

The Roman Legacy: Engineering and Empire

Learning objective: To analyse the impact of Roman innovations on Britain and evaluate the significance of their infrastructure and social structures.

Use your knowledge of Roman history to answer the following questions. Provide detailed explanations where requested, using historical terminology.

Ellie the elephant has spent years studying the ruins of Roman Britain. She is fascinated by how a group of people from across the sea changed the landscape of our islands forever. From the complex system of straight roads to the introduction of advanced central heating, the Romans left behind more than just broken pottery; they left a blueprint for modern living.

Word bank: aqueduct · centurion · legion · mosaic · villa · Latin · hypocaust · infrastructure

1. Explain why the Romans invested so much time and labour into building a vast network of straight roads across Britain. Consider both military and economic perspectives. (3 marks)

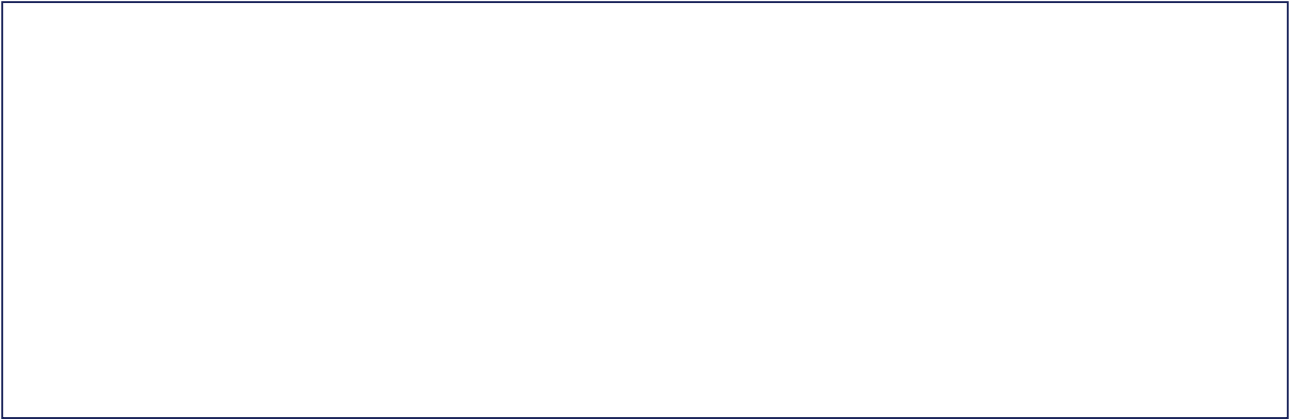
2. Compare and contrast the lifestyle of a wealthy Roman living in a rural villa with that of a local Briton living in a roundhouse during the same period. (4 marks)

3. A 'hypocaust' was a clever Roman invention. Describe how it functioned and justify why it was considered an essential luxury in the British climate. (3 marks)

4. If the Roman Empire had never expanded into Britain, what might have happened to the development of our language and town planning? Provide two specific examples. (4 marks)

5. Identify two reasons why the Roman army was so successful in conquering and maintaining control over territory for such a long duration. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a cross-section of a Roman villa, clearly labelling the hypocaust system underneath the floor and an example of a decorative mosaic pattern in a room.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a Roman engineer arriving in a new territory. Write a short diary entry (150 words) describing the challenges you face in constructing an aqueduct to supply water to a growing settlement. Use at least four words from the word bank in your writing.