

WJEC Level 1 Certificate
in
Latin Language and Roman Civilisation

Prescribed source material
for
Topic 2: Roman Britain

Summer 2021, Summer 2022 and Summer 2023

This is the official prescribed source material booklet for the
WJEC Level 1 Certificate in Latin Language and Roman Civilisation

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Introduction

This booklet is designed to support teaching and learning for Unit 9512 (Roman Civilisation Topics) of the WJEC Level 1 Certificate in Latin Language and Roman Civilisation.

Two topics are prescribed in each examination and candidates are required to answer the questions on one topic. The topic Roman Britain is set for examination in Summer 2021, Summer 2022 and Summer 2023.

In the examination, each topic contains two sections. Section A contains several short questions based on one or more sources (stimulus pictures, inscriptions or short passages from Roman authors in translation). Section B will contain four questions, of which candidates should answer two, requiring empathetic responses.

This booklet contains all the sources which may be used in Section A of the Level 1 examination for the topic Roman Britain. Following each source is a short list of bullet points. These bullet points fulfil two functions:

- 1) They give further information about the source which candidates are expected to know;
- 2) They give a flavour of the level of deduction that a candidate may be expected to make from the source.

In each case, candidates need not restrict themselves to the information about, or deductions from, the source given in this booklet. All valid responses will be rewarded.

Should you have any queries regarding the use or status of this booklet, please contact the Subject Officer for Latin at WJEC via latin@wjec.co.uk.

The early years

Source 1: A map of Britain in the first century AD



About this source:

- This map shows Britain soon after the Romans arrived.
- The main roads which the Romans built are Watling Street from Londinium (London) to Viroconium (Wroxeter) and the Fosse Way from Isca (Exeter) to Lindum (Lincoln).
- The map shows the metals which the Romans mined.
- Some of the most important British tribes such as the Cantici and the Regnenses are also marked.

Source 2: An extract from the writings of the Roman historian Cassius Dio

Two cities were sacked, 80,000 Romans and their allies were killed, and the island was lost to the Romans. What made matters worse was that all this ruin was brought about by a woman; this in itself was something to be deeply ashamed of.

This woman was Boudica, a Briton of royal family. The rebels considered her to be their ablest leader. She was much more intelligent than women usually are. She was very tall, and she looked terrifying with a fierce glint in her eyes and she had a raucous voice. A great mass of startling yellow hair hung down to her hips. Around her neck she had a huge torque of gold and she wore a dress of many colours with a thin cloak over it pinned together with a brooch. This was the way she normally dressed. She had gathered together an army of about 120,000 men.

About this source:

- Cassius Dio describes a rebellion against the Romans.
- The rebellion was led by Boudica, the British queen of the Iceni.
- The two cities which her troops sacked were Colchester and London.
- In the end the Romans crushed the rebellion, and Boudica took poison and died.

Source 3: An extract from the writings of the Roman historian Tacitus

Boudica's husband, Prasutagus, had been the king of the Iceni. He lived a long life and was famous for his great wealth. In his will he had named Caesar and his two daughters as co-heirs. He did this thinking that it would mean that his kingdom and his family would be safe when he died.

What happened was quite the opposite, for his kingdom was ravaged by centurions and his house by slaves, just as if they were the spoils of war.

