

# Preparing to Study at A level

## Work for History

***Below you will find 5 weeks preparation work (around 10 hrs) for your A level course and an Enrolment Task (2 hrs). You will need to do the same for your other two subjects. The final enrolment task must be submitted to [Enrolment@StratfordSchool.co.uk](mailto:Enrolment@StratfordSchool.co.uk) by Monday 12th July.***

Exam Board OCR

**You can find the course specification here:**

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/170128-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-history-a-h505.pdf>

- Alfred and the Making of England – p.17-18
- Cold War in Asia – p.63-64
- Popular Culture and the Witchcraze of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Century – p.91-92

### Research Tasks and Wider Reading:

As optional extra areas of study, you might like to:

- **The Cold War: A Very Short Introduction by Robert McMahon. An electronic copy is provided for you in the Sixth form transition folder. [Click here to access it.](#)**
- **Stuart Britain: A Very Short Introduction by John Morrill**
- **The Tudors: A Very Short Introduction by John Guy**
- **The Anglo-Saxon Age: A Very Short Introduction' by John Blair**

### Activities:

#### Task 1

Using the internet create a dual coded timeline of 10 – 20 important events that happened in Britain from c.40AD to c.700AD (remember the little 'c' here means 'circa' meaning around these dates, you can go slightly before and a bit afterwards if you like). Some examples? 43AD – the Roman Emperor Claudius and imperial Army successfully invaded Britain. 757AD – King Offa of Mercia built the famous fortifications along the Welsh/Mercian border known as 'Offa's Dyke'. You must complete one picture for each event on the timeline.

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## **Task 2**

Look up the answers to these questions: WHY did the Romans invade? WHAT major events occurred in Britain following this invasion. (An example could be an investigation into the Boudiccan revolt. What caused it, what happened etc.) Also, WHAT were the consequences of the invasion, any other major events?! Add you detailed answers to your notes in the file you are creating for this work! If you need some further focus questions – see appendix 1.

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## **Task 3**

Watch the video on 'The Roman Empire in Britain' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gIKe9njOB24> As you watch take notes of relevant details and continue with your Fact file on Roman Britain. For example: what was 'Britannia' like for the Roman Troops? What were the British tribes like? What was life like in the cities, for example London? What was culture in Britain like? And lots lots more! Try and look up Primary Sources – Roman writers perhaps – Tacitus, Suetonius, Cassius Dio... The Roman writer Tacitus for example visited 'Britannia', as it was known then, he wasn't particularly enamoured of the place, he thought the weather awful and the Britons violent and uncultured! Then again, he was an upper class Roman, perhaps his 'origin' affects his opinion?

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## **Task 4**

Watch the video at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0-N05K\\_MKY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0-N05K_MKY) use it to make notes on what happened after the Romans left Britain. Create an Anglo-Saxon fact file from the video to add to your notes so far, explaining WHY the Saxons invaded, WHO else invaded Britain after the Romans left. Pick out 10 -15 important facts from the video on the Anglo-Saxon invasions after the Romans left. By now you will have lots of notes and creative things in your folder/ book to show off on this project, but we haven't finished yet! You could take this further and look for other websites that give interesting details on life, culture, society, war, people and government in Anglo-Saxon England. Again, if you need some focus questions look in appendix 2.

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## **Task 5**

This is an interesting website that has lots of things that we never really get to study in school. If you follow the link below it will take you to the 'meanwhile elsewhere' website where I would like you to do the activity that investigates an Anglo-Saxon burial in East Anglia. It's a fascinating burial at a place called 'Sutton Hoo'. The iconic Anglo-Saxon warrior's helmet was found here! If you scroll down to the link: 'Saxons and Sutton Hoo – The Cambridge Bed Burial'. Then the link has a worksheet and other links within the worksheet to help you answer the questions. So, I'd like you to complete the worksheet questions as a 'last' entry into your Anglo-Saxon file. Though feel free to add anything else interesting you find to tell me in September!

