

Why was the Roman Army so successful?

Causation Focus Marking Task

This assessment is a piece of extended writing. You need to write about why the Roman Army was so successful and must include:

- an introduction,
- a number of paragraphs describing each reason
- and a conclusion.

You should write a paragraph describing each of the following:

- How the Roman Army was organised
- How the Roman Army was well trained
- How the Roman Army was well disciplined
- What weapons and tactics they used
- How they were motivated (money!)

Each paragraph should include an:

- opening statement (One reason why the Roman Army was so successful is that they were.....)
- evidence to support your statement (Source Supports the idea that the Romans were well organised/ trained / disciplined / used good weapons and tactics / well motivated. It tells us that.....)
- concluding statement (The Roman Army was therefore successful because.....)

Source A

An account of a battle between the Roman Army and Boudicca, leader of a British tribe:

The Roman army was about 10,000 men strong. The general **chose a spot circled by woods**. It had a narrow entrance and dense trees behind it. So he had no fear of an ambush. The enemy had to come at him from the front, across an open plain.

Source B

An account of a battle between the Roman Army and Boudicca, leader of a British tribe:

The Roman army **drew up their soldiers in order**. The legions were in the centre. The auxiliaries were kept at the back for when they were needed. The cavalry were at the sides.

Source C

An account of a battle between the Roman Army and Boudicca, leader of a British tribe:

A huge number of Britons came to the battle field. **They did not draw up in organised lines. Separate bands rushed up and down the enemy attack**. Then the Romans rushed forward in a **wedge**. The auxiliaries followed. The cavalry charged the enemy. The Britons fled, but got tangled up in their wagons at the rear. A dreadful slaughter followed. Some writers say about 80,000 Britons were killed. The Romans lost about 4,000 men. Boudicca took poison before she could be captured.

Source D

A description of a Roman fighting camp

"Whenever they invade a country, they never fight a battle until they have strengthened their fighting camp. They do not build it carelessly. The inside of the camp is divided up into rows of tents. The outer defences are made to look just like a wall."

Source E

Vegetius, a Roman civil servant, wrote:

"The Roman legion is victorious because of its number of soldiers and the types of war machines it uses. It is equipped with ballistas - hurling machines - which can pierce body armour and shields.'

Level	What the pupil has done	Level Descriptor
4	<p>4c You show some knowledge of the Roman army and write in complete sentences.</p> <p>4b You describe some reasons why the Roman Army was successful but your answer lacks detail.</p> <p>4a You write about each reason in separate paragraphs and refer to one of the sources in your answer.</p>	<p>Pupils show factual knowledge and understanding of aspects of the history of Britain.</p> <p>They are beginning to select + combine information from different sources.</p>
5	<p>As above and</p> <p>5c You describe most of the reasons why the Roman Army was successful in some detail.</p> <p>5b You also use appropriate terms (Latin names of weapons, tactics, types of discipline etc) and refer to more than one source in your answer.</p> <p>5a For top of level, you explain why discipline, organisation etc was important to the success of the Roman Army and you will support many of your statements with reference to one of the sources.</p>	<p>Pupils show increasing depth of factual knowledge of the history of Britain.</p> <p>Using their knowledge + understanding, pupils are beginning to evaluate sources of information + identify those that are useful for particular tasks.</p>
6	<p>As above and</p> <p>6c Your answer will contain more originality and detail. You may refer to examples of the Roman Army's success or use information of your own.</p> <p>6a For top of level your knowledge of why the Roman Army was so successful will be very detailed. You will refer to the countries the Romans conquered.</p> <p>Or you may compare the Roman army to their defeated armies.</p>	<p>As above and</p> <p>Using their knowledge + understanding, they identify + evaluate sources of information, which they use critically to reach + support conclusions.</p>
7	<p>As above and</p> <p>You have selected + used a variety of original sources and will use sophisticated vocabulary. Your conclusion will focus on the question and answer it more directly.</p>	<p>As above and</p> <p>Pupils show some independence in following lines of enquiry, using their knowledge + understanding to identify, evaluate and use sources of information critically.</p>