

Ancient History

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Unit **A033**: Women in Ancient Politics

Mark Scheme for June 2011

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Section A: Option 1: Cleopatra		
Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
	<p>General Note Marking grids should be used throughout.</p>	
1	<p>Briefly outline two ways in which Cleopatra was politically important.</p> <p>AO1: Two ways with relevant factual detail. [5] Possible answers could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heir to the Ptolemies of Egypt – daughter of Ptolemy Auletes; • Became ruler of Egypt at a young age with her brother; • Egypt was an important place for the Romans to have control of because of its grain supply etc.; • Her political and personal alliances made with Roman leaders such as Caesar and Mark Antony; • The significance of Cleopatra’s visit to Rome; • Gave support to Mark Antony against Octavian at the Battle of Actium in 31BC; • Expansion of Egyptian power under Cleopatra; • Cleopatra as mother to Caesar’s illegitimate son Caesarion. <p>Other relevant examples not prescribed here should also be given credit.</p>	<p>[5]</p> <p>[5]</p>
2	<p>Read the following passage from Propertius, and answer the questions which follow.</p> <p>He finished speaking and he emptied his quiver of arrows against the enemy. Close behind his bow was Caesar’s spear. Trusting in Apollo, Rome was victorious. The woman was punished. Her broken sceptre floats on Ionian waves. His father Julius Caesar looks down amazed from the star that fell on Mount Ida.</p> <p>“I am a god,” he said. “There is the proof that he is of my blood.”</p> <p>He is followed by Triton, god of the sea, with songs of praise, and all the sea-goddesses applauded around our standards. That woman makes for the River Nile, vainly relying on her own ship in her pointless escape. One thing she did achieve: she did not die on the appointed day.</p> <p>The gods had a better plan: one woman would not have made so great a triumph through the streets where previously the defeated Jugurtha had been led.</p> <p>In this way Apollo of Actium built his monument. Each arrow shot destroyed ten of her ships.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Propertius, <i>Elegies</i>, IV.6:49-60</p>	

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
(a)	<p>Outline the main events described in this passage.</p> <p>AO1: Key elements of story in the passage understood and identified. [4]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fact that Propertius is writing about the Battle of Actium between Octavian-Augustus and Mark Antony; • ‘The woman’ – Cleopatra queen of Egypt – was punished due to her defeat at the hands of Octavian; • On Octavian’s side in battle are the god Phoebus Apollo and his deified father Julius Caesar; • Actium was a sea battle – ‘Triton honoured all with music’, ‘goddesses of the sea applauded’; • Cleopatra present at the battle in her ship, and after defeat of Mark Antony’s navy she flees back to Egypt – ‘headed for the Nile’; • Cleopatra doesn’t want to be killed by Octavian’s side ‘at another’s orders’; • Cleopatra is abandoning Mark Antony or keeping the treasure on board her ship safe; • Entrance of Cleopatra into Rome as a defeated foreign leader, ‘What sort of a triumph would one woman make in the streets...?’ 	[4]
(b)	<p>Using this passage, explain why Cleopatra and Mark Antony acted as they did.</p> <p>AO2: Understanding [4]</p> <p>Answers should show an understanding some of the reasons given in the passage, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fled from the battle (to Egypt); • The dominant position of Octavian at the battle; • Victory of the Rome over the Egyptian East - ‘Rome won’; • Octavian had destiny on his side and the support of the gods – Phoebus Apollo, his deified father Julius Caesar and Venus (one of his family’s ancestors!) – ‘through Apollo’s loyalty’, ‘Caesar his ‘father’ marvelled and spoke from his comet released by Venus: ‘I am a god’: and this shows evidence of my race”; • Cleopatra’s fleet was unable to win a decisive victory over Octavian at sea – ‘broken sceptres floated on the Ionian sea’. 	[4]

