



CLASSICAL TRIPOS Part II
Group C History

Friday 1 June 2007 13.30 to 16.30

Paper C2

A HISTORY OF ROMAN BRITAIN

Answer three questions.

Candidates who do not write legibly may find themselves at a grave disadvantage.

Irrelevance will be penalised.

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

20 Page Booklet x 1
Rough Work Pad x 1

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

None

**You may not start to read the questions
printed on the subsequent pages of this
question paper until instructed that you
may do so by the Invigilator**

- 1 Is writing a narrative history of Roman Britain a feasible – or worthwhile – exercise?
- 2 Which in your view is the most significant recent scholarly publication on Roman Britain? Give reasons for your choice.
- 3 How typical a Roman province was Britain?
- 4 How different in archaeological terms was the Roman period in Britain from the Late pre-Roman Iron Age?
- 5 How complete a view can inscriptions provide of religion in Roman Britain?
- 6 How far did the ambitions of individuals lie behind the Roman invasion and conquest of Britain?
- 7 'Built to impress rather than to defend'. Do you agree with this view of Hadrian's Wall?
- 8 What (if anything) was British about Romano-British art?
- 9 Does 'decline and fall' provide an appropriate framework of explanation for the history of Roman Britain in the fourth and fifth centuries AD?
- 10 'The Romans were not only great conquerors but they were wise and politic governors. They brought all the nations of the then known world into unity, and spread the blessings of order and civilization to the very ends of the earth. The people of England are in this respect the successors of the Romans' (COLLINGWOOD BRUCE, *Handbook of the Roman Wall*, 1884). Discuss the implications of this claim.
- 11 Can the study of Roman Britain be divorced from issues in contemporary British culture and politics?
- 12 'Fictional accounts of soldiers posted to Roman Britain tell us more about modern attitudes to military service than they do about the Roman army.' Discuss.
- 13 In what ways, and to what effect, have comedians, humorists and cartoonists exploited Roman Britain?
- 14 How should the history of Roman Britain best be presented to those visiting museums? Discuss with reference to **one or more** museum displays with which you are familiar.

END OF PAPER