

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.