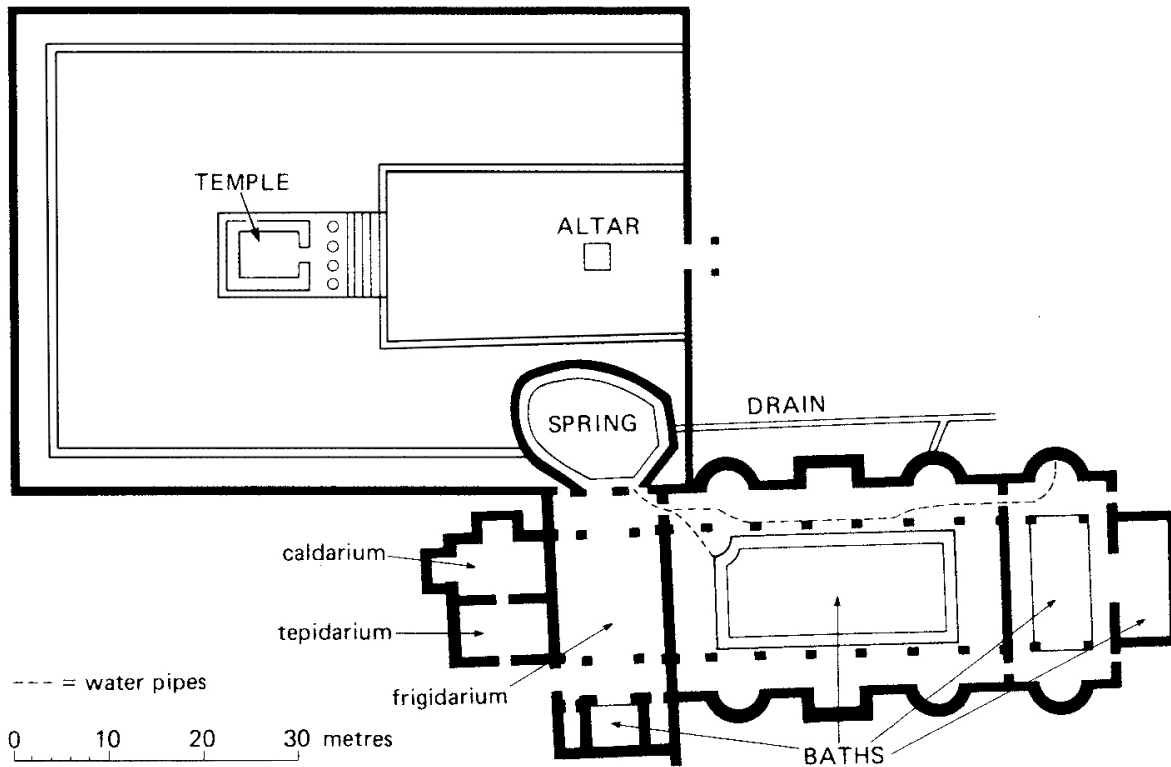
To begin with Boudica was flogged and her daughters were raped. It was as if the whole territory had been presented to the Romans as a gift. All the chief men of the Iceni had their ancestral farms taken away from them and the king's own family were treated like slaves. Infuriated by these outrages and by the fear of worse to come now that the area had been made part of the province, they urged the Trinobantes to join them along with other tribes which were not yet broken by slavery and which were plotting with them to get back their freedom. They particularly hated the Roman veterans who had recently been settled at Camulodunum. These veterans had evicted the natives from their own homes, and had driven people from their own lands calling them 'captives' and 'slaves'. They were encouraged in this by the soldiers who looked forward to enjoying the same benefits themselves when they retired. To make matters worse the temple which had been built in honour of the divine Claudius constantly stared them in the face as a stronghold of permanent tyranny. Natives were chosen to be priests of this temple and they were expected to pour all their wealth into doing the job. There did not seem to be any great difficulty in destroying the settlement, for it had no walls to protect it. That was a point which our Roman generals had neglected. They had not bothered to build any, for they thought more of luxuries than of necessities.

About this source:

- Tacitus describes how the Romans dealt harshly with Boudica's kingdom and her family.
- He describes how the Romans punished Boudica's family and the chiefs of the Iceni.
- The reasons for the rebellion included British hatred of the Roman veterans who had settled in Camulodunum (Colchester).
- The Britons also hated the temple which the Romans had built at Colchester because it was a symbol of Roman oppression.