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
(c)	<p>In your opinion, how accurate is Propertius' account of the events described in this passage?</p> <p>AO3: Interpretation and Evaluation [5] Answers should note that the passage is from Propertius, and consider how reliable he might be in this case:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gods and the deified written about as though they were taking part in the battle itself on Octavian's side – propaganda? • Not a lot of factual detail of the actual battle and events and so not that accurate? – for this we need to compare Propertius to other sources eg Plutarch and perhaps other poets like Virgil and Horace. • Propertius writing after Battle of Actium, but with it still in living memory; • Propertius is writing elegiac poetry not 'history' or even biography. Can poetry be reliable and accurate in describing military events? • Maecenas as patron to the poets writing under Augustus which could will have an effect on reliability and motivation for writing; • Generic evaluation of Propertius as a poet writing under Augustus should be credited in line with the marking grids. 	[5]
3	<p>Read the following passage from Plutarch and answer the questions which follow.</p> <p>So Cleopatra pretended to love Antony with passion, and with little food, she allowed her body to waste away; when Antony was nearby, she would let her eyes fill with desire for him; when he went away, she would look faint and ill. She would find ways often to be seen crying, and then would quickly wipe away the tears and hide them, as if she wanted him not to notice them. She did all this while Antony was getting ready to go from Syria to join the Median king. Her flatterers worked hard on Antony for her; they used to complain that Antony was harsh and cruel and determined to destroy a mistress who was devoted to one man, him alone. They would tell Antony that Octavia had married him for politics and for her brother, and took pleasure in having the name of wife. Cleopatra on the other hand, queen of so many men, was called Antony's lover; she did not avoid this name nor think it unworthy of her, as long as it was possible for her to see him and be with him. If he drove her away, she could not bear to live. At last they melted and unmanned Antony so much that he was afraid that Cleopatra would kill herself, and so went back to Alexandria.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Plutarch, <i>Life of Mark Antony</i>, 53</p> <p>(a) In what ways does this passage help us to understand Cleopatra's influence on Mark Antony?</p> <p>AO1: Relevant factual knowledge [4] Details of Cleopatra's influence on Mark Antony could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleopatra pretended to be consumed with passionate love for Antony; • Cleopatra dieted and pretended to be wasting away for love of Antony; 	[14]

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She looked lovingly at Antony whenever he approached; • She pretended to be upset, and made sure that he saw this; • Her flatterers also worked to influence Antony; • Her flatterers told Antony 'here was a mistress who was utterly devoted to him alone, and he was killing her'. <p>AO2: Understanding [5]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows understanding of Cleopatra's desire to gain control over Mark Antony so that she can have more political power than his wife Octavia; • Need for Cleopatra to gain an alliance with a Roman leader to get a foothold in Roman political life; • Caesar has been killed and therefore Mark Antony is the next influential leader in line apart from Octavian; • Mark Antony will be going off on campaign and Cleopatra needs to make sure she has his full loyalty and support before this happens. <p>AO3: Evaluation and interpretation of the source [5]</p> <p>Passage should be evaluated in the context of Plutarch's descriptions of her influence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portrayal of Cleopatra as a manipulative character in relation to relevant details from the passage; • Tradition of negative stereotype of Cleopatra in Augustan poetry which must have been used by sources like Plutarch. Lack of Egyptian sources about Cleopatra give us a Roman biased viewpoint; • Roman sources' dislike of powerful and political women like Cleopatra; • Generic evaluation of Plutarch as a later biographer should be given credit in line with the marking grids. 	

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
(b)	<p>How typical of the ancient accounts is this passage's description of Cleopatra's behaviour towards political leaders?</p> <p>You must refer both to this passage and to other ancient sources which you have studied.</p> <p>AO1: Factual Details [5] Details of her relationship with Roman leaders: Julius Caesar – their initial contact and development of their relationship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleopatra has Caesar's child shortly after he leaves Egypt to go on campaign in Syria. Ptolemy Caesar/Caesarion as Caesar and Cleopatra's child. Cleopatra kept Caesar's memory alive in Egypt by building the Caesareum. <p>Mark Antony – development and significance of their relationship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antony may have regarded himself as married to Cleopatra even though he was still legally married to Octavian's sister, Octavia. Antony divorced Octavia in 32BC. After 32BC Antony proclaims Cleopatra as ruler of the territories that he had given her. The decision for Cleopatra and Antony to be buried together was a scandal. <p>Octavian – the part played in the Battle of Actium.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using Cleopatra as a reason for going to war with Antony, his treatment of her after the defeat of Cleopatra and Mark Antony, and after Antony's death. <p>Candidates may also include details of her relationship with Egyptian leaders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Her father, Ptolemy Auletes – his death and her accession to the throne. • Her brothers as co-rulers. • Her twelve year old half-brother, Ptolemy XIV – she was married to him as per Egyptian regal practice. 	[18]

