

Julius Caesar and the Gallic Wars

Name: _____

Date: _____



Instructions: No word bank: name the numbered places from memory or from the module. Number the events in order and write each date. Analyse the source, explain significance, then write full-sentence answers and plan the essay.

1. Name the places (no word bank)



1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____
5 _____ 6 _____

Did you know?

- The siege works at Alesia ran for many miles, with an inner and an outer ring of walls, ditches and traps.
- Crossing the Rubicon with an army broke Roman law: a governor had to give up his army before entering Italy.
- Around 60 senators are said to have joined the plot to kill Caesar.
- Caesar's reform of the calendar (the Julian calendar) is the basis of the one used today.

Background

Caesar was born in 100 BC into an old but not very rich noble family. He was charming, clever and borrowed huge sums of money to win popularity. In 60 BC he made a secret alliance with Pompey and Crassus, the First Triumvirate, so the three could get what they wanted from the Senate. In 59 BC Caesar became consul, and then governor of Gaul, the land roughly covering modern France and Belgium.

2. Timeline: order and date

Number the events 1 to 7 (1 = earliest) and write the date of each.

#	Event	Date
1	Gallic Wars begin	
2	Caesar crosses the Rubicon	
3	Caesar first crosses to Britain	
4	Caesar defeats Pompey at Pharsalus	
5	First Triumvirate formed	
6	Siege of Alesia	
7	Caesar killed on the Ides of March	

4. Significance

Person or term	Who or what? Why were they significant?
Julius Caesar	
Vercingetorix	
Pompey	
Brutus	
Cleopatra VII	

3. Source analysis

At the river Rubicon Caesar hesitated. Then, after a sign he took to be from the gods, he said: "Let us go where the signs of the gods and the injustice of our enemies call us. The die is cast."

Suetonius, Life of the Deified Julius 31–32 (written c.120 AD; paraphrased)

1. What does 'the die is cast' mean?

2. How does Caesar justify crossing the river in this account?

3. Suetonius wrote over 150 years later. Why might this story have been shaped or improved?

5. Cause and consequence

1. Explain two causes of the civil war between Caesar and Pompey.

2. Explain two consequences of Caesar's murder.

6. Longer answers (full sentences)

1. Explain the double wall at Alesia and why it worked.

2. Give two reasons senators feared Caesar.

3. How reliable is Caesar's own book as a source? Explain.

4. Describe the cost of the Gallic Wars for the people of Gaul.

5. Explain in your own words: Why was crossing the Rubicon such a big decision?

7. Essay question

Essay: 'Caesar's ambition, not the Senate's actions, caused the end of the Republic.' How far do you agree?

Plan: introduction · point for (evidence) · point against (evidence) · conclusion with your judgement.
