

**ADVANCED GCE**

**2461**

**ANCIENT HISTORY (JACT)**

Document Study 2: Roman World

Britain Through Roman Eyes

**WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE 2008**

Morning

Time: 1 hour 15 minutes

**Additional materials (enclosed):** None

**Additional materials (required):**  
Answer Booklet (8 pages)



**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Write your name in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided on the Answer Booklet.
- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Write your answers, in blue or black ink, in the Answer Booklet provided.
- Answer **two** questions.
- You may choose **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2. **All candidates must answer Question 3\*.**
- In answering the (b) sub-question of each question answered, you are expected throughout the paper to draw together the historical knowledge and skills acquired over the course as a whole, and to demonstrate overall historical understanding. You may make reference, where appropriate, to relevant material covered elsewhere in the course.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

- The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each part question.
- The total mark for this paper is 100.
- Up to 10 marks will be awarded for clarity of expression, structure of arguments, presentation of ideas, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.

## Britain Through Roman Eyes

Answer **two** questions. You may choose **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.  
**You must answer Question 3\*.**

In answering the question (b) sub-question, you are expected throughout the paper to draw together the historical knowledge and skills acquired over the course as a whole, and to demonstrate overall historical understanding. You may make reference, where appropriate, to relevant material covered elsewhere in the course.

- 1** Read the extract and then answer **both parts** of the question which follows. You are expected to refer to the extract and to use your own knowledge in your answers.

In due course about eighty transports, which Caesar considered sufficient to convey two legions, were obtained and assembled, and also a number of warships, which were assigned to the quaestor, the generals, and the officers of the auxiliary troops. Besides these there were eighteen transports at a point eight miles along the coast, which were allotted to the cavalry. The remainder of the army was entrusted to Sabinus and Cotta, with orders to march against the Menapii and those clans of the Morini which had not sent envoys. Another general, Publius Sulpicius Rufus, was ordered to hold the harbour and was given a force considered adequate for the purpose. 5

After the completion of these arrangements, Caesar took advantage of favourable weather and set sail about midnight, ordering the cavalry to proceed to the farther port, embark there, and follow him. As these conducted the operation too slowly, their transports were carried back to land by the tide. Caesar himself reached Britain with the first ships about nine o'clock in the morning, and saw the enemy's forces posted on all the hills. The lie of the land at this point was such that javelins could be hurled from the cliffs right on to the narrow beach enclosed between them and the sea. Caesar thought this a quite unsuitable place for landing, and therefore rode at anchor until three o'clock, in order to give the rest of the ships time to come up. Meanwhile he assembled the generals and military tribunes and, telling them what he had learned from Volusenus, explained his plans. 10  
15  
20

Caesar, *Gallic War* 4.22–23

[Caesar, *The Conquest of Gaul*, trans. S. A. Handford, revised J. F. Gardner; Penguin]

- (a) How useful is this passage in helping to assess how prepared Caesar's forces were to undertake the first expedition to Britain? [20]
- (b) On the basis of this passage and your own knowledge and understanding, how reliable are Caesar's own accounts of his plans for invading Britain in 55 and 54 BC? [25]

[Total: 45]

- 2 Read the extract and then answer **both parts** of the question which follows. You are expected to refer to the extract and to use your own knowledge in your answers.

The whole army was now united. Suetonius kept it under canvas to finish the war. The emperor raised its numbers by transferring from Germany two thousand regular troops, which brought the ninth division to full strength, also eight auxiliary infantry battalions and a thousand cavalry. These were stationed together in new winter quarters, and hostile or wavering tribes were ravaged with fire and sword. But the enemy's worst affliction was famine. For they had neglected to sow their fields and brought everyone available into the army, intending to seize our supplies. Still, the savage British tribesmen were disinclined for peace, especially as the newly arrived imperial agent Gaius Julius Alpinus Classicianus, successor to Catus Decianus, was on bad terms with Suetonius, and allowed his personal animosities to damage the national interests. For he passed round advice to wait for a new governor who would be kind to those who surrendered, without an enemy's bitterness or a conqueror's arrogance. Classicianus also reported to Rome that there was no prospect of ending the war unless a successor was appointed to Suetonius, whose failures he attributed to perversity – and his successes to luck.

So a former imperial slave, Polyclitus, was sent to investigate the British situation. Nero was very hopeful that Polyclitus' influence would both reconcile the governor and agent and pacify native rebelliousness. With his enormous escort, Polyclitus was a trial to Italy and Gaul. Then he crossed the Channel and succeeded in intimidating even the Roman army. But the enemy laughed at him. For them, freedom still lived, and the power of ex-slaves was still unfamiliar. The British marvelled that a general and an army who had completed such a mighty war should obey a slave.

Tacitus, *Annals* 14. 38

[Tacitus, *The Annals of Imperial Rome*, trans. M. Grant; Penguin]

- (a) How useful is this passage in explaining Roman policy in Britain following the Boudiccan rebellion? [20]
- (b) On the basis of this passage and your own knowledge and understanding, how reliable do you consider Tacitus' accounts of the relations between Romans and Britons? [25]

[Total: 45]

- 3\* Read the extracts and then answer **both parts** of the question which follows. You are expected to refer to the extracts and to use your own knowledge in your answers.

- A Throughout this peculiar combat, which was fought in front of the camp in full view of everyone, it was seen that our troops were too heavily weighted by their armour to deal with such an enemy: they could not pursue them when they retreated and dared not get separated from their standards. The cavalry, too, found it very dangerous work fighting the charioteers; for the Britons would generally give ground on purpose and after drawing them some distance from the legions would jump down from their chariots and fight on foot, with the odds in their favour. In engaging their cavalry our men were not much better off: their tactics were such that the danger was exactly the same for both pursuers and pursued. A further difficulty was that they never fought in very close order, but in very open formation, and had reserves posted here and there; in this way the various groups covered one another's retreat and fresh troops replaced those who were tired. 5 10

Caesar, *Gallic War* 5.16

[Caesar, *The Conquest of Gaul*, trans. S. A. Handford, revised J. F. Gardner; Penguin]

- B They fight both in chariots with small, quick horses, and on foot, when they run very fast and also stand their ground with great determination. Their arms are a shield, and a short spear with a bronze apple on the end of the shaft, which they can shake and make a din with to dismay the enemy, and they also have daggers. They can endure hunger and cold and any form of hardship; for they plunge into the marshes and hold out for many days with only their heads above water, and in the forest they live off bark and roots; and for any crises they prepare a sort of food, and when they have eaten a portion of this the size of a bean they do not become hungry or thirsty. 5

Dio 76.12.3–4

[LACTOR 11]

- (a) To what extent do these two accounts vary in their presentation of the military qualities of Britons? [20]
- (b) On the basis of these passages and your own knowledge and understanding, how reliable are the accounts of the Britons' military practices in Greek and Roman sources? [25]

[Total: 45]

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