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
	<p>AO2: Understanding [5]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did Caesar and Cleopatra actually love one another or was their relationship for political expediency? Did Caesar use Cleopatra as a loyal ruler for Egypt? Caesar and Cleopatra's relationship was never really tested, and so it is difficult to know what would have happened if circumstances changed; • Problem for Cleopatra and Caesarion being named as successors – Caesar names Octavian as his heir in his will. • Understanding that Caesarion becomes a rival threat to Octavian as he was an heir to the throne of the Ptolemies. There is a question over whether he really was Caesar's child. Caesar publicly acknowledged Caesarion as his true son and heir (Suetonius, Life of Caesar 52). • Mark Antony's Divorce of Octavian shows the political significance to his relationship with Cleopatra at this time. • Understanding of the significance of the dividing of the Empire by Mark Antony with territories being given to Cleopatra. • Understanding of Cleopatra's love for Mark Antony as the passage seems to suggest that she is using him for her own purposes. <p>AO3: Interpretation, Evaluation and Response [8]</p> <p>Evaluation may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How they should be viewed as historical sources; • The impact of the Augustan regime and the genre on the poets; • The interests of the biographers in writing; • The effects of any anti-oriental views; • At least two sources should be evaluated. <p>Other possibilities that should be rewarded if mentioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding that the sources for Cleopatra are all male – and Roman; • Evaluation of Roman sources and their attitudes towards the East; • Promotion of Caesarion can be seen by the portrait reliefs of Cleopatra and Caesarion, and the link between the birth of Caesarion to Cleopatra, and the birth of Horus to Isis – seen in the reliefs from the wall of the temple at Dendera in Upper Egypt; • Silver Denarius of 32BC shows the heads of Mark Antony and Cleopatra. 	
	Total	[50]

Section B: Option 1: Cleopatra		
Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
4	<p>'A doomed, destructive monster'. (Horace, <i>Odes</i>, 1.37) To what extent do you think this is a fair assessment of Cleopatra?</p> <p>In your answer you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give a brief account of Cleopatra's character and political actions; • explain whether you think that Cleopatra's character and political actions show her to be a 'doomed, destructive monster'; • show knowledge of what Horace and other ancient sources tell us about Cleopatra's character and political actions; • consider how reliable you think these sources are. <p>AO1: Factual details of Cleopatra's character and actions [10] Answers may include some of the following:</p> <p><u>Character:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolute and strong-minded in decision making; • Not easily influenced or coerced; • Cleopatra's political and personal life were one and the same; • She risked everything by asking for support from Caesar – if he refused she may be killed; • Relationships with men - Taking Caesar as a lover soon after her first meeting with him; • Was it a strategy to use her feminine ways to seduce Roman leaders like Caesar and Mark Antony for political purposes or was she genuinely in love? • She showed courage and loyalty to Caesar as she stayed in the area during the Alexandrian War against Ptolemy XIII; • Ruthless – willing to do what it takes to come to power and stay in the position; • It is suggested that Cleopatra had her son by another man; • However, it is not mentioned in the sources that she took any other lovers in Caesar's absence from Egypt. <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleopatra went to the Royal Palace in Alexandria to meet Caesar when he came to Egypt; • Sought support from Caesar to help her rule unopposed; • Cleopatra and her son Ptolemy Caesar travelled to Rome to see Caesar; • Decision to sail back to Egypt during the Battle of Actium; • Her suicide after the death of Mark Antony. <p>AO2: Understanding [10] Students need to show understanding of how her actions and character can be both positive and negative evidence for Cleopatra.</p> <p><u>Negative:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seen as a goddess during her lifetime; • Cleopatra blamed for anything bad that happened to Rome; 	<p>[30]</p> <p>[10]</p>