<https://meanwhileelsewhereinhistory.wordpress.com/pre-1066/>

**Enrolment Task (This task must be sent to [Enrolment@StratfordSchool.co.uk](mailto:Enrolment@StratfordSchool.co.uk)):**

- Look at the two sources below and answer the following questions.
- 1) How useful are these two sources to show how life changed in Britain in the years following the Roman conquest and settlement? (Remember your Content/Provenance/Context to answer this question)
- 2) ESSAY QUESTION: 'The Roman Empire was a force for good in Britannia'. How far do you agree? (You can use the sources, but also think about all you have studied here in this preparatory work – what did the Empire DO for Britain? Was it all good? What about the 'bad' stuff?)
- SOURCE A:

Agricola [the Roman governor of Britain] had to deal with people [the Britons] living in isolation and ignorance and therefore prone to fight; and his object was to accustom them to a life of peace and quiet by the provision of amenities. He therefore gave private encouragement and official assistance to the building of temples, public squares and good houses. He praised the energetic and scolded the slack; and competition for honour proved as effective as compulsion. Furthermore, he educated the sons of chiefs in the liberal arts, and expressed a preference for British ability as compared with the trained skills of the Gauls. The result was that instead of loathing the Latin language they became eager to speak it effectively. In the same way, our national dress came into favour and the toga was everywhere to be seen. And so the population was gradually led into the demoralizing temptations of arcades, baths and sumptuous banquets. The unsuspecting Britons spoke of such novelties as 'civilization', when in fact they were only a feature of their enslavement.

Tacitus. *Agricola* 21, trans. Mattingly, 1976.

- SOURCE B



A reconstruction of how a town like Colchester or St Albans would have looked like in Roman Britain.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Faughnan [afaughnan@stratfordschool.co.uk](mailto:afaughnan@stratfordschool.co.uk)

## Appendix

Appendix 1:

### **THE ROMAN EMPIRE**

How did the Roman Empire get its name?

Rome is the capital city of Italy. Building started in 753 BC and the Romans developed a story to explain how Rome was built. They believed that twin boys, Romulus and Remus, were taken from their mother and left by the river Tiber to starve. It is thought that a mother wolf found the babies and looked after them until they were old enough to take care of themselves. The myth goes on to say that years later, Mars (the Roman God of war) told the boys to build a city on the spot where they had been found. The two boys built this city but ended up fighting with each other. Romulus won the battle and the city became known as Rome. Today, historians and archaeologists believe however that people started living in Rome long before the time of Romulus and Remus, but many people still believe in their legend.

## Who ruled Rome?

At first, kings ruled Rome. The last king they had in the 5th century BC was called Tarquin the Proud. Tarquin abolished many rights and people hated him. He was overthrown because he was the worst king in Roman history. Rome then became a republic for the next four hundred years. That is to say that the most important people in Rome decided what was good for the Empire. This republic was ruled by a senate, and people called Senators were elected to do different jobs in the senate. However, not everyone was allowed to vote in these elections. Women and slaves were not allowed to vote, and neither were poor people. Those Roman people who were not slaves were called 'citizens'. In the 1st century BC the generals who controlled the army became very powerful. These Romans helped to create an impressive empire of which Rome was the centre. See the map on the other side of this paper. And at first, Rome was ruled by Generals, but this caused problems. The Generals were always fighting over who would have the final say in running the Empire. Eventually the Generals were replaced by just one man - The Emperor. A Roman Emperor was the man who ruled over the Empire.

Tip: Things you can investigate on the Roman Empire if you are having trouble focusing on what to include in your Roman 'file':

The Claudian invasion and conquest of Britain in AD43.

The Roman emperors, from Claudius onwards.

The British tribes – who were they? What were they like?

The Boudiccan revolt. Who was Boudicca? Why is there this legend about her? Why did she fight the Romans?

What were the cities like in Roman Britain? Circuses? Gladiator arenas? Bath houses?

What was the culture like in Roman Britain?

What was warfare like in the Roman Empire?

