



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



## Tacitus: Boudica For examination in 2022 and 2023 Section D

## Section D

### *The fall of Camulodunum*

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#### Notes and Discussion

In this passage, the colony of Camulodunum falls to Boudica's forces who then proceed to rout the Ninth Legion.

There was a great deal of building work to turn the Trinobantes' town into a Roman colonia. Mentioned here are a **statue of Victory**, a **senate house** and a **theatre**. These Roman buildings are the locations for strange and gruesome portents which foreshadow the destruction of the town.

As Suetonius was so far away, the inhabitants called upon **Catus Decianus** for assistance. He was **the procurator** of the province: a magistrate in charge of financial matters including collecting taxes. He was also deeply hated by the Britons and his harsh financial policies, as well as his involvement in seizing the Iceni territory, were catalysts for the rebellion. Catus only sent **no more than two hundred poorly armed soldiers** to help the inhabitants of Camulodunum.

The people of Camulodunum sought refuge in the **temple** (the Temple of Claudius mentioned earlier). This huge building had a cella (an inner chamber) with strong walls, no windows, and sturdy bronze doors and would have seemed a good place to hold out. **Everything else was attacked, ransacked and burnt**, and then the temple itself was destroyed. The population was slaughtered.

The archaeological record supports this burning then levelling of Camulodunum by Boudica's forces. The bodies of the slaughtered have not been discovered so far, leading archaeologists to suggest that the Romans may have recovered their own to bury with due rites, with non-Romans dumped into mass graves which are yet to be excavated.

The Britons then headed out of Camulodunum and intercepted the **Ninth Legion** who were coming to assist the Romans. This legion had probably been in Britain since the Claudian invasion of AD43. Although Boudica's forces destroyed this force, the commander escaped and the legion was reinforced following this defeat. It went on to participate in many further campaigns in Britain.

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#### Questions

1. What details does Tacitus include here which make the rebellion sound terrifying?
2. What errors are made by the Romans in this section?