Bath

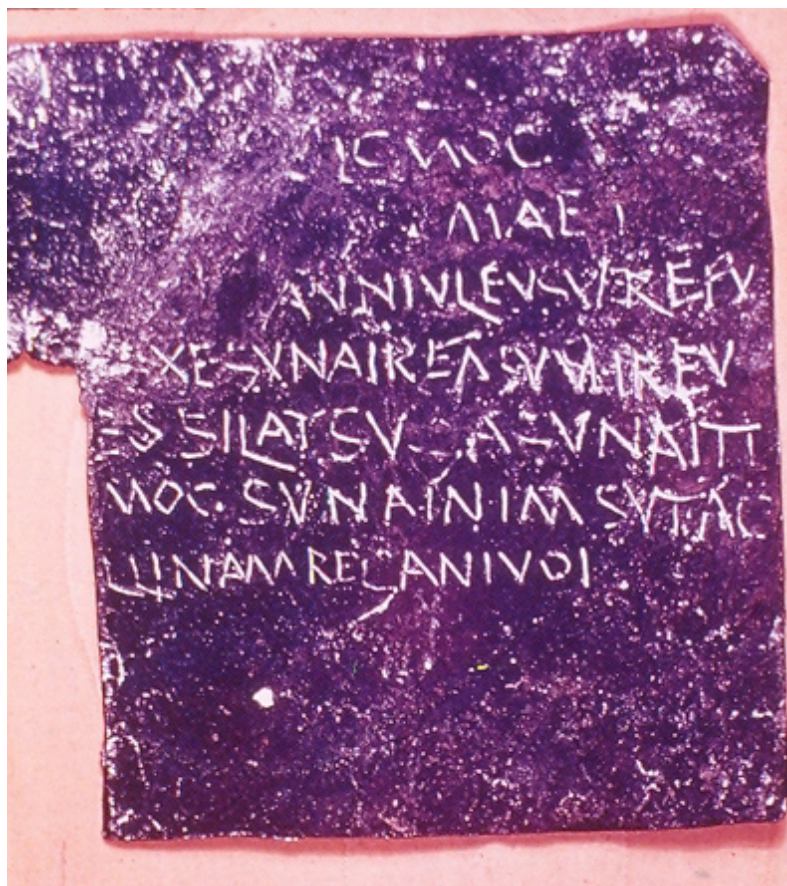
Source 4: A plan of the baths and temple complex of Roman Bath



About this source:

- This plan shows the buildings around the hot spring at Bath.
- The spring water containing minerals filled the various pools in the baths complex, including the large bath at the centre.
- Many people came to bathe in the waters in the hope of a cure for all kinds of illnesses.
- Inside the complex was a temple in honour of Sulis Minerva, a goddess thought to have healing powers.

Source 5: A curse tablet, found at Roman Bath



The inscription is written backwards and says:

"May he who has taken my Vilbia dissolve like water. May she who has devoured her be struck dumb, whether it be Velvinna, Exsupereus, Verianus"

About this source:

- Curse tablets were written on small sheets of lead or pewter.
- They were placed in a spring or well, or nailed to a tomb.
- The curse was written backwards, a common feature of curse tablets.
- It mentions the crime and asks for the criminal to be punished.

Source 6: A statue base with an inscription, found at Roman Bath



The inscription says:

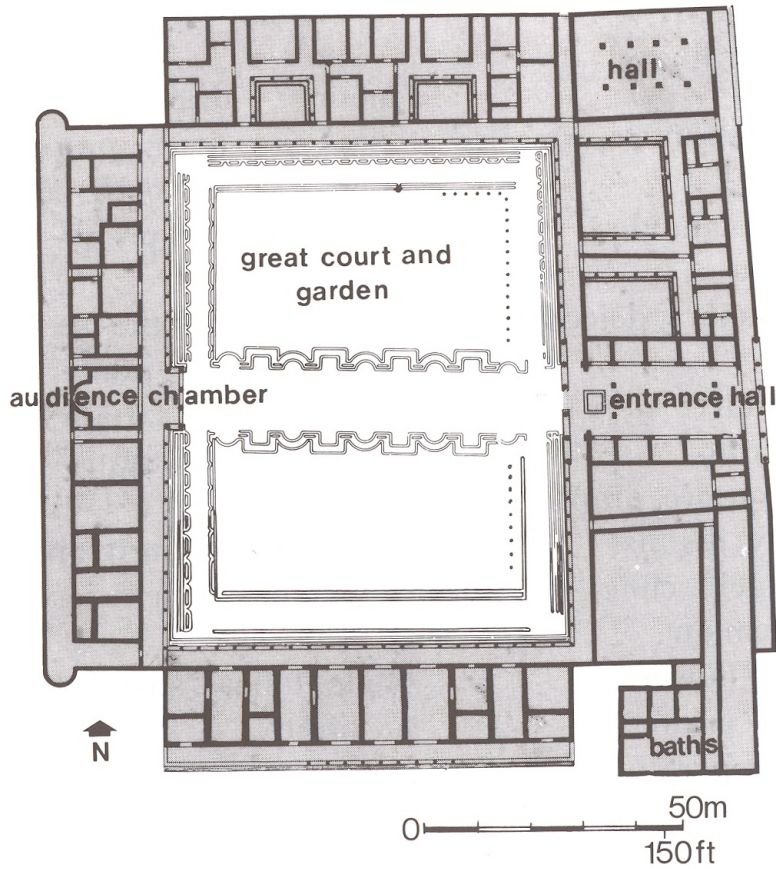
“Lucius Marcius Memor, soothsayer, gave this as a gift to the goddess Sulis.”