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleopatra was seen as an Eastern corrupting influence (like may saw Eastern gods and goddesses) and so distrusted, and worst of all a powerful woman who seemed to have far too much influence over the feelings and actions of the men she allied with; She schemed to remove anyone who would oppose her, including her own brother, Ptolemy XIV who was dead by 44BC – did Cleopatra poison him? • Cleopatra issued coins in her own name with her portrait on – she broke with precedent as she was not sharing power with a co-ruler. <p><u>Positive:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By allying with Caesar against Ptolemy she overcame the rivals to the throne, and became Queen of Egypt; • Making the trip to Rome was useful politically to gain popularity and support as a ‘friend of the Roman people’; • All her actions were for the good of the Egyptian people; • Her control of the food production in Egypt meant she encouraged trade and business outside Egypt. <p>AO3: Interpretation, Evaluation and Response [10] Evaluation may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How they should be viewed as historical sources; • The impact of the Augustan regime on the poets; • The interests of the individual writers; • The effects of any anti-oriental views. <p>Other possibilities which should be rewarded if mentioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is Cleopatra only written about negatively because she is a woman, and written about by male Roman writers? • Lack of Egyptian sources gives us a biased view of the queen; • Horace is writing under Augustus and is writing to glorify the conquest of Rome/Augustus over East/Cleopatra and Antony; • Horace’s ‘Odes’ are poetry not history, so that will affect accuracy of details; • Although exaggeration/misrepresentation may occur in the sources they are still useful for telling us ‘public opinion’ of Cleopatra; • It is easier for us to know the political actions of Cleopatra than it is to know her true personality or motives for acting as she did. 	<p>[10]</p> <p>[10]</p>

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
5	<p>'For Cleopatra, the Battle of Actium was more significant than any other event.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?</p> <p>In your answer you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give a brief account of the events surrounding the Battle of Actium and other important events in Cleopatra's life; • explain how far you think that the Battle of Actium was more significant than other events; • show knowledge of what the ancient sources tell us about the significance of these events for Cleopatra; • consider how accurate you think these sources are. <p>AO1: Factual details of the Battle of Actium and other main events in Cleopatra's life [10] Answers may include some of the following: Events and aftermath of Battle of Actium:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation for civil war between Antony and his forces, and Octavian and his forces; • Defeat of Mark Antony – he and Cleopatra flee to Alexandria. <p>Other Main Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The death of her father Ptolemy Auletes; • Her first meeting with Caesar; • Birth of Caesarion (Ptolemy Caesar); • Cleopatra goes to Rome; • Assassination of Caesar; • Antony meets Cleopatra at Tarsus and they go to Egypt; • Death of her brother Ptolemy XIV. <p>AO2: Understanding [10]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Death of Ptolemy Auletes leaves Cleopatra in a power vacuum which she fills with her brothers as co-heirs; • Her first meeting with Caesar develops a relationship with Cleopatra which helps her to gain and maintain power in Egypt as Queen, and gives her military support against her rivals. Her alliance with Caesar also gains her influence and prestige in Egypt and beyond, in Rome etc.; • Birth of Caesarion to Cleopatra and Caesar gives Cleopatra an heir to Caesar's legacy – Antony and Cleopatra affirm Caesarion as son of Caesar and that he would inherit the lands that Cleopatra ruled over; • Death of her brother Ptolemy XIV leaves Cleopatra and her three year old son Caesarion as sole rulers; • Political significance of Actium for the Romans. <p>AO3: Interpretation, Evaluation and Response [10] Evaluation may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the historical sources should be viewed; • The impact of the Augustan regime on the writers; • Poetry as an historical source; • The interests of individual writers; 	<p>[30]</p> <p>[10]</p> <p>[10]</p>

