



CSCP Support Materials: Translation

Eduqas GCSE Latin
Component 3A

Tacitus: Boudica

For examination in 2022 - 2023

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Front cover image of statue of Boudica near Westminster Pier, London, UK.

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Using this Document

Each section of the Latin text is displayed in three columns.

In the left-hand column is the Latin text. Line numbers corresponding to the official examination text are indicated in square brackets.

In the centre column is an accessible interpretation of its English meaning (not a literal translation). The purpose of this is to help students enjoy and engage with the meaning of the poem.

Where the interpretation in the central column is significantly different from a literal translation of the Latin, a literal translation is provided in the right-hand column. Where this occurs, the relevant words of the Latin text, English meaning and literal translation are all marked with a dotted line underneath. This (and other annotation described below) is intended to form a bridge for the teacher between the Latin and the English interpretation, and to make it possible for any student who wishes to do so to see how the Latin gives rise to the English meaning.

Please note that students will not be expected to translate a section of text in this examination, although they are expected to show detailed knowledge and comprehension of the text throughout, and that they understand the meaning of any quotations they use.

Where a word in the English meaning column enhances readability, but is not explicitly included in the Latin, it is given in square brackets: [...]. There are also a number of occasions where, in order to make the passage read more naturally in English, Latin verbs in the (historic) present tense have been translated as if they were in a past tense.

Boudica's Rebellion Tacitus Annals 14. 29-39

In AD 60/61, roughly eighteen years after Claudius' successful campaign of conquest, there was a serious rebellion in Britain, which began amongst the Iceni tribe in East Anglia. G Suetonius Paulinus, the governor since AD 58, was away subduing the western parts of Britain and in particular besieging the island of Mona (Anglesey). It was during this campaign that Prasutagus, king of the Iceni died and Boudica, his queen, angered at the Roman treatment of her and her daughters, roused up her warriors and those of the neighbouring Trinobantes.

A (14.29)

Therefore, Suetonius prepared to attack the island of Mona, which was well-defended by its inhabitants and was a retreat for fugitives. Ships were built with flat hulls to cross the short but dangerous straits. In this way the infantry crossed; the cavalry followed in the shallows or crossed swimming alongside their horses through the deeper water.

Latin		English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p>stabat pro litore diversa acies, densa armis virisque, intercursantibus feminis; in modum Furiarum veste ferali, crinibus deiectis faces praeferebant; Druidaeque circum, preces diras sublatis ad caelum manibus fundentes, novitate aspectus perculere militem ut quasi haerentibus membris immobile corpus vulneribus praeberent. dein cohortationibus ducis et se ipsi stimulantes ne muliebri et fanaticum agmen pavescerent,</p>	<p>[5] [5] [10]</p>	<p>B (14.30) <i>On the shore in front of them stood a hostile army, close-packed with weapons and men, with women running around between [them], dressed in funeral clothes in the style of Furies, with dishevelled hair [and] carrying torches in front of them; around [them] the Druids pouring out fearful prayers with their hands raised to heaven; they frightened the soldiers by the weirdness of the sight, so that they offered their motionless bodies to wounds, as though their limbs were stuck together. Then at the encouragement of their leader and with they themselves urging each other on not to fear this mad gang of women,</i></p>	<p>A hostile battle-line was standing on the opposite shore let down they carried the sky with the encouragement themselves not to cower at a womanly and fanatical battle-line</p>

Latin		English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p>inferunt signa sternuntque obvios et igni suo involvunt.</p> <p>praesidium posthac impositum victis excisique luci saevis <u>superstitionibus</u> sacri:</p> <p>nam cruore captivo adolere aras et hominum fibris consulere deos <u>fas</u> habebant.</p> <p>haec agenti Suetonio repentina defectio provinciae nuntiatur.</p>	[10]	<p>B (continued)</p> <p><i>they carried forward their standards and scattered those in their way and enveloped them in their own fire.</i></p> <p><i>After this, a garrison [was] imposed on the conquered, and the groves, sacred to their savage <u>superstitions</u>, [were] cut down;</i></p> <p><i>for they considered it <u>right</u> to sprinkle their altars with the blood of a captive and to consult the gods by means of the entrails of men.</i></p> <p><i>While Suetonius was dealing with this, a sudden uprising in the province was reported [to him].</i></p>	<p><u>excessive fear of the gods</u></p> <p><u>divine law</u></p>