About this source:

- Lucius Marcius Memor put up a statue in honour of the goddess Sulis. This is the base of the statue recording his gift.
- He was a soothsayer, a person whose role was to foretell the future.
- He did this by inspecting the liver of sacrificial animals.
- The Romans linked the Celtic goddess Sulis with their own goddess Minerva and this encouraged the Britons to recognise Roman gods and goddesses.

Cogidubnus and Fishbourne Palace

Source 7: A plan of the palace at Fishbourne



About this source:

- This palace may have belonged to the British king Cogidubnus.
- It was built in about AD 75, possibly to reward him for his loyalty to the Romans.
- The rooms were arranged in four wings around a central garden.
- The palace had some impressive features such as the audience chamber and the entrance hall.

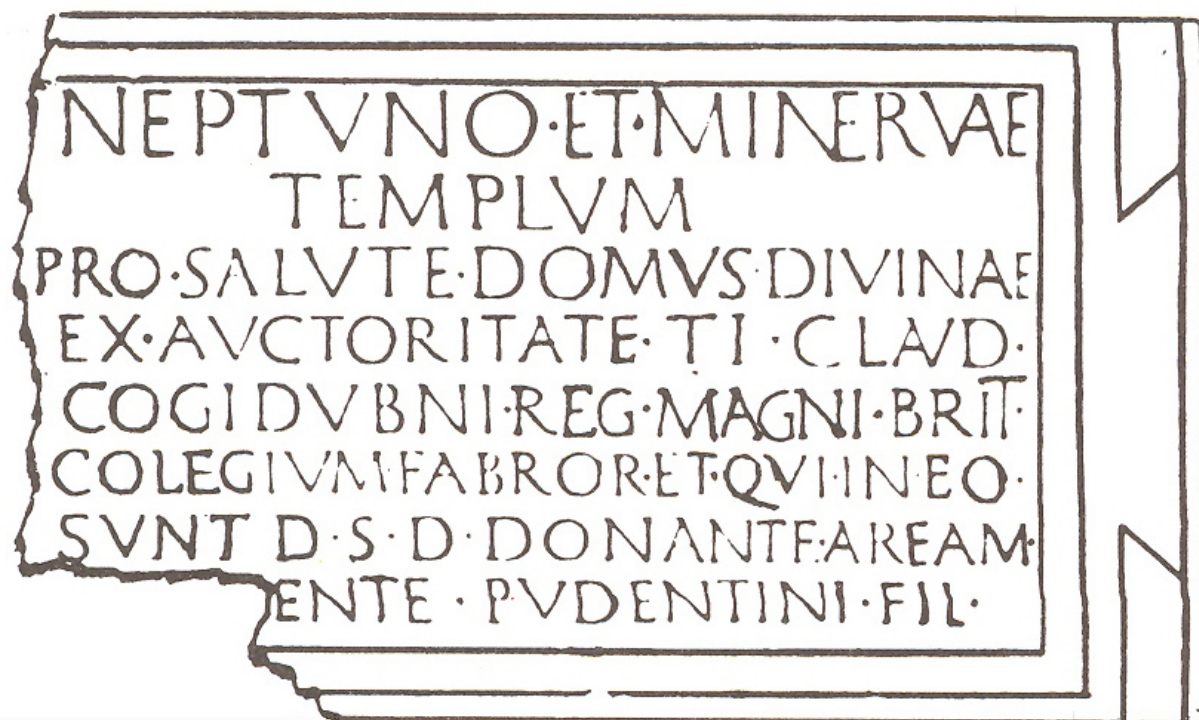
Source 8: A model of the palace at Fishbourne



About this source:

- This is how the palace at Fishbourne may have looked.
- It has a large Italian-style garden at the centre.
- The harbour and roads at Fishbourne probably date from the time of the Roman invasion.
- The remains of buildings and armour found here suggest the presence of Roman soldiers.

Source 9: A reproduction of an inscription from a Roman temple in Chichester



The inscription says:

“To Neptune and Minerva, for the welfare of the divine house, by the authority of Tiberius Claudius Cogidubnus, Great King of the Britons, the Guild of Smiths and those in it gave this temple at their own expense. ...ens, son of Pudentinus, presented the forecourt.”