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The effects of any anti-oriental views; • Plutarch as a biographer/philosopher – born c.100 years after the events; • Propertius – living and writing after the events. He also writes poetry not history – he is interested in the dramatic and not necessarily the accuracy of his descriptions of events and people; • Most sources focus on the Battle of Actium and so we have a view of this event as being highly significant for the Romans; • The lack of detailed source evidence for other events in Cleopatra’s life makes it difficult for us to judge how important they are in comparison; • It is difficult for us to know which events Cleopatra herself felt were the most significant in her own life; • Students should show understanding that most events in Cleopatra’s life are significant because they give her more power/prestige and status in Egypt and Rome, but the Battle of Actium is significant because it spells the eventual downfall of both Mark Antony and Cleopatra. 	[10]
	Total	[30]

Section A: Option 2: Agrippina		
Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
	General Note Marking grids should be used throughout.	
6	<p>Briefly outline two ways in which Agrippina had control over Nero in his reign.</p> <p>AO1: Two ways with relevant factual detail. [5] Possible answers could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the day of his accession the password he gave to the colonel on duty was 'The Best of Mothers' • He turned over all his public and private affairs to Agrippina's management upon his accession; • Agrippina's behaviour at the Armenian delegation – 'mount the emperor's dais and sit beside him' • Deaths of Marcus Junius Silanus and Narcissus 'treacherously contrived by Agrippina without Nero's knowledge' • Agrippina's involvement in Nero's affair with Acte; • Suggestion of incestuous relationship between Agrippina and Nero; • Agrippina depicted as co-ruler on coins. 	[5]
7	<p>Read the following passage from Suetonius, and answer the questions which follow.</p> <p>He was annoyed by the way his mother questioned and criticised his every word and action, but he only went so far at first as to make her disliked by giving the impression that he would give up being emperor, and go and live on the island of Rhodes. Next he took away all her privileges and her power, as well as her guard of Roman and German soldiers. He refused to let her live with him in the palace. Then he tried everything possible to annoy her: he bribed men to bring law suits against her while she stayed in the city of Rome; then, when she went to live in the country by the sea, he got others to go past her house and interrupt her peace and quiet with noisy partying and insulting jokes. Therefore, terrified by her violence and threats, he decided to get rid of her.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Suetonius, Nero, 34</p>	

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
(a)	<p>In what ways does Nero try to annoy Agrippina in this passage?</p> <p>AO1: Key elements of story understood and identified. [4]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tried to embarrass her; • Making threats to abdicate and go into retirement in Rhodes; • Deprived her of all honours and power; • Took away her Roman and German Bodyguard; • Refused to have her living with him; • Expelled her from his palace; • Sending people to pester her with law-suits while she stayed in Rome; • Making them constantly drive or sail past her windows on her riverside estate, disturbing her with noisy partying and insulting jokes. 	[4]
(b)	<p>With reference to this passage, explain one reason why Nero turned against Agrippina.</p> <p>AO2: Understanding [4]</p> <p>Answers should show an understanding of one reason given in the passage. The reason given could be one from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominant position of Agrippina over Nero and lack of independence for Nero under his mother - 'the way his mother questioned and criticised his every word and action'; • Nero could not put up with her behaviour any more – 'Then he tried everything possible to annoy her', '...he decided to get rid of her'; • Nero is tired of being emperor, especially under the influence of Agrippina –'giving the impression that that he would give up being emperor and go and live on the island of Rhodes'. Students could suggest that this was a bluff by Nero to scare his mother; • Agrippina had too much power – 'Next he took away all her privileges and her power'; • Suggestion that she could use violence against him – 'Next he took away...as well as her guard of Roman and German soldiers'; 	[4]

