1. **Breaking Tribal Connections**

Genghis Khan did not trust individual tribes, so when he organised the army he mixed up the tribes. He also chose leaders because of their talents and loyalty, not because of their position in a tribe. E.g. Jebe the Arrow Prince was made a General after wounding Genghis with an arrow.

1. **Organisation of the Army**

Genghis Khan created a structure that allowed it to be flexible. The Mongol soldiers were put into groups of multiples of 10. Each group had a leader. The Mongol army could attack all together, then split into smaller groups to circle around the enemy and ambush them. They could also break down into smaller groups to find fleeing opponents.

Tymen - 10,000 man division  
Minghan - 1,000 man regiment  
Jagun - 100 man squadron  
Arban - 10 man unit

1. **The Soldiers**

Tough, well disciplined and respectful soldiers. The Mongol soldiers could go on an extended campaign without getting tired, with little food and supplies. Marco Polo said that when the Mongols became hungry they would open a vein on their horse’s neck and drink the blood. Although Khan's army was small (100,000 to 125,000 Mongols) he owed his success to quality not quantity.

1. **Strategy and Tactics**

The Mongols’ main strategy was their precise planning. They would advance into battle in three separate columns. The columns at the side would spread terror and eliminate small armies. The columns would then unite to defeat the main enemy.

A favourite Mongol tactic was the feigned retreat (pretending to run away). This tactic encouraged their enemy to chase them and the Mongols would lead them into a trap. E.g. In 1223 the Mongols made the Russians chase them for 9 days before leading them into a trap at the Battle of the Kalka River.

1. **Mongol War Equipment**

Protective shield - strong to stop arrows, swords and knives breaking through.  
Chinese silk underwear - the arrows would not pierce the silk. It also stopped poison from getting into the bloodstream.  
Outfits - Wool, heavy leather boots, iron plates which looked like fish scales.  
Weapons - battle axe, curved sword.  
Re-curved bow - one was light which was fired from horseback, the other was heavier and designed for use on the ground.

1. **Psychological Warfare**

If enemies surrendered without fighting back, the Mongols spared their lives. They treated the captured well if they had a skill the Mongols could use for their benefit. However, if the enemy resisted the Mongols slaughtered whole populations, sparing only a few lives so they could spread the word that the Mongols were powerful and strong.

The Mongols also used the deterrence of the Black Tent

* White Ger - grace period for leaders to surrender and spare their city and its citizens.
* Red Ger - the city would be spared but the soldiers would be killed.
* Black Ger - Death of every citizen within the city walls.

The Mongols were good at intimidating their enemy, it was a key tactic. The spread of fear would hopefully mean many would surrender and the Mongols would not have to attack every city.

1. **Mobility**

The Mongols had a sophisticated mail system which allowed orders to be given across Eurasia. Mongol horsemen were among the best mobile forces, sometimes travelling 62 miles a day to surprise the enemy. Speed and surprise and intelligence gave Genghis Khan great advantage. Mongols grew up riding horses; they were very talented and cold shoot an arrow at full gallop.

1. **Capturing Walled Cities**

The first step to capturing walled cities was to surround (lay siege) smaller villages and towns. This helped the Mongols gather slaves easily. The other advantage was those who escaped fled to the bigger cities, which weakened the city as they would use up the limited food and water. The Mongols would then move to the bigger cities and would surround it. They would wait outside the wall and starve the city out. The Mongols used their nomadic lifestyle to adapt to life anywhere. They had their own beds with them and their own families travelled with them too. The slaves they captured were employed to do the hard work. If they tried to escape they were caught and executed.

They Mongols were quick learners and embraced new technology. They used catapults, trebuchets, ladders and battering rams to try and breakdown the cities. They would attack the city with boulders, fire arrows, and bombs made of human fat! Sometimes, they would even use the trebuchet to throw diseased dead bodies over the walls. They did not stop their attack until they broke through the wall.

1. **Battle formations**

5 Squadrons spread wide apart. The two ranks at the front had the heaviest armour, the three ranks behind were used to harass the enemy with relentless arrows. The 5 squadrons would then circle round the enemy to stop them escaping. They would then compete in close combat, but by this point the enemy was tired, and disorganised so the Mongols were able to defeat them.