



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



Tacitus: Boudica For examination in 2022 and 2023 Section K

Section K

The rebellion is finally brought to an end, not through wars but through diplomacy

Notes and Discussion

Tacitus' evaluation of events here is biased on account of his admiration for men of action like Suetonius. None of the grievances of the Britons had been addressed and this, coupled with the punitive actions taken against them, meant that resentment still simmered. There was little hope of financial gain in the province, as the Britons were starving and resentful.

Iulius Classicianus, the new procurator, realised that a peaceful resolution would reap greater rewards than continued aggression. The emperor, Nero, was amenable to this suggestion and he sent **Polyclitus** to oversee the situation. Polyclitus was an **imperial freedman**: under the reign of the emperor Claudius freedmen had made their way into positions of great power within the court and by the reign of Nero were effectively professional civil servants.

Tacitus, however, is not interested in the political expediency of creating stability through negotiation and moderation. He instead attributes Classicianus' recommendations to personal ill-will towards Suetonius.

Questions

1. Explain in your own words how peace is established after the rebellion is defeated.
2. How do you know that Tacitus disapproves of this way of solving the problems?
3. Thinking about everything you have read, in what ways was Boudica's rebellion a success for the Britons?
4. Thinking about everything you have read, evaluate how Suetonius dealt with the rebellion.