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
(c)	<p>In your opinion, is Suetonius' account of Nero's attitude towards Agrippina in this passage accurate?</p> <p>AO3: Interpretation and Evaluation [5] Answers may note that the passage is from Suetonius, and consider how reliable he might be in this case:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of these are personal actions, not necessarily public or state actions, eg making people have noisy parties and make insulting jokes, so how far would Suetonius know about these details? • Some of them are public/state actions eg depriving her of honours and power, so would have been recorded at the time; • Negative tradition of writing about Imperial women may affect the extent to which Nero needs to rid himself of her; • These kinds of actions and attitudes towards Agrippina are also backed up and evident in other sources eg Tacitus, who records some of the same information as Suetonius – does this make it more reliable and likely to be accurate? • Nero eventually ends up killing his mother and so these earlier actions towards her may well be accurate; • Ability to write negatively as he is not writing at the time of Nero – does this go too far though as there is a negative tradition about Nero's reign in the sources? • Generic evaluation of Suetonius should be credited in line with the marking grids. 	[5]
8	<p>Read the following passage from Tacitus and answer the questions which follow.</p> <p>This argument won over Claudius, supported by the attractions of Agrippina herself. Under the excuse of their close family relationship, she frequently visited her uncle, and gained his affection so that she was preferred to the others, and, although she was not yet his wife, she could already use the power as if she was married to him. When she was certain he would marry her, she started still greater schemes; she wanted a marriage between Domitius, her son by Cn. Ahenobarbus, and Octavia, the emperor's daughter. However, this marriage could not be achieved without a crime, because Claudius had engaged Octavia to L. Silanus. He was a young man famous for other reasons; Claudius had recommended the people support him by giving him the honour of triumphal decorations and a magnificent gladiatorial show. But nothing is difficult, it seems, in the mind of an emperor, who has no judgements and no hatreds unless they are suggested and ordered by others.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Tacitus, <i>Annals</i>, 12.3</p>	

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
(a)	<p>In what ways does this passage help us to understand Agrippina's influence over Claudius?</p> <p>AO1: Relevant factual knowledge [4] Details of Agrippina's influence on Claudius could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Her physical attractions; • She gained his affection through visits and the attention which she showed him; • Claudius married Agrippina, even though she was his niece; • The weakness of Claudius as emperor as suggested in the passage would make it easier for Agrippina to influence him – 'in the mind of an emperor, who has no judgements and no hatreds unless they are suggested and ordered by others'. <p>AO2: Understanding [5] Understanding of the significance of the points under AO1 in their context. Details of Agrippina's influence on Claudius could include: From the passage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'she started still greater schemes; she wanted a marriage between Domitius, her son by Cn. Ahenobarbus, and Octavia, the emperor's daughter', and "because Claudius had engaged Octavia to L. Silanus.' Shows understanding of her desire to make her son Nero (Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus) the future emperor. <p>Other Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Betrothing and then marrying Nero to Octavia (Claudius' natural daughter) to cement a familial and political bond between her own and the Claudian families; • Bringing back Seneca from exile to be Nero's tutor – 'Seneca's advice could serve their plans for supremacy' (Tacitus, XII.8); • Need for Agrippina to make Nero the 'rival of Britannicus' (Tacitus, XII.9). Need for Nero to be preferred over Claudius' natural son, Britannicus; • Agrippina's influence in persuading Claudius to officially and legally adopt Nero as his own to make him an heir (Tacitus, XII.24); • Changing of Nero's name from Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus to Nero Claudius Caesar Drusus Germanicus – to show the Claudian name; • Students could suggest that all these things were done not only to secure the position and power for Nero, but also for Agrippina herself as well, as she would rule through her young son (he was 17 upon accession). <p>AO3: Evaluation and interpretation of the source [5] Passage should be evaluated in the context of Tacitus' descriptions of her influence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative language associated with Agrippina and her actions: 'under the excuse of their close family relationship', 'started still greater schemes', 'could not be achieved without a crime'; 	<p>[14]</p> <p>[4]</p> <p>[5]</p>