Latin		English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p>rex Icenorum Prasutagus, longa opulentia clarus,</p> <p><u>Caesarem heredem duasque filias scripserat,</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;">tali</p> <p>obsequio <u>ratus</u> regnumque et domum suam <u>procul</u> iniuria fore.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">quod contra vertit, adeo ut regnum per centuriones, domus per servos velut capta <u>vastarentur.</u></p> <p>iam primum uxor eius Boudica <u>verberibus adfecta</u> et</p> <p>filiae <u>stupro violatae sunt:</u></p>	<p>[5]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">C (14.31)</p> <p><i>Prasutagus, king of the Iceni, famous for his long-standing wealth,</i></p> <p><i>had written in his will that Caesar was his heir along with his two daughters,</i></p> <p><i>thinking that by such submissiveness his kingdom and his own household would be <u>safe from</u> harm.</i></p> <p><i>The situation turned out just the opposite, so much so that his kingdom <u>was plundered</u> by centurions, and his household by slaves as though [it were] captured [property].</i></p> <p><i>To begin with his wife, Boudica [was] <u>beaten</u> and</i></p> <p><i>his daughters <u>were raped</u>;</i></p>	<p><i><u>had written Caesar [as his] heir</u></i></p> <p><i><u>having reckoned far from</u></i></p> <p><i><u>was laid waste</u></i></p> <p><i><u>affected by whips/sticks</u></i></p> <p><i><u>were violated by rape</u></i></p>

Latin		English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p>praecipui quique Icenorum, quasi Romani cunctam regionem muneri accepissent, <u>avitis bonis exuuntur,</u></p> <p>et propinqui regis inter mancipia habebantur.</p> <p>qua contumelia et <u>metu graviorum,</u> quando in formam provinciae cesserant, rapiunt arma,</p> <p>commotis ad rebellionem Trinobantibus et qui alii nondum servitio fracti resumere libertatem occultis coniurationibus pepigerant, acerrimo in veteranos odio.</p>	<p>[10]</p> <p>[10]</p>	<p>C (continued)</p> <p><i>every one of the chieftains of the <u>Iceni</u> was <u>deprived of their ancestral estates,</u> as if the Romans had received the whole region as a gift,</i></p> <p><i>and the king's relatives were treated as slaves.</i></p> <p><i>Because of this humiliation and <u>in fear of worse,</u> since they had been reduced to the status of a province, they took up arms,</i></p> <p><i>and, with the Trinobantes incited to rebellion, others who were not yet broken by servitude pledged with secret conspiracies to take back their freedom, with their most bitter hatred being against the veterans.</i></p>	<p><i><u>were deprived of their ancestral good things</u></i></p> <p><i><u>because of fear of more serious things</u></i></p>

Latin		English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p>quippe in coloniam Camulodunum recens deducti pellebant domibus, exturbabant agris, captivos, servos appellando,</p> <p>foventibus impotentiam veteranorum militibus similitudine vitae et spe eiusdem licentiae.</p> <p>ad hoc, templum divo Claudio constitutum quasi arx aeternae dominationis aspiciebatur,</p> <p>delectique sacerdotes specie religionis omnes fortunas effundebant.</p>	<p>[15]</p> <p>[20]</p> <p>[20]</p>	<p>C (continued)</p> <p><i>Indeed, those recently brought into the colony of Camulodunum were driving [them] from their homes, expelling [them] from their lands, by calling them prisoners and slaves,</i></p> <p><i>with soldiers supporting the violence of the veterans because of the similarity of their lifestyles and hope of the same freedom [to misbehave later].</i></p> <p><i>Moreover, the temple founded for the divine Claudius was regarded as a focal point of never- ending domination,</i></p> <p><i>and its chosen priests were pouring away whole fortunes in a show of religious observance.</i></p>	<p><u>fields</u></p> <p><u>Towards this [purpose]</u></p>

Latin		English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p>nec arduum videbatur excindere coloniam nullis munimentis saeptam;</p> <p style="text-align: right;">quod ducibus nostris parum provisum erat, <u>dum amoenitati prius quam usui consulitur.</u></p>	[25]	<p style="text-align: center;">C (continued)</p> <p><i>It did not seem hard to tear out a colony which was protected by no fortifications,</i></p> <p><i>because too little had been provided by our leaders <u>so long as attention was paid first to its attractive appearance rather than its practical use.</u></i></p>	<p><i><u>while appearance was being considered before use</u></i></p>

