

Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations

OCR GCSE Latin

1942

Roman Life Source Material Topic 2

Topic 2: The Roman Army

2.1 The composition of the legion

Candidates should consult a **diagram of a legion** similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: **Book 3, Stage 25, p. 87.**

2.2 Soldiers marching with their kit slung from stakes

Candidates should consult an **image of soldiers carrying their kit** similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: **Book 3, Stage 25, p. 84.**



This is an image of Trajan's Column. © R.L. Dalladay

2.3 Legionary soldiers building camps and bridges

Candidates should consult an **image of soldiers carrying out work**, similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: **Book 3, Stage 25, p. 82.**



This is an image of Trajan's Column. © R.L. Dalladay

Auxiliary soldiers (left foreground) stand guard while the legionaries construct a bridge joining fortifications on either side of a river.

2.4 Inscription from a lead water pipe found at Chester

RIB 2434.1-2

This lead water-pipe was found in Chester. The details date the pipe to 79 AD, the year Vesuvius erupted and destroyed Pompeii.

IMP VESP VIII T IMP VII COS CN IVL(I)O
AGRICOLA LEG AVG PR PR

IMPERATORE VESPASIANO VIII TITO IMPERATORE VII CONSULIBUS CNAEO
IULIO AGRICOLA LEGATO AUGUSTI PRO PRAETORE

... (made) in the ninth consulship of Vespasian Emperor and the seventh consulship of Titus Emperor, when Agricola was legate/governor (of Britain) and propraetor of the Emperor.

'Imperator' is left untranslated as it is used in two senses. It is a title of the emperor, correct for Vespasian. It is also a title of a victorious general, which would be correct for Titus, who was not emperor.

This is a link to a picture of the pipe taken at Grosvenor Museum in 2003

<http://www.roman-britain.org/places/deva.htm>

2.5 Agricola's policy of Romanisation (an extract from Tacitus, *Agricola* 21)

The following winter was spent on schemes that brought great advantages. The people were scattered and uncultivated, and therefore inclined to go to war. Agricola's aim was that they should get used to peace and leisure through indulging in more pleasant occupations. He encouraged private individuals and helped public bodies to build temples, squares and town houses, praising those who were quick to respond and finding fault with those who were slow. In this way rivalry for reward took the place of forced labour.

Agricola also gave the sons of the chiefs an education fit for free men, and preferred British ability to the hard work of the Gauls. The result was that people who only recently had rejected the Latin language became keen to speak it fluently.

2.6 Two reliefs showing standard bearers



This is an image of Trajan's Column. © R.L. Dalladay

On the left of the picture is a group of legionary standards with the eagle in the centre and a flag (*vexillum*) behind it. On each side of the eagle are *signa* decorated with round *paterae* and wreaths (*coronae*) at the top, above the cross bars. To the right are a group of military trumpet players.



This is an image of Trajan's Column. © R.L. Dalladay

On the left hand bridge are legionary soldiers, led by the commanding officer who wears a kilt, cloak and breastplate. Note the *aquilifer* with the eagle of the legion and the other standard bearers, *signiferi*.

On the right hand bridge are the Praetorians, a cohort of the imperial guard. The Praetorian standard bearers are wearing the lion skin.

2.7 A centurion's discipline (an extract from Tacitus, *Annals* 1.23)

A centurion hated for his punishment is a victim when the soldiers mutiny.

The centurion Lucilius lost his life. In army banter his nickname was 'give me another', because every time he broke his staff over a soldier's back, he used to call for another at the top of his voice, and then for another.

2.8 Map of Roman Britain with roads and legionary fortresses marked (1st century AD)

Candidates should consult any **map of Roman Britain with roads and legionary fortresses marked (1st century AD)**, similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: **Book 3, Stage 29, p. 139.**

2.9 Plan of legionary fort

Candidates should consult a **plan of a legionary fort**, similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: **Book 3, Stage 27, p. 115.**

Candidates should be able to identify and name the following areas of a legionary fort:

- 1 barrack-blocks. Each block accommodated one century.
- 2 hospital (*valetudinarium*)
- 3 tribune's house (*praetorium*)
- 4 headquarters building (*principia*)
- 5 drill hall
- 6 workshops
- 7 granaries (*horrea*)

The web site www.castra.org.uk provides useful guidance.

A labelled plan is available at:

http://www.castra.org.uk/Pages/Other_stuff/SITES.HTM

Schools may use plans from other sources.

