppress rebellion and secure his reign, leading to significant social and economic changes across England. The defeat of the Anglo-Saxon nobility and the redistribution of land to Norman lords transformed the feudal system, which defined relationships between lords and vassals and restructured the social hierarchy. This shift not only altered landholding patterns but also influenced the legal and administrative systems in England, paving the way for the development of a centralized monarchy under Norman rule. Thus, the Battle of Hastings was pivotal not only for its immediate military outcome but also for its profound impact on the future of England, shaping its governance, society, and culture for generations to come.

### Feedback:

This answer would get 8/8 marks because the pupil has given a complex explanation of importance with detailed knowledge and understanding.

