HANIBAL COMPREHENSION

1. The Phoenicians were the first sailors “braved and skilled enough to sail their little” ships out and beyond the straits of Gibraltar. “Long before Julius Caesar had invaded Britain” the Phoenicians had crossed to the island of England. The Phoenicians became traders and learned to master the tides “which do not exist in the Mediterranean”. They started to get rich, very rich. This is because tin was a scarcity in the east but “necessary for the making of bronze” which is a necessity for the creation of buildings, armour ,horses’ tack, belts, goblets, plates, bells, money and temple decoration. “The Phoenicians established trading posts wherever the prospect seemed good.” As time went on, they got even more powerful especially when they created a trading post in north Africa named Carthage; this became the main trading outpost for several centuries. They commanded the sea and it was inevitable that the two superpowers of Rome and Carthage would clash.
2. “The trading post Carthage was established by the Phoenicians between 900 and 800 BC”. This was about a century before the founding of Rome. By the time Rome had become a major superpower, Carthage was the leading trading outpost in the Mediterranean. Soon it became clear to the people of Carthage that another big player had arrived in the field: Rome.