2.10 Inscriptional evidence for the Roman army

Candidates should be familiar with the inscription and, where relevant, an image of each tombstone. Links to photographs of the tombstones are provided where available. Schools may use other photographs of the tombstones.

2.10.1 The tombstone of Publius Rustius Crescens (from the Twentieth Legion at Chester)

RIB 503

D M P RVSTIO
FABIA CRESCEN BRIX
MIL LEG XX VV
AN XXX STIP X
GROMA HERES
FAC CVR

DIS MANIBUS P. RUSTIO
FABIA CRESCENTI BRIXIA (TRIBU)
MILES LEGIONIS XX VALERIAE VICTRICIS
ANNORUM XXX. STIPENDIA X
GROMA HERES
FACIENDUM CURAVIT

To the spirits of the departed, Publius Rustius Crescens of the Fabian voting tribe from Brixia, Soldier in the twentieth legion Valeria Victrix. He lived for 30 years and served for 10 years. Groma his heir had this stone made.

Brixia is modern Brescia in Northern Italy.

A photograph of the tombstone is available at:
<http://www.chestertourist.com/romanstones.htm>

2.10.2 The tombstone of Caecilius Avitus (from the Twentieth Legion at Chester)

RIB 492

D M
CAECILIVS AVIT
VS EMER AVG
OPTIO LEG XX
V V STP XV VIX.
AN XXXIII
H F C

DIS MANIBUS CAECILIUS AVITVS EMERITA AUGUSTA
OPTIO LEGIONIS XX VALERIUS VICTRIX STIPENDIA XV VIXIT
ANNORUM XXXIII
HERES FACIENDUM CURAVIT

To the spirits of the departed, Caecilius Avitus, from Emerita Augusta, optio from the twentieth legion Valeria Victrix, having served 15 years in the army, lived 34 years. His heir had this stone set up.

Emerita Augusta = Merida in Spain

A photograph of the tombstone is available at:
<http://www.chestertourist.com/romanstones.htm>

There is also a reconstruction of this tombstone on the website.

2.10.3 A tombstone from Chester provides evidence of Roman Shipping in the Irish Sea

There is no photograph of this tombstone available.

RIB 544

OPTIONIS AD SPEM
ORDINIS LVCILI
INGENVI QVI
NAVFRAGIO PERIT
S E

...of an optio, awaiting promotion to centurion, serving in the century of Lucilius Ingenuus who died in a shipwreck. he lies.

A space was left for H (HIC) in case the body lost in the shipwreck was found for burial, but the letter was never added. The last line is the only part of the inscription with abbreviations.

2.10.4 The tombstone of Gaius Mannius, found at Wroxeter

Wroxeter tombstone

Shropshire archive reference PH/W/38/3

C MANNIVS
CF POL SECV
NDVS POLLEN
MIL LEG XX
ANORV LII
STIP XXXI
BEN LEG PR
H S E

GAIUS MANNIUS GAI FILIUS POLLIA (TRIBU) SECUNDUS POLLENTIA MILES
LEGIONIS XX ANNORUM LII STIPENDIORUM XXXI BENEFICIARIUS LEGATI
PROPRAETORE HIC SITUS EST

Gaius Mannius Secundus, son of Gaius, of the Pollian tribe, born at Pollentia, soldier of the twentieth legion, 52 years old, 31 years of military service, *beneficiarius* of the governor of the province, lies here.

A beneficiarius was a soldier who served on the administrative staff of an officer or, as here, on the staff of the governor.

A photograph of the tombstone is available at:

http://www3.shropshire-cc.gov.uk/roots/packages/wri/wri_s04a.htm

2.10.5 The tombstone of Rufus Sita from Gloucester (mid 1st century AD)

RVFVS SITA EQVES CHO VI
TRACVM ANN XL STIP XXII
HEREDES EXS TEST F CVRAVE
H S E

RUFUS SITA EQUES COHORS VI TRACUM ANNORUM XL STIPENDIA XXII
HEREDES EX TESTAMENTO FACIENDUM CURAVERUNT HIC SITUS EST

Rufus Sita, cavalryman in the sixth cohort of Thracians. He lived for 40 years and served for 22 years. His heirs had this set up, according to his will. Here he lies.

A photograph of the tombstone is available at:

<http://www.gloucester.gov.uk/Freetime/Museums/TheCityMuseum/RufusSitaInscripti on.aspx>