About this source:

- This inscription records that King Cogidubnus gave instructions for a temple to be built.
- Cogidubnus has three names which is a sign that he had been given Roman citizenship.
- Two of his names, Tiberius and Claudius, are names of Roman emperors. This suggests his loyalty to Rome.
- He worships Neptune and Minerva, Roman gods.

Source 10: A mosaic from the palace at Fishbourne



About this source:

- The palace floors were covered with elegant mosaics.
- In the mosaic Cupid rides on a dolphin surrounded by sea creatures.
- All the decoration and materials used in the palace were of a very high quality.
- Craftsmen and materials were brought in from Italy.

Country villas and farming

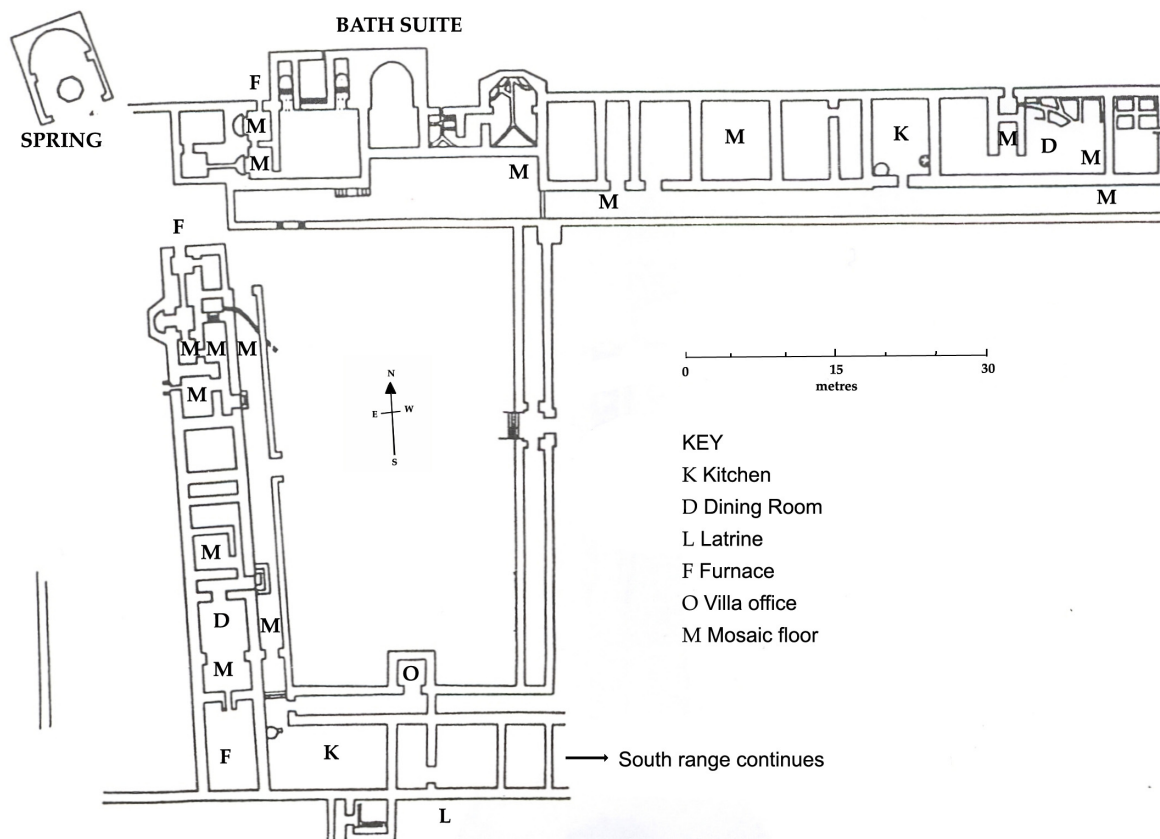
Source 11: A Roman wall-painting of a villa



About this source:

- This painting shows two slaves working in the garden of a country villa.
- The villa is built of stone and has a covered walkway or colonnade linking two parts of the house.
- The figure on the left is probably the bailiff or head slave who supervises the slaves' work, or it may be the master himself who has come to inspect his farm.
- For protection against the weather he wears a hooded cloak.

Source 12: A plan of Chedworth Roman villa



About this source:

- This large villa was built around a courtyard or garden in the second century AD.
- It had more than thirty rooms, many with mosaic floors. The owner was clearly very wealthy.
- Many rooms were also decorated with painted plaster.
- This villa was also a farm and there would have been outbuildings for animals and barns for storage.

