



CSCP Support Materials for Eduqas GCSE Latin Component 3A Latin Literature (Narratives)



Tacitus: Boudica For examination in 2022 and 2023 Section H

Section H

Suetonius rallies his troops

Notes and Discussion

Suetonius delivers a speech to parallel that delivered by Boudica. It picks up some of the themes from the main narrative, including the Roman perception of women in war: **'there were more women to be seen among them than young fighting men'**. He also mentions their cowardice and makes unfavourable comparison with the professional Roman army (**'unwarlike and unarmed and that they would surrender immediately'**).

In terms of joining battle, unlike Boudica he concentrates on tactics. What he outlines is standard Roman procedure: maintain the lines (**'stand together'**), take the power out of any initial charge by your enemy (**'cast their javelins'**), and then move in together for close quarter fighting (**'continue the slaughter with their shield-bosses and swords'**).

Questions

1. Pick out and explain **three** things which Suetonius says which you think would have been particularly effective in inspiring his men.
2. Which speech do you prefer, Boudica's or Suetonius'? Explain your opinion.