

## Chapter 9: Comprehension

### EXERCISE 9.7: CAESAR LAUNCHES AN INVASION OF BRITAIN



Read lines 1-13: Caesar erat dux clārissimus ... mīlitēs Caesaris terruērunt.

Summarise the story so far.

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1. line 14: *quamquam Rōmānī cum Britannīs fortiter pugnāvērunt, Britannī nōn victī sunt.*  
What happened when the Romans fought the Britains? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

2. lines 15-16: *tum in tempestāte magnā multae nāvium Rōmānārum dēlētae sunt. 'hīc manēre,' inquit Caesar, 'nōn bonum est.'*

Caesar was worried about staying in Britain; why was this? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ [2]

3. lines 16-18: *'quamquam neque incolae superātī sunt neque plumbum album raptum est, in Galliam redībimus et nāvēs meliōrēs aedificābimus.'*

Although the Britons had not been conquered, nor had the tin been seized, what did Caesar say the Romans would do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ [2]

4. lines 18-20: *ubi nāvēs meliōrēs factae sunt, iterum Caesar suōs in Britanniam dūxit. quamquam mīlitēs Caesaris iterum fortiter pugnāvērunt, iterum Britannī nōn victī sunt.*

a. When did Caesar lead his men back to Britain? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

b. What happened when Caesar's soldiers fought the Britons again? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ [2]

5. lines 20-21: *'nunc meōs in Galliam dūcām,' inquit Caesar, 'et ibi in multīs proeliīs Gallōs vincam: melius erit cum Gallīs pugnāre quam cum Britannīs.*

Why did Caesar say he would lead his men back to Gaul? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ [2]

6. lines 22-25: *Caesar, ubi in Galliā manēbat, epistolās Rōmam mīsit: in hīs epistolīs multa dē Britannīs scrīpsit. 'Britannī sunt barbarī saevissimi,' scrīpsit Caesar; 'omnēs Britannī corpora sua caerulea pingunt; omnēs Britannī pellēs gerunt; saepe patrēs et filii uxōrēs commūnēs habent.'*

a. Caesar sent letters to Rome and in these letters he described the Britons. Give three details that he told the Romans about the Britons. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



- \_\_\_\_\_ [3]
- b. How does Caesar emphasise the savagery and strangeness of the Britons? Consider the language used and explain how repetition, word choice, sound or word order creates this emphasis. You should discuss two Latin words or phrases.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [2]

7. lines 25-26: Rōmānī Caesarem laudābant: 'forte erat in Britanniam ire quod ibi incolae sunt saevissimī.'

Why did the Romans praise Caesar? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [2]

8. The details in this story are taken from Caesar's own account of the invasion: do you think that he presented himself well as a leader? Explain your answer with reference to details from the passage.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [3]

### Grammar questions

1. line 11: periculum magnum erat nāvibus mare trānseuntibus

Give the principle parts of the verb *trānseuntibus*. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

2. lines 12-13: ibi Caesar multōs Britannōs in ōrā manentēs cōspexit

What part of speech is *manentēs*? Explain its case. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [2]



B L O O M S B U R Y

3. line 14: quamquam Rōmānī cum Britannīs fortiter pugnāvērunt, Britannī nōn victī sunt.

Identify the form of each of the two verbs in this sentence.

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- \_\_\_\_\_ [2]