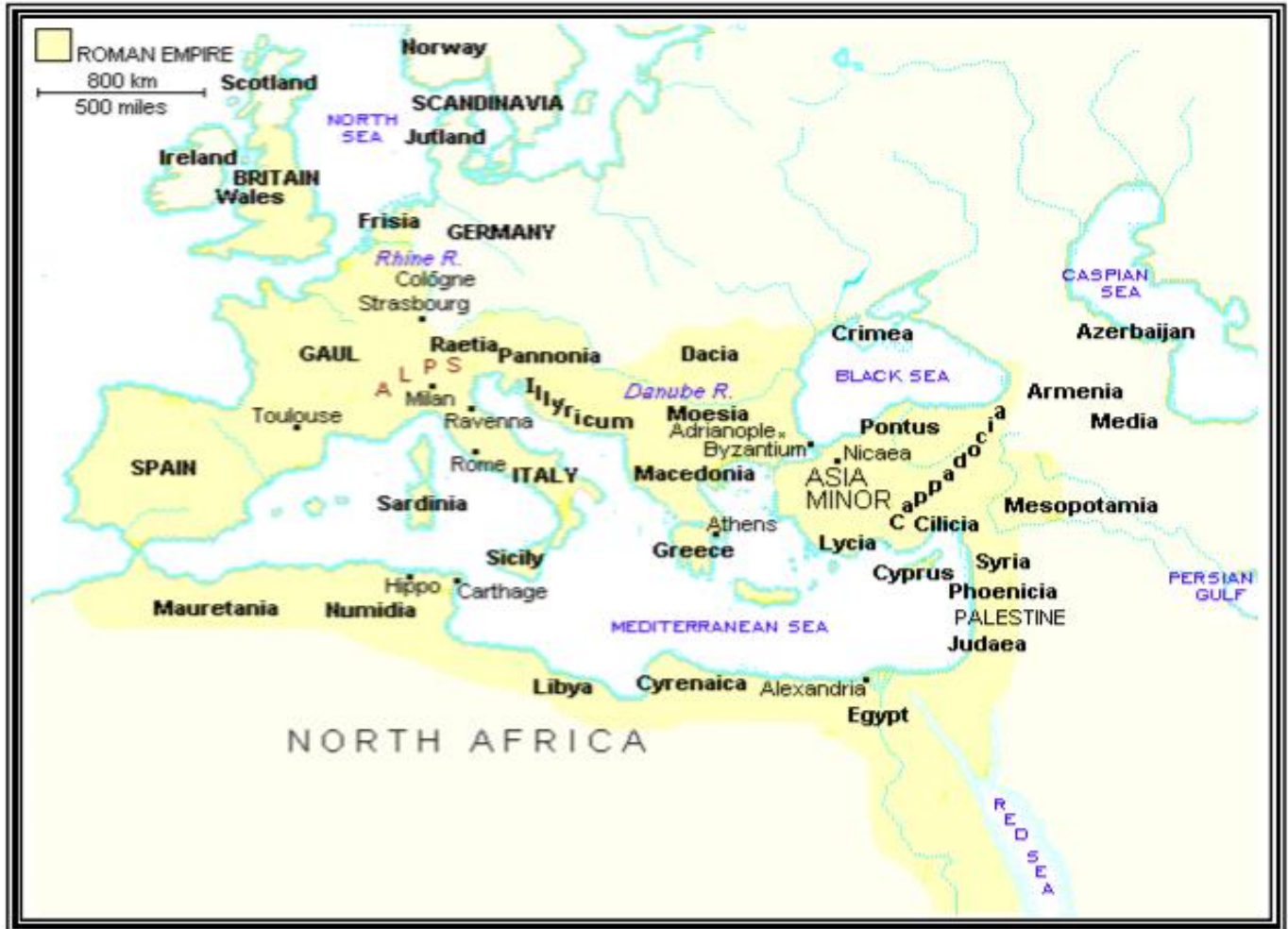
Investigate Roman artefacts – look up the Vindolanda tablets for example, they are an amazing record of people from almost 2000 years ago!

Look up Roman writers to use as Primary Sources if you can!

