QUESTION 2:
What military tactics gave the Mongols an upper-hand over their enemies?

**Document 1**

Source: Marco Polo, a Venetian traveler to China, 1298 CE

Their weapons are bows, iron maces, and in some instances, spears; but the bow is the weapon at which they are the most expert, being accustomed from childhood to employ it in their sports. They wear defensive armor made from buffalo and hides of other beasts...

They are brave in battle, almost to desperation, setting little value upon their lives, and exposing themselves without hesitation to all manner of danger. Their disposition is cruel.

**Document 2**

Source: Excerpts compiled from Mongol oral traditions, 13th century CE

Genghis Khan set out to fight the people of Northern China. ... When Jebe [one of Genghis Khan's generals] saw the Chinese fortress of Chu-yung Kuan was well-defended, he said to his troops: “I'll trick them and make them come out in the open. I’ll pretend to retreat and when they come out I’ll attack them.”

So Jebe retreated and the Chinese army cried: “Let’s go after them!”

The Chinese poured out of the fortress. ...Jebe retreated and then he turned his cavalry around to attack as the enemy rushed toward him in waves. ...

The Mongols killed the finest and most courageous soldiers of Northern China. Their bodies were piled up like rotten logs.

**Document 3**

Source: Marco Polo, a Venetian traveler to China, 1298 CE

They can live for a month on the milk of their mares. Their horses are fed upon grass alone and do not require barley or other grain. The men are trained to remain on horseback for two days and two nights without dismounting. No people on earth can surpass them in fortitude under difficulties, nor show greater patience under wants of every kind.
**Document 4**

Source: excerpt from Juvaini, a Persian historian, 13th century CE

Throughout the length and breadth of the land, they [the Mongols] established yams [rest stations], and made arrangements for the upkeep and expenses of each yam, assigning thereto a fixed number of men and beasts, as well as food, drink, and other necessities.

**Document 5**

Source: Genghis Khan

Those who were adept and brave fellows I have made military commanders. Those who were quick and nimble I have made herders of horses. Those who were not adept I have given a small whip and sent to be shepherds.

**Document 6**

Source: excerpt from Juvaini, a Persian historian, 13th century CE

They [the Mongols] have divided all the people into companies of ten, appointing one of the ten to be the commander of the nine others; while from among each ten commanders one has been given the title of “commander of the hundred”, all the hundred having been placed under his command. And so it is with each thousand men and so also with each ten thousand, over whom they have appointed a commander whom they call “commander of the tumen”. In accordance with this arrangement, if in an emergency any man or thing be required, they apply to the commanders of the tumen; who in turn apply to the commanders of the thousands, and so on down to the commanders of tens. There is equality in this; each man toils as much as the next, and no difference is made between them, no attention being paid to wealth or power.