

Course Number (when applicable)	
Course Title	
AP Latin - Vergil & Caesar	
Name of Assignment (title of book(s), Author, Edition, and ISBN (when applicable))	
The Gallic War: Seven Commentaries (English), Carolyn Hammond	ISBN 10: 199540268
Expectations/Instructions for Student When Completing Assignment	
<p>Read the English of Caesar's Gallic War Books 1, 6, and 7 (summaries of books 2-5 provided) and answer the questions in the attached reading packet (pdf). It might be helpful to answer the reading questions as you read through the text.</p> <p>reading questions (pdf)</p>	
One Essential Question for Assignment	
What should we expect from <i>comentarii</i> in form and content - how does Caesar confirm and challenge these expectations? What point of view does Caesar take when describing actions?	
One Enduring Understanding for Assignment	
Caesar adapts the characters, structures, and tropes of historical prose to create a uniquely Roman commentary and define basic tenets of 'Romanness', as well as structure of Latin literature and language	
Parent Role and Expectations	
Students work independently.	
Estimated Time Requirement	
Approximately 1 week per English Book	

Questions for the English Reading of Julius Caesar's Gallic Wars

Answer questions in complete sentences.

Book I

1. Outline each of the following territories in the colors indicated: Belgae (blue); Celts/ Gauls (yellow), Aquitani (red):



Figure 1: The Roman Provinces in Gaul around 58 BC; note that the coastline shown here is the modern one, different from the ancient coastline in some parts of the English Channel

2. Who was Orgetorix and what were his ambitions?

3. Why did Orgetotix commit suicide?

4. What actions or preparations did the Helvetii make before leaving their homeland?

5. Caesar is first introduced in Chapter 7, in the third person. What effect does the third person narrative have on the reader? What is your first impression of Julius Caesar? Why?

6. How does Caesar use speed and engineering to accomplish his goals?

7. What motivates the Gallic leader Dumnorix?

8. Who induced Caesar to get involved with the Helvetii. Do you think this invitation was anticipated by Caesar? Why?



Figure 2: Helvetii chieftain Divico negotiates with Caesar after the battle of Bibracte

9. What problem did Caesar have with his food supply, and how did he deal with it?



Figure 3: A reproduction of an aide-de-camp of Helvetii cavalry commander Dumnorix at the Musée de la civilisation celtique, Bibracte, France

10. How did Caesar get information about Dumnorix's motivations?

11. How does Caesar show sensitivity to Gallic sensibilities in his dealings with Diviciacus and Dumnorix?

12. What physical actions does Diviciacus take to show his inferiority to the Romans?

13. Which of the Helvetii surrendered to Caesar after the battle described in Chapter 26; which did not? What was Caesar's reaction to both groups?

14. What kinds of documents were left behind in the Helvetii's camp, and what kind of insight does it give to Helvetian society?

15. How do the events in Chapters 31 and 32 mirror those:

in Chapter 9? _____

in Chapter 11? _____

in Chapter 20? _____



Figure 4: Drawing of Ariovistus by Fritz Krischen, engraving Ludwig Frank, edition Hahneman (Ochel).

16. What threat does Ariovistus pose and how does Caesar learn about it?

16. How does Caesar express his motivations for taking up arms against Ariovistus?

17. Summarize the main points of Ariovistus' argument in Chapter 36.



Figure 5: The Sequani build their capital, named Vesontio in the loop of the Doubs, which serves as natural protection.

18. How does Caesar describe a well-fortified Gallic town, like the town of Vesontio?



Figure 6: This is a oppidum surrounded by high walls. The houses are made of wood and mud.

19. What fear did the Romans have of the Germans and what impact did it have on the army?

20. Evaluate Caesar's effectiveness as an orator.

21. Why does Caesar's 10th Legion become known as the "mounted legion"?

22. How did the Germans demonstrate bad faith during the discussions between Caesar and Ariovistus?

23. What was Ariovistus' reaction upon seeing Gaius Valerius Procillus and Marcus Mettius? was this reaction justified?

24. How did Caesar acquire special knowledge of German religious customs relating to battle? What were these customs, and how did Caesar capitalize on this knowledge?