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answers may make the point that it is easier to know 'how' she influenced Claudius rather than 'why' as this requires a personal knowledge of Agrippina's thoughts and feelings which would not necessarily be known to the writers; • Literary tradition of Claudius as a weak emperor, easily dominated by his wives and freedmen – 'in the mind of an emperor, who has no judgements and no hatreds unless they are suggested and ordered by others'; • Literary tradition of Agrippina as power-hungry for her son and for herself; • Generic evaluation of Tacitus as an historical source should be credited in line with the marking grids. <p>(b) How reliably do the sources portray Agrippina's position and power?</p> <p>You must refer both to this passage and to other ancient sources which you have studied.</p> <p>AO1: Factual Details [5] Details of Agrippina's position and power could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position as a member of the imperial family - niece to Claudius; • Used her feminine ways to seduce him into marrying her; • Used her position as Claudius' wife to promote Nero as heir; • Her influence over Claudius to recall Seneca from exile to be a tutor for Nero; • She was awarded the prestigious and unprecedented title of 'Augusta' whilst married to Claudius; • Her use of freedmen to help her gain power – eg supposed relations with Pallas; • A main threat to her position – Domitia Lepida (Nero's Aunt) was charged and put to death under Agrippina's authority; • She needed to secure her position by killing Claudius and making sure her son Nero came to power – although it can be debated whether she was responsible for his death; • Coinage shows her power and position as almost co-ruler; • Agrippina's supposed involvement in the killings of Roman aristocrats to secure her position from any threat; • Agrippina's part played in the Armenian delegation and her unseen part played in the senate's meetings on the Palatine shows her position and power; • The gradual loss of power and position from c. AD 56 onwards, and her usurpation by Acte and Poppaea on Nero's affections and actions. 	[18]

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
	<p>AO2: Understanding [5]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nero was only 17 when he came to power as Emperor – therefore his mother was needed to help him rule the empire, and Nero was happy for her to provide guidance and support in the early years; • After the first few initial years in power, Nero had grown up and looked more to his advisors Seneca and Burrus, and therefore did not need his mother to help him rule (see coins of Nero with Agrippina demoted to the reverse); • The effort she invested in gaining power for Nero was as much to gain power for herself; • Questioning of how far she had genuine power over Claudius and Nero. <p>AO3: Interpretation, Evaluation and Response [8]</p> <p>Evaluation may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation and evaluation of the passage given in relation to both Tacitus' aims and concerns; • Other sources eg Suetonius also describe Agrippina in the same way – does this make them more reliable? • Suetonius as a biographer is interested in the entertaining stories and the personalities of those he writes about; • Can we trust ancient male writers to present a fair and unbiased view of powerful Imperial women? • Candidates might make the point that it is easier or more reliable to find out about Agrippina's position, rather than about exactly how much power she wielded whilst married to Claudius and mother to the Emperor Nero; • Literary traditions of Claudius as weak and reliant on Agrippina, and Nero as young and inexperienced and so reliant on Agrippina, affect our understanding of her position and power. 	
	Total	[50]

Section B: Option 2: Agrippina		
Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
9	<p>To what extent do you think that Agrippina was a bad influence on Roman politics?</p> <p>In your answer you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give a brief account of Agrippina's role in Roman politics; • explain whether you think her influence on politics was good or bad; • show knowledge of what Tacitus and Suetonius tell us about Agrippina's influence on politics; • consider how reliable you think these sources are. <p>AO1: Factual details of Agrippina's involvement in politics [10] Answers may include some of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alliance with Seneca – putting him in charge of Nero's education before his accession, and as a tutor after his accession; • The part played by Agrippina in organising the betrothal/marriage between Octavia and Nero – which had political significance; • The part played by Agrippina in persuading Claudius to adopt Nero; • Agrippina as almost co-ruler alongside Claudius in the last five years of his reign – during which there were a spate of treason trials/deaths of senators; • Evidence for Agrippina negatively influencing Claudius' decisions whilst he was drunk; • Agrippina's attempt to involve herself in the Armenian delegation; • The supposed secret door through which Agrippina listened to the business of the Senate; • Agrippina's portrait on coins alongside Nero; • Agrippina handles the business of ruling the Empire in the first few years of Nero's rule. <p>AO2: Understanding [10] <u>Bad:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influence of Agrippina on Claudius during the last years of his reign. Is Agrippina responsible for the increase in trials and deaths? For example Domitia Lepida (Nero's aunt) is a victim because of Agrippina's jealousy of her position and family background. Agrippina's influence on reign is negative because she is using her position and Claudius' power to eliminate any of her rivals; • Agrippina's political ambition and her influence in Nero's career led to her well-documented hand in Claudius' (untimely) death; • The coins of Agrippina/Nero suggests she is a co-ruler/empress, even that Agrippina is more important than Nero. This would not be accepted by the conservative element in Rome; • