

FIRST Reading and Use of English Part 2 – Roman Roads: The origin of the 'highway'

For questions 1 – 8, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Roman Roads – The origin of the 'highway'

Joining the towns 0 together were the Roman roads. Over the course of the occupation the Romans built 1 9,600 kilometres of roads in Britain. It is often said that Roman roads were always straight. This is 2 strictly true, but it is true that the Romans were experts 3 constructing bridges and viaducts and even in excavating passages through small hills. 4 roads were exceptionally well built, and made troop movement and later the movement of commercial goods much easier. The imperial posting service, used 5 Roman officials, maintained stations providing accommodation and a change of horses at intervals of 30 6 50 kilometres along the roads. The roads were literally **highways**, raised up on excavated earth and stone. They 7 constructed in several layers, and the top layer was generally made of large stone slabs, and were 8 four to eight metres wide.