25. How important was it that Caesar's soldiers be watched by their superior's in battle?

Book II

The Belgae, fearing the expansion of Roman military power in Gaul, begin to form a huge army to fight the Romans. The Remi, one of the Belgic tribes, breaks away from the Belgic conspiracy and offers its help to the Romans. This help from the Remi proves useful, as well as help from the Aedui (allies of Rome) in the form of cavalrymen. The military conflict that follows culminates in a huge battle with the toughest of all the Belgae, the Nervii. After bloody fighting, the Romans are victorious.

Book III

Some Roman troops under Servius Galba are wintering peacefully in the Alps between Italy and Gaul. Suddenly, the occupied tribes strike at the vulnerable Romans, posing a grave threat. But the Romans fight back, defeating the tribesmen. Later, the Veneti, a seafaring tribe on the western coast of Gaul, begin a rebellion against Rome. Breaking an important tradition, the Veneti capture and imprison the Roman envoys sent to them. This infuriates Caesar. The Veneti, because of their great experience as sailors, exercise great advantage over the Romans in naval battle. But the Romans eventually adapt and defeat the Veneti. Caesar, wishing to make an example of the Veneti for violating the customs of diplomacy by imprisoning the envoys, executes their chief nobles and sells the rest of them into slavery.

Book IV

The Suebi, an enormous German tribe, have a reputation for physical toughness and military prowess. Two other smaller German tribes, the Usipetes and Tencteri, are tired of being oppressed by the Suebi so they decide to go west, crossing the Rhine and moving into the territory of the Belgae (more specifically the Menapii). Caesar quickly arrives with Roman troops. The Germans try repeatedly to bargain with Caesar but to no avail. After settling on a temporary truce, the Germans unexpectedly attack the Romans, causing casualties. Caesar considers this to be an act of treachery, and decides to break off any further negotiations with the Germans. The next day, the Germans send a large number of their leaders and elders to negotiate with Caesar. Caesar, expecting further treachery, takes these Germans prisoner. He attacks and defeats the remaining Germans who are disadvantaged by the absence of their leadership. As a show of force, Caesar constructs a sturdy wooden bridge across the Rhine and crosses into German territory, alarming the Germans.

Later, Caesar makes arrangements for an assault on Britain. Although the Roman infantry successfully cross the English channel, the cavalry fail to cross, putting the Romans at a disadvantage. After being routed by the Romans, the Britons agree to submit to Caesar and disperse back into the countryside. But after a storm damages the Romans' ships and leaves them stranded in Britain without adequate supplies, the Britons decide to attack the Romans in their vulnerable state. The Britons initially catch the Romans off guard, but the Romans regroup and rout the Britons. When the Roman troops begin to cross back over to the continent, they are attacked by the Morini, who are then defeated by the Romans.

Book V

Caesar commands that as many boats as possible be prepared during the winter for a campaign against Britain in the Spring. He orders all boats to assemble at Portus Itius (near modern day Boulogne-sur-Mer). Caesar's attention is momentarily diverted to Gallia Belgica - Indutiomarus and Cingetorix struggle for power over the Treveri. Back at Port Itius, Caesar prepares to take many Gallic hostages with him to his British campaign so as to prevent revolts while he is gone. Among them is Dumnorix, a rebellious noble of the Aedui. Dumnorix violently opposes being taken over to Britain, and flees back to his homeland. Caesar stops all preparations while Dumnorix is hunted down and slain.

The Romans sail to Britain to begin their campaign. There are some skirmishes between the Romans and the Britons, and a storm destroys many of the Roman boats. The British tribes, although previously at war with one another, band together to face the Roman threat with Cassivellaunus as their commander in chief. Caesar discovers the stronghold of Cassivellaunus near the Thames river and routs the Britons there. The Trinovantes, a powerful tribe, offer to become Rome's allies, and several other British tribes follow suit. From these tribes Caesar learns the location of Cassivellaunus and successfully attacks him there. Cassivellaunus orders the tribes in Kent to attack the British ships, but they are defeated. Cassivellaunus surrenders to Caesar, enabling Caesar to quickly return to the continent before Winter arrives.

Because a drought has affected the grain supply, Caesar's troops must winter among the rebellious Belgic tribes. Roman troops, led by Q. Titurius Sabinus and L. Aurunculeius Cotta are wintering among the Eburones when they are attacked by the Eburones, led by Ambiorix and Cativolcus. Ambiorix deceives the Romans by saying that the attack was made without his consent, and furthermore advises them to flee because a huge German army is coming from across the Rhine. After much discussion and disagreement, the Romans decide to trust Ambiorix and leave the next morning. As the Romans are

marching away the next morning, the Eburones ambush them, killing most of the Romans. A few Roman survivors make it back to their winter quarters where they commit suicide that night.

Other Roman troops are wintering among the Nervii under Quintus Tullius Cicero (brother of the famous orator). Ambiorix convinces the other Belgic tribes to immediately attack Cicero's camp. Cicero's troops are trapped, outnumbered, and blocked from help as their messengers are intercepted. The situation gets progressively more desperate for the Romans, but finally they are able to get a message to Caesar. Caesar summons the other Roman legions and rushes to Cicero's aid. When Caesar approaches Cicero's camp, the Belgae abandon their siege of Cicero's camp and head toward Caesar's troops. Caesar, vastly outnumbered, creates a ruse, ordering his troops to appear confused and frightened. The ruse works and entices the Belgae to attack on ground favorable to the Romans. Caesar's troops counterattack and put the Belgae to flight. That same day Caesar's troops reach Cicero's camp finding most of the men wounded. Meanwhile, Indutiomarus, a leader of the Treveri, begins to harass the camp of Labienus daily, until Labienus sends out cavalry for the express purpose of killing Indutiomarus. After killing Indutiomarus, the Roman cavalry routs the rest of Indutiomarus' army. Caesar personally stays in Gaul all winter due to the risk of unrest among the Gallic tribes.

Book VI

26. In what ways does Caesar replenish his troop numbers and why does Caesar believe that a quick replenishment is vital to his war effort?

27. What group/ tribe does Caesar attack first? Why does he attack them?

28. Where does Caesar go next? What does he do there?

29. What was important for Caesar to do before he attacked Ambiorix directly?

30. How did Labienus trick the Gauls? What did Labienus say to encourage his soldiers?

31. Why did Caesar cross the Rhine? Was this the first time that he has done this?

32. What two tribes held the most power in Gaul before Caesar's arrival? Who had been the most powerful of these two groups and how had they become so? How did Caesar's arrival change the status quo?

33. What two groups of men are held in worth and distinction amongst the Gauls? Why are the ordinary people not considered amongst these two groups?

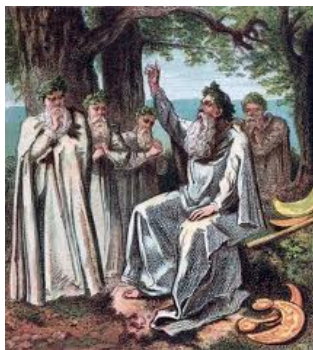


Figure 7: The Druids according to Caesar

34. Why would a young man want to become a Druid? What do they have to do to become a Druid?

35. According to Caesar, what language do the Druids use for their daily written records? What things are unlawful to commit to writing? What reasons does Caesar give for this prohibition on writing? How does this prohibition on writing reflect “oral traditions” which are common in many “primitive societies”?

36. Was warfare more or less frequent before Caesar’s arrival in Gaul? Explain.

37. Describe at least three different religious beliefs held amongst the Gauls.

38. Describe the arrangement or relationship that Gallic men have with their wives? With their sons? With the government?

39. How is German religion different than Gallic religion?

40. According to Caesar, how do Germans view their land?

41. How did the Gauls become weaker than the Germans?

42. Describe at least one animal that Caesar mentions and take a guess as to what that animal is known as today.



Figure 8: European moose in lake, Elk, Bull moose, Alces alces, Summer, Germany

43. Why did Caesar break off his campaign in Germany?

44. Describe what happened when Caesar finally did move directly against Ambiorix.

45. How did Cativolcus commit suicide and what does Caesar give as his reasons?

46. What did Caesar do at the site of Cotta and Sabinus's old winter camp?

47. How did Caesar plan to take revenge on the Eburones?

48. What led a German tribe to attack Cicero's camp?

49. How did the "fog of war" play a role in the Romans' reaction to the German attack on Cicero's camp?

50. What individual acts of bravery are described by Caesar during the attack on Cicero's camp?

51. What was Caesar's one criticism of Cicero?

52. What is the last thing we hear about Ambiorix?

53. Who is Acco? What happens to him? Why?

Book VII

54. Research and describe your findings to the following question: Who was Clodius? Why would his death be important to Caesar? What is going on in Rome that would divert Caesar's attention from Gaul?

55. What reasons are given for the Gauls to have begun again a rebellion against the Romans?

56. What concern do the Carnutes have when they volunteer to initiate the rebellion against the Romans? How do they alleviate these concerns?

57. How do the Carnutes initiate the rebellion, and how is news of the rebellion spread?

58. Who is Vercingetorix and how does he acquire an army?

59. What circumstances allowed Caesar to depart from Rome to confront the rebellious Gauls? What dilemma faced him upon leaving Italy?

60. Describe Vercingetorix's plan for winning the war and depriving Caesar after Vercingetorix's series of losses at Vellaunodunum, Genabum, and Noviodunum. What name is commonly given to this type of war plan?

61. What kind of relationship does Caesar have with his soldiers? How is this relationship portrayed in the Commentaries?

62. Why was Vercingetorix accused of treason, and how did he dispel these accusations?

63. Why was it so difficult for the Romans to overtake the Gallic walls at Avaricum? How did they eventually overtake the walls?



Figure 9: Model of the siege of Avaricum

64. How did Gallic matrons prevent their husbands from fleeing Avaricum on the eve of its collapse?

65. How did the Romans behave after they had overtaken Avaricum? What are some of the reasons given to explain their behavior?

66. How did Vercingetorix explain the Gallic defeat at Avaricum? Also, what favorable outcome did Vercingetorix mention would result from the events at Avaricum?



67. What was it about Vercingetorix that inspired confidence in the Gauls?

68. How did Vercingetorix make up for the troops that he lost at Avaricum?

69. Why did Caesar leave his army and travel to the Aedui?

Figure 10: Vercingétorix
Memorial in Alesia

70. How did Caesar resolve the dispute between the Aedui?

71. How did Litavicus incite the Aedui in revolt? What actions does his army take in revolt?

72. What was Caesar's reaction when he heard of the Aeduan insurrection?

73. In Chapter 50, what mistake was made between the Roman soldiers and the Aeduan troops Caesar sent?

74. What self-sacrifice was made by the centurion M. Petreius? What was the result?

75. What would the reaction have been of Caesar's soldiers after hearing the speech described in Chapters 52 and 53?

76. Why is it that the Aedui continue to rebel against the Romans?

77. What were the Aeduans able to acquire at Noviodunum, and what did Caesar lose?

78. How did Caesar make up for some of his losses at Noviodunum?

79. After Vercingetorix's cavalry attack on the Romans failed in Chapter 67, what loss impacted the Gauls most, and how did it impact them?

80. What natural barriers helped fortify Alesia?

81. How did the Gauls fortify Vercingetorix's camp?



Figure 11: A reconstructed section of the Alesia investment fortifications

82. Provide some specific details about Caesar's constructions at Alesia.

83. Was Caesar's method of attack to be a siege or a blockade? Cite text to support your answer.



Figure 12: 1899 painting of Caesar's Seige of Alesia by Lionel-Noël Royer

84. Why does Vercingetorix send away his cavalry before the completion of Caesar's fortifications?

85. What additional fortifications did Caesar build to defend against external attacks?

86. Who departed from Alesia with the Mandubii? Why did they depart? How did Caesar react to this group?

87. In the battle of Alesia, what final efforts were made by the Gauls after having been repulsed twice by the Romans?

88. How did Caesar respond to these efforts?

89. Why did a Roman general wear a red cloak in battle?

90. What effect did the defeat of the Gallic relief army have on the inhabitants of the besieged Alesia?

91. Why weren't all of the Gallic troops wiped out?

92. What motive does Vercingetorix say had led him to enter the war against the Romans?

Give a brief recap for each of the following characters, tribes, or places:

10 th Legion	
Aedui	
Alesia	
Ambiorix	
Ariovistus	
Avaricum	
Cicero	
Commius	
Cotta	
Crassus	
Diviciacus	
Dumnorix	
Eburones	
Gergovia	
Helvetii	
Labienus	
Nervii	
Orgetorix	
Sabinus	
Sequani	
Vercingetorix	