## Appendix 1:

### Map of the Roman Empire

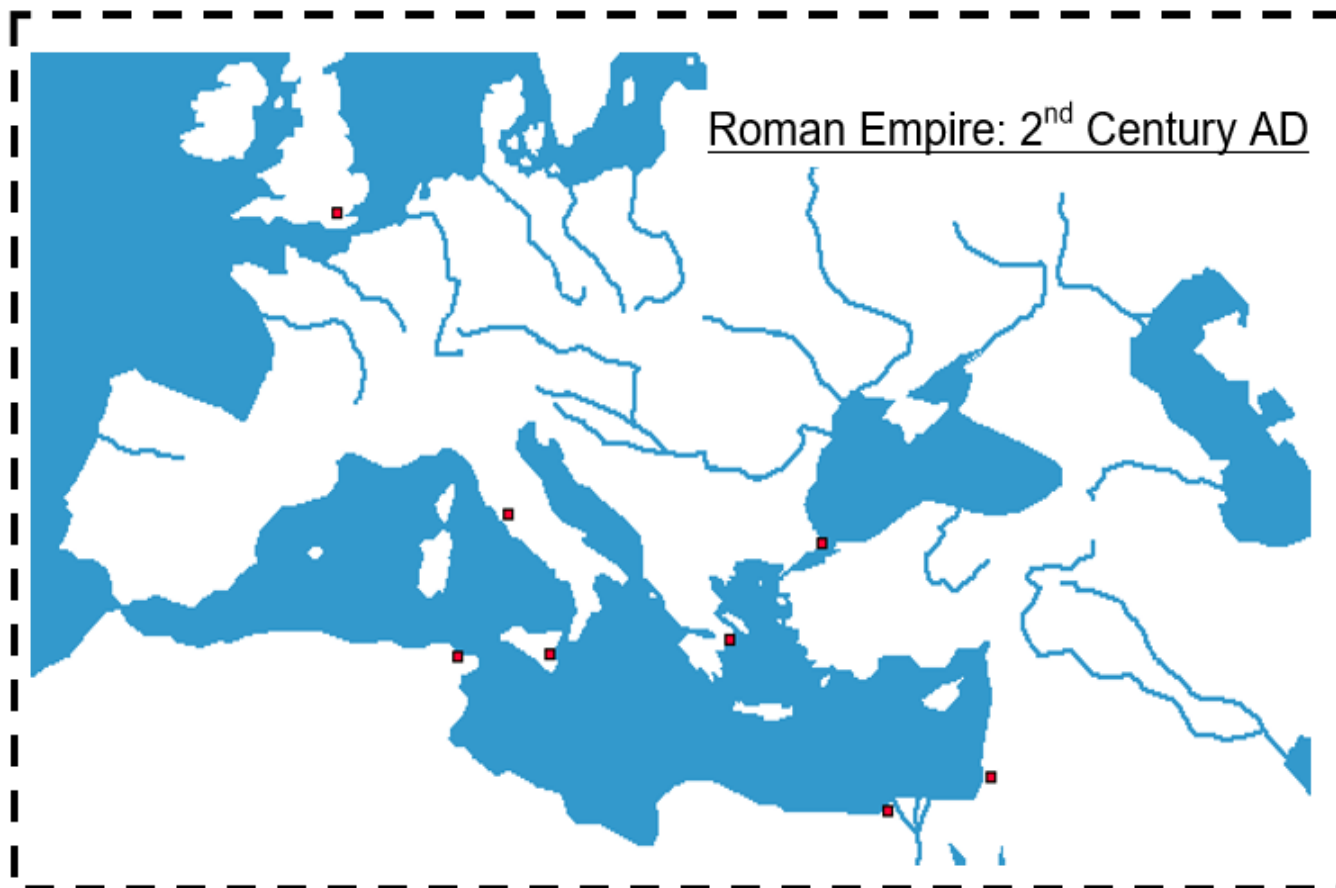




### Appendix 1

Use the map above to label and colour all of countries in the Roman Empire on the blank map below. You must only label the following countries.

1. Britain & Wales.
2. Gaul (France).
3. Spain.
4. Egypt.
5. Italy.
6. Asia Minor.
7. Macedonia.
8. Mauretania.
9. Libya.
10. Mesopotamia.
11. Palestine.



## Appendix 2: The Anglo-Saxons

The country had been divided into 7 self-ruled kingdoms, Kent, Sussex, Wessex, Essex, East Anglia, West Anglia or Mercia and Northumbria.

The first "Anglo Saxon King" who came to power almost 50 years after the Romans left was in fact a Jute duo (from Jutland in modern Denmark), Hengist and Horsa, and they only ruled in Kent. The first Saxon king ruled in Wessex (around Winchester) was called Cerdic. This was some 90 years after the Romans left. The ancestry of all the Kings and Queens of England can be traced to Cerdic including the present queen, Elizabeth 2<sup>nd</sup>!

Others early regional Kings who were powerful and ruled or influenced part but not all England were:

- Cerdic a Saxon ruled in Wessex from 495
- Aethelberht a Jute 580, ruled from Kent.
- Aethelfrith an Angle 670 who ruled from Northumbria.
- Penda an Angle 735 who ruled from Mercia.
- Offa an Angle 757 who ruled from Mercia.
- Egbert a Saxon 802 who ruled all England except Northumbria, from Wessex.

So...

### **After 400 years in Britain the Romans leave**

410 Honorius, the Roman Emperor in Britain says he must return to Rome to defend his homeland from attacks by Germanic tribes. The British therefore must take over the responsibility of defending themselves from Jutes, Angles, Saxons, Picts and Scots.

### **A Kingdom in Kent is formed**

449 40 years after the Romans have left, Vortigen a local ruler in Kent, invites Jutes (from Jutland in Denmark), as mercenaries to fight against the invading Picts and Scots. Having beaten the Picts and Scots they turn on Vortigen and settle in Kent and choose the Jute war lords, Hengist and Horsa as their rulers (455).

Some put Hengist and Horsa as the first post Roman Germanic Kings of England.

### **The Kingdom of Sussex**

477 Aella, a southern Saxon (from Saxony in Germany, mostly), lands in Pevensey Bay and after a bloody war lasting some months, he kills most of the local Britons and forms Sussex. (South Saxons)

### **The Kingdom of Wessex**

495 More Saxons arrive and land in the Southampton area, capture the old Roman town of Winchester and the land of the West Saxons in born, ruled by Cedric. All subsequent Kings and Queens of all England are related to Cedric.

