Roman London

Warm-up

1 a Match the cities (1–6) to the countries (a–f). Which cities are Roman in origin?

1 ___ Zurich 
2 ___ Valencia 
3 ___ Marseilles 
4 ___ Rabat 
5 ___ Vienna 
6 ___ Cologne

a Austria 

b Morocco 
c Spain 
d France 
e Germany 
f Switzerland

b In pairs. Check your answers.
A Where is Zurich?
B It's in...
A Do you think it is Roman in origin?
B Yes, I think it is. / No, I don’t think it is.

Reading

2 Read the text about Roman London and complete it using the words in the box.

buildings trading centre town battles bridge defensive wall

The Romans invaded Britain in 43 AD. They built a 1 ______ over the river Thames and near it they built a 2 ______. They called it 3 Londinium. It was small compared to London today and it wasn’t the capital. The first Roman capital of Britain was Colchester, a town 83km north-east of London. The Celtic Iceni tribe and their queen, Boudicca, lived in this area at that time. There were many 4 ______ between the Iceni and the Romans. In 60 AD, the Iceni completely destroyed Londinium. However, the Romans retaliated, defeated the Iceni and rebuilt the city. The port of Londinium became an important 5 ______ for imports and exports to and from Europe. It replaced Colchester as the capital of Roman Britain and was the most important town in the country for the next 400 years. The Romans built a 6 ______ around the city. There were many important 7 ______, including a large basilica, a fort, temples and bath houses. In the 3rd century AD, there was political instability and economic recession in the Roman Empire. In Londinium, people abandoned large areas of the city. In 410 AD, the Romans left Britain. By the mid-5th century the Roman town of Londinium was an empty ruin.

Check

3 Answer the questions.
1 What was the first capital of Roman Britain?
2 Why was Londinium important for the Romans?
3 When did Londinium start to decline?
4 What happened to Londinium after the Romans left Britain?
5 How long did the Romans occupy Britain?

Listening

4 a The Romans imported and exported goods to and from Britain through the port of Londinium. Do you think these goods are imports (I) or exports (E)?

a ___ wool 

b ___ pottery 
c ___ slaves 
d ___ olive oil 
e ___ oysters 

f ___ gold 

g ___ wine 
h ___ glass 
i ___ corn 
j ___ iron

b  Now listen and check your answers.

Writing

5 Write a short text (75–100 words) about a Roman town or city near where you live.
Find out more using the Internet or text books. Include this information:
• when the Romans founded it
• what it was like in Roman times
• what its main function was
• what Roman remains are still visible today