Grade 5 History Assessment: The Roman Empire and its Impact on Britain

Learning objective: To assess understanding of Roman life, the invasion of Britain, and the legacy of Roman civilisation.

Read each question carefully. Write your answers clearly in the spaces provided. Ensure you use historical vocabulary where appropriate.

Ellie the elephant has been reading about the arrival of the Romans in Britain. She notes that in 43 AD, Emperor Claudius ordered a full-scale invasion. The Romans brought new roads, complex heating systems, and a different way of governing. However, not everyone welcomed them; the Iceni tribe, led by Boudica, famously revolted against Roman rule to protect their land and people.

Word bank: Legionnaire · Aqueduct · Hadrian's Wall · Boudica · Centurion · Mosaic · Province · Governor

1. Name the Roman Emperor who ordered the successful invasion of Britain in 43 AD. (1 mark)

2. Identify two ways in which Roman life in Britain differed from the lives of the Iron Age Celts. (2 marks)

3. Who was Boudica and why did she lead a revolt against the Romans? (3 marks)

4. Explain the purpose of Hadrian’s Wall. Why was it constructed in the north of Britain? (3 marks)

5. Describe the role of a Roman Legionnaire. What were their primary duties when they were not fighting in battle? (4 marks)

6. Roman currency was used across the Empire. If a Roman trader sold a tunic for £2.50 and a jar of oil for £1.75, what was the total cost? If the customer paid with a £5.00 coin, how much change would they receive? (2 marks)

7. Extended Writing Task: 'The Romans changed Britain forever.' Discuss this statement by evaluating their impact on infrastructure, language, and culture. Use evidence to support your argument. (10 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram of a Roman road, showing the different layers of materials used to ensure it was durable and well-drained.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Research task: Find out which modern-day British cities were founded by the Romans and explain how their original Roman names (e.g., Eboracum) have changed over time.