516 Battle of Badon Hill. A West Saxon expansion westward is halted for some years by perhaps by a 'King Arthur' (that's the legend folks! Artorius/Arthur if he was real was perhaps a Romano-British general left after the Legions went home) one of the last Romanised Britons in England.

### **The Kingdom of Essex**

527 The 3rd and last Saxon tribe arrives this time landing probably via the Thames just east of London and they settle in the land from the Thames to St Albans. Essex, the land of the East Saxons. Including the site that was made for the 2012 Olympics!

### **The Kingdom of Northumberland**

547 Now it's the turn of the Angles who avoid the Saxons and settle north of the river Humber (North- Humberia, see how that works?!)

### **The Kingdom of East Anglia**

575 Two further tribes of Angles (from Angeln in Germany, mostly) land in what is now called East Anglia. They settle in two groups forming Norfolk and Suffolk. (North Folk and South Folk, again see how that works?!)

### **The Kingdom of Mercia**

586 This area now called the East Midlands, was also overrun by Angles as they colonised the last remaining part of Romanised Britain.

585 England is thus divided into 7 separate Kingdoms all ruled by separate Germanic Kings. Some 200,000 Angles, Saxons and Jutes (from Jutland) are now living in England and the majority of British males have been killed or have fled to Wales, Scotland or Cornwall. The new Germanic tribes spend much of their time fighting between themselves.

### **The commencement of dominant Kings, 613**

613-731.

Northumbria Kings rule over the whole of England except Kent. The three great Northumbrian Kings were:

- Aethelfrith. 607. Noted for a decisive victory against the Welsh at Chester
- Edwin 617. Noted for being persuaded to become a Christian by his wife Aethelburga who was the daughter of the Christian King of Kent. Edwin was defeated by the Mercian overlord Penda at a battle near Doncaster.
- Egfrith 685. The last dominant King of Northumbria and England defeated by a joint raiding party of Picts and Scots.



## **The Kings of Mercia rule England**

679 The Mercians now become the most powerful Kingdom and by 757 rule all of Wessex.

Mercia is populated by Angles. Their first notable King is Penda 735-55.

757 Offa 757-96 becomes King of Mercia, and overlord of all England below Northumbria. Noted for having a good trading and religious relationship with Charlemagne (perhaps look this person up?!), introducing a new currency, the Penny with the same silver content as a French coin thus being interchangeable for trade. Noted also for building a formidable, 26-foot-high, 120-mile-long earth dyke to defend England from the "Britons" in Wales. Some say the first King of all England.

## **Saxon Kings rule all England**

### **Egbert 802-839**

820 England's southern Kingdom, Wessex (Saxon) under King Egbert (802-839) breaks the military supremacy of Mercia (Angles) creating the powerbase to unify England. The only remaining Roman British stronghold (Cornwall) is also brought under Wessex control. Egbert is considered the first king of all England. Egbert married a French princess, none other than Redburga, sister of Charlemagne and with her he sired the future king Aethelwulf.

### **Aethelwulf 839-858**

839 The son of Egbert, Aethelwulf rules 839-858 all of England but in 855 he is forced to allow the first permanent settlement of Vikings on the Island of Sheppey off the north coast of Kent.

Aethelwulf travels to Rome in 856 to see the Pope he is so worried about the Vikings from Denmark. On the return journey he marries princess Judith, daughter of Charles the Bold, king of the Franks. Aethelwulf, previously in 830 married an English girl Osburga and they had four sons all becoming kings of England; (Osburga died c. 850)

Aethelbald, Aethelberht, Aethelred 1st and Alfred (The Great)...more about him in September!

Tip: some focus questions to aid your research into the Anglo-Saxons:

Where did they come from?

Why did they settle in post Roman Britain?

What other groups came to Britain?

Where did these different groups settle?

Look up Anglo-Saxon poetry, like Beowulf, you could do a fact file on this!

What were the Anglo-Saxons like?

What were their culture, warfare, clothing, food, houses, towns, language, kings like?

You could do an investigation into Anglo-Saxon place names, we still use them in modern day Britain!

I hoped you enjoy/ have enjoyed this project, and I'll leave you with a quote from the author of 'The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire'...

"History...is indeed little more than a chronicle of the crimes, follies and misfortunes of mankind."  
Edward Gibbon (1737 – 1794)

Do you agree?!

Appendix 2: Map to annotate for task 5