D (14.32)

Meanwhile, for no clear reason, the statue of Victory at Camulodunum collapsed and was up-turned as if surrendering to enemies. Women thrown into a frenzy, were prophesying that the end was at hand, and bizarre groans were heard in their local senate house; the theatre rang with wailing and, in the estuary of the river Thames, an image of the colony had been seen overturned. In addition, the sea had taken on a bloody colour and, as the tide went out, likenesses of human bodies were left on the shore, so that the Britons were given hope and the veterans fear; but because Suetonius was far away, they sought help from Catus Decianus, the procurator; he sent them no more than two hundred poorly armed soldiers. Inside Camulodunum there was only a garrison. They relied on the temple to protect them and they were hindered by accomplices of the rebels who were secretly disrupting their plan, so that they constructed neither a ditch nor a rampart, nor did they evacuate their old men and women, leaving the young men alone to resist the rebels. They were as careless as if they were in the middle of peace, whilst they were actually surrounded by a horde of barbarians. Everything else was attacked, ransacked and burnt. The temple in which the soldiery had gathered was besieged for two days, then stormed. The victorious Britons intercepted Petilius Cerialis, commander of the Ninth Legion, as he was arriving with help. They routed the legion and massacred the infantry. Cerialis escaped to the camp with the cavalry and defended himself with its fortifications. Terrified by this disaster and the hatred of the province which his greed had driven to war, the procurator Catus left for Gaul.

E (14.33)

However, Suetonius bravely made his way through the enemy to Londinium, a town which did not have the status of a Roman settlement, but which was an important commercial centre. He was undecided whether to choose to make a stand there, but having seen the lack of military resources, and that Petilius' recklessness had been his downfall, he decided to sacrifice this one place to save the whole province. He was not swayed either by weeping and tears nor by pleas for his help and he gave the signal for departure taking with him any who wished to accompany him. Those who were women or were too old to fight or who were held back by attachment to the place were overwhelmed by the enemy. The same fate befell Verulamium for the barbarians avoided forts and garrisons since they were eager for plunder but not keen on hard work and made for the places which were most ripe for looting and unprotected by defenders. It is agreed that about 70,000 citizens and allies were killed in these places which I have spoken of, for the British did not take or sell prisoners as is usual in the business of war, rather they hastened to slaughter, gibbets, fire and crucifixion, as though they were taking vengeance in advance for the punishment that would be inflicted on them.

Latin		English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p>iam Suetonio quarta decima legio cum vexillariis vicesimanis et e proximis auxiliares, decem ferme milia armatorum erant,</p> <p>cum omittere cunctationem et congregari acie parat.</p> <p>deligitque locum artis faucibus et a tergo silva clausum,</p> <p>satis cognito nihil hostium nisi in fronte et apertam planitiem esse sine metu insidiarum.</p> <p>igitur legionarius frequens ordinibus, levis circum armatura, conglobatus pro cornibus eques adstitit.</p>	<p>[5]</p> <p>[5]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">F (14.34)</p> <p>Suetonius already had the fourteenth legion along with the veterans of the twentieth legion and auxiliary soldiers from the neighbouring [area] (almost ten thousand armed men),</p> <p>when he prepared to cease delay and to gather [his men] in battle formation.</p> <p>He chose a place with a narrow entrance and closed in at the rear by woods;</p> <p>for he had got to know sufficiently well that there were no enemies except in front of him and that there was open plain [before him] without fear of ambush.</p> <p>Therefore, the legionary force stood in close order [with] the light-armed troops around [them], and the massed cavalry on the wings.</p>	<p>And he chose with narrow entrances</p> <p>was nothing of [his] enemies</p> <p>close together in rows</p>

Latin		English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p style="text-align: right;">at</p> <p>Britannorum copiae passim per catervas et turmas exultabant,</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>quanta non alias multitudo</u>, et animo adeo feroci ut coniuges quoque testes victoriae secum traherent</p> <p style="text-align: center;">plaustrisque imponerent quae super extremum ambitum campi posuerant.</p>	<p>[10]</p> <p>[10]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">F (continued)</p> <p><i>But the forces of the Britons were rushing about wildly all over the place amongst their infantry and cavalry groups,</i></p> <p><i>it was <u>as great a throng as had ever been seen</u>, and in such ferocity of mind that they also brought their wives with them as witnesses of their victory</i></p> <p><i>and placed them in wagons which they had positioned beyond the furthest border of the plain.</i></p>	<p><i><u>such a great throng as never before</u></i></p>

