



CSCP Support Materials for Eduqas GCSE Latin Component 3A Latin Literature (Narratives)



Tacitus: Boudica For examination in 2022 and 2023 Section A

Section A

The Romans make their attack on the last Druid stronghold

Notes and Discussion

Gaius **Suetonius** Paulinus had been appointed the Roman governor of Britain in AD58. He was keen to subdue the rebellious tribes in the southern part of the province, and in particular the tribes in what is now Wales. Part of this plan was to conquer the Druids once and for all. The Druids were the priest-class of the Celts and wielded a great deal of influence. They were not only religious leaders but, according to Caesar at least, also had control of the laws and education. Most of what we know about the Druids, however, has been filtered through Greek and Roman authors who were hostile towards them.

This passage describes the events of AD60 or 61, when **Suetonius** led an attack on **Mona** (Anglesey) where the last of the Druids were preparing to make their final stand. This island was particularly sacred to the British people. The armies are facing each other across the **short but dangerous** Menai Strait which separates Mona from the mainland. It is a tidal stretch of water, swirling with treacherous currents. At its narrowest point, it is only 400m wide.

Questions

1. Why might Mona be a good choice as a location for the Druids to make a stand against the Romans?