



The Leys School Cambridge

Specimen

Sixth Form Scholarship Examination

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Time allowed: 60 minutes

Instructions

- You should write your answers on LINED paper
- Write your name on any paper that you use
- The use of a dictionary is not allowed
- Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION SIXTH FORM SCHOLARSHIP

Read the following extracts from Dio Cassius and Tacitus, and then answer the questions that follow:

‘While this sort of child’s play was going on in Rome, a terrible disaster occurred in Britain. Two cities were sacked, eighty thousand of the Romans and of their allies perished, and the island was lost to Rome. Moreover all this ruin was brought upon the Romans by a woman, a fact which in itself caused them the greatest shame....An excuse for the war was found in the confiscation of the sums of money that Claudius had given to the foremost Britains for these sums, as Decianus Catus, the procurator of the island, maintained,, were to be paid back. The person who was chiefly instrumental in rousing the natives and persuading them to fight the Romans, the person who was though worthy to be their leader and who directed the conduct of the entire war, was Boudicca, a Briton woman of the royal family and possessed of greater intelligence than often belonged to women. She now grasped a spear to aid her in terrifying all beholders and spoke as follows:

“You have learned by actual experience how different freedom is from slavery. Have we not been robbed entirely of most of our possessions, and those the greatest, while for those that remain we pay taxes? Besides pasturing and tilling for them all our other possessions, do we not pay a yearly tribute for our very bodies? How much better it would be to have been sold to masters once for all than, possessing empty titles of freedom, to have to ransom ourselves every year? How much better to have been slain and to have perished than to go about with a tax on our heads!”

DIO CASSIUS - ROMAN HISTORY BOOK LX11.3

‘While Suetonius was thus occupied, he learnt of a sudden rebellion in the province Prasutagus, king of the Iceni, after a life of long and renowned prosperity, had made the emperor co-heir with his own two daughters. Kingdom and household alike were plundered like prizes of war, the one by Roman Officer, the other by Roman slaves. As a beginning, his widow Boudicca was flogged and their daughters raped. The Icenian chiefs were deprived of their hereditary estates as if the Romans had been given the whole country. The king’s own relatives were treated like slaves... Boudicca drove round all the tribes in a chariot with her daughters in front of her. “We British are used to women commanders in war. I am descended from mighty men! Consider how many of you are fighting - and why! Then you will win this battle, or perish. That is what I, a woman, plan to do!- let the men in slavery if they will”.

TACITUS - ANNALS BOOK XIV.30f

Questions

1. Explain giving details from the passages what is similar and different between these two accounts. Consider style, language and tone. (15)
2. What impression do we get of Buduica/Boudicca in each? (10)
3. Bearing in mind that Roman men wrote these accounts, is there anything that surprises you in their words? (10)
4. Why is there such an emphasis on slavery? What does this tell us about slavery generally in the ancient world? (7)
5. What do you suppose happened as a direct result of the rebellion and why? (8)
6. Can you think of any other similar figure in History (ancient or modern) who behaved in a similar way? (5)

= 55 Marks