



Chapter 9: Comprehension

EXERCISE 9.9: CAESAR CONQUERS VERCINGETORIX AND ALL OF GAUL



Read lines 1-7: in Galliā multōs annōs ... dēlētī sunt.

Summarise the story so far.



1. lines 8-10: in oppidō, Alesia nōmine, Vercingetorīx et cōpiae manēbant. militēs tamen Caesaris hoc oppidum ferōciter oppugnābant et diū prope mūrōs oppidī manēbant.

Vercingetorix and his forces stayed in the town of Alesia; what did Caesar's soldiers do?

[2]

2. lines 10-12: Gallī miserī erant: 'quod oppidum obsidētur,' lacrimantēs inquit, 'exīre nōn possumus. cibus omnis ā nōbis cōnsūptus est; quid nunc cōnsūmēmus?'

Why were the Gauls miserable? _____

[3]

3. lines 12-14: Gallī, quod nōn satis cibī habēbant, fēminās et liberōs ē mūrīs mīsērunt. 'fortasse,' inquit Gallī, 'Caesar fēminās et liberōs capiet et cibum eīs dabit. quamquam fēminae et liberī servī erunt, saltem non mortuī erunt.'

Why did the Gauls send their women and children out from the walls of Alesia? _____

[2]

4. lines 15-16: fēminae et liberī ā Caesare vīsī sunt. 'nōlīte, ō militēs,' magnō cum clāmōre inquit Caesar, 'veniam dare!'

a. What did Caesar do when he saw the women and children? _____

[1]

b. What impression do you get here of Caesar's character? Consider the language used and explain how word choice, sound or word order help to convey his characteristics. You should discuss one Latin word or phrase. _____

[1]

5. lines 16-18: Vercingetorīx, ubi verba Caesaris audīta sunt, magnopere dēspērābat: 'ē mūrīs, ō Gallī, omnēs exīte! nunc enim tempus est nōbis suprēmum pugnāre.'

When Vercingetorix heard Caesar's words, what did he tell the Gauls to do and why?

[2]



6. line 18: in hōc proeliō, cōpiaie Vercingetorīgis victī sunt

What was the outcome of the battle? _____
_____ [1]

7. lines 19-20: 'iam, Gallī,' inquit Vercingetorīx miserrimus, 'victī sumus. mē Caesarī trādite aut mortuum aut vīvum.'

What did Vercingetorix tell the Gauls to do with him? _____
_____ [2]

8. lines 21-24: 'cōpiaie nostrae superātae sunt,' inquit Gallī magnopere lacrimantēs, 'et dux noster captus. nunc patriam dēfendere nōn possumus. Vercingetorīx victus est et nunc victa est Gallia omnis.'

a. Why did the Gauls weep greatly? _____
_____ [2]

b. Explain how the use of language here emphasises the scale of the defeat. You should explain how repetition, word choice, sound or word order creates this emphasis. You should discuss one Latin word or phrase. _____
_____ [1]

9. This story was taken from Caesar's own account of the battle. What impression does he give of his own character and of Vercingetorix? Are you surprised by this? Explain your answer with reference to details from the passage. _____

_____ [3]



Grammar questions

1. line 11: *cibus omnis ā nōbis cōsūmptus est*

Is *ā nōbis* an example of an agent or an instrument? Explain the difference between the two.

[1]

2. lines 16-17: *Vercingetorīx, ubi verba Caesaris audīta sunt, magnopere dēspērābat*

Identify the form of the two verbs in this sentence and explain the difference in meaning between these two tenses.

[2]

3. line 22: *inquiunt Gallī magnopere lacrimantēs*

What part of speech is *magnopere*? _____ [1]

4. lines 23-24: *Vercingetorīx victus est et nunc victa est Gallia omnis*

Explain why *victus est* and *victa est* have different endings. _____

[1]