Latin		English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p>Boudica curru filias prae se vehens, ut quamque nationem accesserat, solitum quidem Britannis feminarum ductu bellare testabatur,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">sed tunc non ut</p> <p>tantis maioribus ortam regnum et opes,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">verum ut unam</p> <p>e vulgo libertatem amissam, confectum verberibus corpus, contrectatam filiarum pudicitiam <u>ulcisci</u>.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">eo</p> <p>provectas Romanorum cupidines ut <u>non corpora</u>, ne senectam quidem aut virginitatem impollutam <u>relinquant</u>.</p>	<p>[5]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <p><i>As Boudica, driving in her chariot with her daughters in front of her, approached each tribe, she bore witness that [it was] indeed usual for Britons to wage war under the leadership of women,</i></p> <p><i>but at that time as [would be natural for] one sprung from such great ancestors, [she said] she was not <u>seeking revenge</u> for her kingdom and wealth,</i></p> <p><i>but, truly as one of the people, for her lost liberty and for her body battered by blows, and for the stolen chastity of her daughters.</i></p> <p><i>[She declared that] the desires of the Romans had been driven to such a point that <u>they left no bodies</u>, not even old age or virginity undefiled.</i></p>	<p><u>driving her daughters before her by chariot</u></p> <p><u>'ulcisci' in line 6</u></p> <p><u>they did not leave bodies</u></p>

Latin		English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p>adese tamen deos iustae vindictae:</p> <p>cecidisse legionem quae proelium ausa sit;</p> <p>ceteros</p> <p>castris <u>occultari</u> aut fugam circumspicere.</p> <p>ne strepitum</p> <p>quidem et clamorem tot milium, nedum impetus et manus perluros.</p> <p>si <u>copias armatorum</u>, si causas belli secum expenderent, vincendum illa acie vel cadendum esse.</p> <p>id mulieri destinatum: viverent viri et servirent.</p>	<p>[10]</p> <p>[10]</p> <p>[15]</p> <p>[15]</p>	<p>G (continued)</p> <p>However, [she said] that the gods were present for a justified revenge:</p> <p>that the legion which had dared to come to battle, had fallen;</p> <p>that the rest were skulking in their camp or looking around for [a means of] escape;</p> <p>that they would not even endure the noise and shouting of so many thousands, still less the attack and might.</p> <p>[She cried] that if they were to weigh up <u>the extent of their armed forces</u>, and the causes of the war, then they must conquer in that battle-line or fall.</p> <p>This [is] the resolve of a woman: [as for] the men, they may live and live in slavery!</p>	<p><u>were hidden (passive)</u></p> <p><u>the forces of armed men</u></p>

H (14.36)

Not even Suetonius was silent in such a crisis. Although he had confidence in the courage of his men, he combined pleas and prayers that they should ignore the shouts and empty threats of the barbarians, saying that there were more women to be seen among them than young fighting men. He said they were unwarlike and unarmed and that they would surrender immediately when, after being routed numerous times, they realised the strength and courage of their conquerors. He added that even in a force consisting of many legions, it is the few who bring battles to an end and that the glory of these men would be increased because a small band of men earned the glory of an entire army. He said they should stand together, cast their javelins and continue the slaughter with their shield-bosses and swords. They should take no thought for plunder: when victory is won there would be enough for all. This stirred the hearts of the veterans who were experienced in battle, and Suetonius confident of the outcome gave the signal to fight.

Latin		English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p>ac primum legio gradu immota et angustias loci pro munimento retinens,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">postquam in propius suggestos hostes certo iactu tela exhauserat, velut cuneo erupit.</p> <p>idem auxiliarium impetus; et eques protentis hastis perfringit quod obvium et validum erat.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ceteri terga praebuere, difficili effugio, quia circumiecta vehicula saepserant abitus.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">et miles ne mulierum quidem neci temperabat, confixaque telis etiam iumenta corporum cumulum auxerant.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">I (14.37)</p> <p><i>And so, at first the legion stood their ground motionless, keeping the narrowness of the place as their fortification;</i></p> <p><i>after it had used up its javelins with sure aim at the enemy who had approached nearer, it burst out as in a wedge formation.</i></p> <p>[5] <i>The auxiliaries attacked in the same way; and the cavalry, with their spears extended in front [of them], broke through whatever serious resistance was in the way.</i></p> <p>[5] <i>The rest [of the Britons] retreated, which was difficult, because the wagons [they had] placed around them blocked their escape.</i></p> <p><i>The soldiers did not even restrain themselves from the slaughter of women, and the baggage animals also, pierced by spears, had increased the heap of bodies.</i></p>	<p><i>motionless in position</i></p> <p><i>with certain throw</i></p> <p><i>the attack of the auxiliaries [was] the same what was in the way and strong</i></p> <p><i>showed their back in difficult flights ... the exits</i></p>

<p>clara et antiquis victoriis par ea die laus parta:</p> <p>quippe sunt qui paulo minus quam <u>octoginta</u> <u>milia Britannorum</u> cecidisse tradant, militum quadringentis ferme interfectis nec multo amplius vulneratis.</p> <p>Boudica vitam veneno finivit..</p>	<p>[10]</p> <p>[10]</p>	<p><i>I (continued)</i></p> <p><i>The glory acquired on that day [was] evident and equal to the victories of old:</i></p> <p><i>indeed, there are those who say that a little less than eighty thousand Britons died, with almost four hundred soldiers killed and not many more wounded.</i></p> <p><i>Boudica ended her life with poison.</i></p>	<p><i>eighty thousand of the Britons</i></p>
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Latin		English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p><u>contractus</u> deinde omnis <u>exercitus</u> sub pellibus <u>habitus</u> <u>est</u> ad reliqua belli perpetranda.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">J (14.38)</p> <p><i>Then the whole <u>army</u> was assembled and held in camp in order to finish the rest of the war.</i></p>	<p><i>the assembled <u>army</u> was held under hides (ie in tents)</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">auxitque copias Caesar</p> <p><u>missis</u> ex Germania <u>duobus</u> <u>legionariorum</u> <u>milibus</u>, octo <u>auxiliarium</u> <u>cohortibus</u> ac mille <u>equitibus</u>; quorum <u>adventu</u> nonani <u>legionario</u> <u>milite</u> <u>suppleti</u> sunt,</p>	[5]	<p><i>Caesar increased the forces <u>by sending two thousand legionaries</u> from Germany, eight cohorts of auxiliaries and a thousand cavalry, at whose arrival the Ninth [legion] were supplemented with legionary troops.</i></p>	<p><i>with two thousand of the legionaries sent ...</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">cohortes</p> <p><u>alaeque</u> <u>novis</u> <u>hibernaculis</u> <u>locatae</u> <u>quodque</u> <u>nationum</u> <u>ambiguum</u> <u>aut</u> <u>adversum</u> <u>fuerat</u> <u>igni</u> <u>atque</u> <u>ferro</u> <u>vastatum</u>.</p>	[5]	<p><i>The cohorts and cavalry units [were] located in new winter quarters [and] each tribe which showed uncertainty or hostility [was] laid waste by fire and sword.</i></p>	<p><i>each tribe which had been uncertain or hostile</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">sed nihil aeque quam fames adfligebat</p> <p><u>serendis</u> <u>frugibus</u> <u>incuriosos</u>,</p>		<p><i>But nothing struck down those [Britons] who had been careless in sowing crops, as much as hunger,</i></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">et <u>omni</u> <u>aetate</u> <u>ad</u> <u>bellum</u></p> <p><u>versa</u>, dum <u>nostros</u> <u>commeatus</u> <u>sibi</u> <u>destinant</u>.</p>	[10]	<p><i>and every age group [had been] engaged in war, while they [i.e. those Britons] intended our supplies for themselves.</i></p>	<p><i>with every age group engaged in war</i></p>

K (14.38 continued - 39)

The savage tribesmen were not inclined to seek peace too quickly because Iulius Classicianus, the successor to Catus was on bad terms with Suetonius, and was obstructing the public good because of his rivalry; he spread a rumour that they must wait for the new governor who would be merciful to those who surrendered, and without the anger of an enemy or the arrogance of a victor. At the same time, he made a report to Rome that they should expect no end to the battles unless they replaced Suetonius whose failure he attributed to the man's bad character and whose success to good luck. So Polyclitus, one of the imperial freedmen was sent to oversee the situation in Britain, with Nero's great hope being that he would be able by his authority, not only to bring about harmony between the governor and the procurator but that peace would settle the rebellious spirit of the barbarians.