**Roman Invasion**

**Reasons for Roman Invasion of Celtic Britain**:

* Romans were prompted by the alliance between the Celts of Britain and Gaul, who supported each other against Roman interests by providing food and shelter.
* The prospect of Britain’s "richer, heavier land" also motivated the Roman invasion.

 **Julius Caesar’s Initial Expedition (55 BC)**:

* Julius Caesar made the first Roman attempt to invade Britain in 55 BC, though this did not lead to full conquest.

 **Claudius’ Formal Annexation (AD 43)**:

* Full Roman conquest and annexation of Britain occurred under Emperor Claudius in AD 43.

 **Boudica’s Revolt (AD 60-61)**:

* The Iceni tribe, led by Boudica, revolted against Roman rule due to the brutal treatment by the Romans.
* The revolt resulted in the death of 70,000 Romans and collaborators.
* The Iceni were eventually crushed, with Boudica reportedly either poisoning herself or dying of illness.
* This revolt is the largest in Britannia's history.

 **Roman Control in Southern Britain**:

* After the revolt, the Romans pacified East Anglia and consolidated control over southern Britain.

 **Roman Military Presence in Britain**:

* Key Roman towns like York, Chester, and Caerleon in Wales were held by Roman legions, each consisting of about 7,000 men.
* The total Roman army in Britain numbered around 40,000 soldiers.

 **Failure to Conquer Caledonia (Scotland)**:

* The Romans spent over a century trying but failed to conquer Caledonia (modern-day Scotland).

 **Hadrian’s Wall (AD 122)**:

* To protect Roman Britain from northern raids, the Romans built Hadrian’s Wall along the northern frontier of Britain in AD 122.

 **The Picts**:

* By the late 3rd century, Romans referred to the people beyond the northern frontier as "Picts," meaning "painted people," possibly due to their use of body paint or tattoos.
* The Celtic-speaking peoples called them "Cruithne," and the official Roman name was "Caledones."

**Romanization of Britain (AD 43–409)**:  
The influence of Roman occupation on Britain is significant, spanning various aspects of life, from culture to infrastructure. Here are the key points of Roman influence on Britain, ideal for second-year university students:

1. **Introduction of Literacy and Language**:
   * Romans brought reading and writing skills to Britain.
   * While the majority of the Celtic population remained illiterate and spoke only Celtic languages, some town dwellers adopted Latin and Greek.
   * Wealthier landowners likely used Latin in daily life, while the common people maintained their native languages.
   * **Latin words in modern English**: Examples include *genius*, *incredible*, *legal*, *prosecute*, and *solar*.
2. **Roman Infrastructure and Urban Development**:
   * The Romans established the first British cities, including Londinium (modern-day London), which became the capital of Roman Britain.
   * Many towns initially grew around military camps, with the Latin term *castra* (meaning camp) influencing the names of several towns (e.g., Gloucester, Leicester, Doncaster, Winchester, Chester, Lancaster).
3. **Development of Roman Villas in the Countryside**:
   * Roman influence also reshaped rural life in Britain through the introduction of villas, large farmsteads that were often owned by wealthy Britons.
   * These villas were more Roman in structure and style, often with luxurious living standards and run by both Romans and former Roman soldiers.
4. **Cultural Influences**:
   * The Romans introduced cultural practices such as chariot racing and bathing as social activities, which became popular in Roman Britain.
   * Roman fashion also influenced local attire, with the toga (a Roman cloak) becoming a notable item of clothing during this period.
5. **Decline of Roman Control**:
   * The Roman control of Britain ended by the early 5th century as the Roman Empire began to decline.
   * This period saw increasing attacks on Britain, including invasions by the Picts (in AD 367) and Germanic groups such as the Angles, Saxons, and Franks, which contributed to the end of Roman rule in Britain.