Source 13: The north wing of Chedworth Roman villa



About this source:

- This is a view of what remains of the north wing of the villa.
- The building was constructed mainly of local stone.
- Several rooms in the wing had underfloor heating, including the large additional dining-room at the far end of the wing.
- The kitchen, next to the dining-room, was identified because an oven, some broken dishes and a stone for grinding flour were found there.

Source 14: An extract from the writings of the Roman author Columella

The villa should be built on a little hill so that, when the rain comes pouring down the hillside, the foundations won't be washed away. Inside the farm enclosure there should be a spring and a clump of trees nearby to provide wood and fields in which to pasture the animals. If there is no running water you should look for a well close by.

About this source:

- Columella gives advice on the best place in which to build a villa.
- The villa should be on raised ground.
- It must be near a water supply.
- There should be fields for the animals.

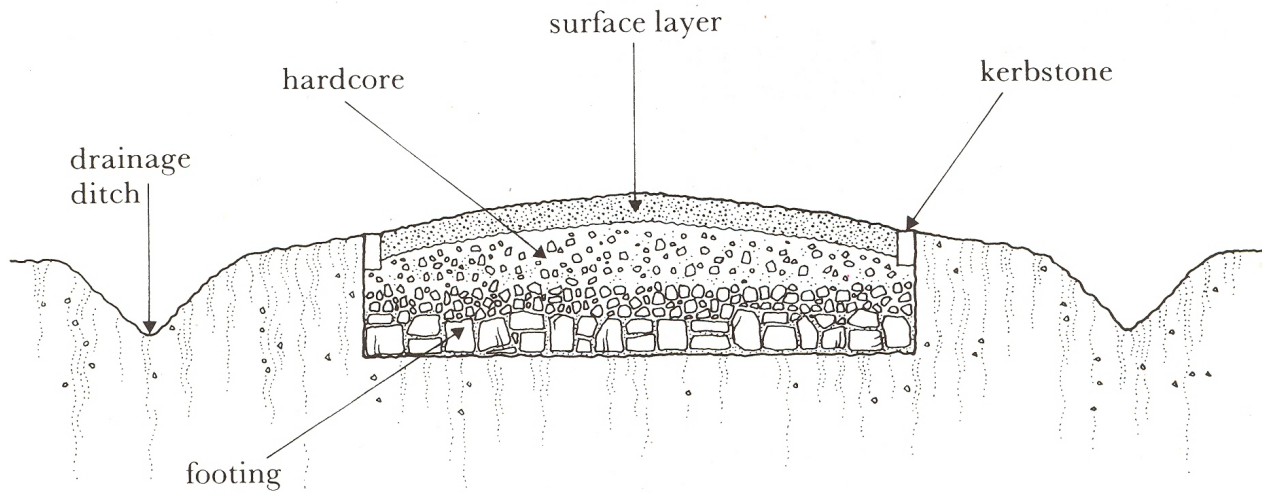
Source 15: An extract from the writings of the Roman author Columella

He (the bailiff) must look after the farm equipment and the tools. He must keep in good repair in the store room all the tools the slaves need. He must organise the slaves' clothing, which should protect them from the wind and the rain. The best clothes are leather tunics with long sleeves or cloaks with hoods. He should be first out of bed in the morning, as it is most important that the slaves begin work at the crack of dawn and get on with it without slacking.

About this source:

- Columella lists the jobs of the bailiff who is in charge of the farm when the owner is absent:
 - He is responsible for the farm equipment.
 - He must make sure that the slaves remain healthy.
 - He organises the slaves' work and makes sure that they work hard.

Source 16: A cross-section of a Roman road



About this source:

- This diagram shows that the surface of a Roman road was curved to allow water to run off.
- There were also drainage ditches on either side.
- Large stones in the footing provided a firm foundation for the road.
- The surface consisted of a layer of large, flat stones or smaller flint stones to ensure that it was as smooth and level as possible.

Source 17: The Appian Way, near Rome



About this source:

- The Appian Way was one of the most important roads in Italy; it was the equivalent of the M1 motorway in the UK today.
- It ran from Rome to Brindisi, the port where ships set sail for Greece.
- Roman roads in Britain were very similar.
- The surface of the road was made of large flat stones so that it was smooth to travel on.
- There is a kerbstone at the side of the road.

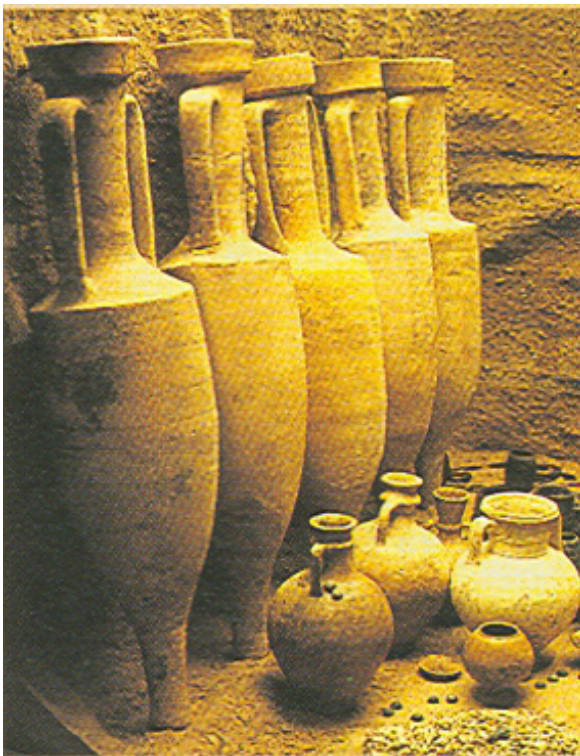
Source 18: A reconstruction of a carving of a light Roman carriage



About this source:

- Travellers over land either walked, rode horses or mules, or used carts or carriages like this one.
- By carriage travellers could cover 25-30 miles a day.
- Journey times were affected by the condition of the roads and the weather.
- The Romans transported goods throughout Britain using carts and carriages.

Source 19: Roman amphorae and other containers



About this source:

- Amphorae or wine storage jars and other smaller containers made from clay have been found in Britain.
- They provide evidence of trade between Rome and distant parts of the empire.
- Their shape enabled them to be stowed conveniently on board ships.
- The smaller containers could have held liquids such as oil or fish sauce from the Mediterranean.

Source 20: An Antonine Wall distance slab



About this source:

- This carved slab of stone records a length of the Antonine Wall constructed by the Second Legion. The Antonine Wall ran from the Forth to the Clyde in Scotland,
- A Roman cavalryman is stabbing the British enemy with his spear.
- The cavalryman can be seen wearing a crested helmet and a cloak. Under his cloak he would have worn a breastplate and a dagger.

Source 21: Writing on lead water-pipes from Chester



The text reads:

“Made in the ninth consulship of the Emperor Vespasian and in the seventh of the Emperor Titus, in the governorship of Gnaeus Iulius Agricola.”

About this source:

- This inscription is on lead water-pipes from the Roman fort at Chester.
- It tells us that Agricola was the governor of the province of Britain.
- The date of his governorship must have included the year AD 79, because that is when Vespasian was consul for the ninth time and Titus for the seventh.

Source 22: An extract from the writings of the Roman historian Tacitus

Agricola, however, who was aware of the feelings of the province and at the same time had learnt from the experience of others that too little is gained by fighting, if injustices follow, decided to root out the causes of war.

He eased the levy of corn and the tribute by making the burdens more equal and by cutting off the means of making a profit. These had caused greater resentment than the tax itself.

About this source:

- Tacitus gives a sympathetic picture of his father-in-law Agricola here.
- Agricola believed that fighting alone did not win over conquered enemies. They must be treated justly.
- He removed some of the reasons why the Britons had rebelled against the Roman occupation.
- The Britons resented the corn levy and the taxes, but even more they resented the way the Romans made a profit out of the corn. So Agricola tackled the problem.

Source 23: An extract from the writings of the Roman historian Tacitus

'The Romans plunder the world; when there are no more lands for them to devastate, they ransack the sea. If their enemy is rich, they are greedy for wealth; if poor, they are eager for power. You will find neither East nor West has satisfied them. They are the only people who desire wealth and poverty with equal eagerness. Robbery, slaughter and plunder they falsely call empire and, when they create a desert, they call it peace.'

About this source:

- This speech was invented for Calgacus, a British leader, by Tacitus.
- Calgacus is encouraging his troops as they prepare to fight the Romans in Scotland.
- He tells the Britons that the Romans only want power and riches.
- He says that the Romans obtained their empire by killing the inhabitants and seizing the land. This is what will happen to the Britons if the Romans win the battle.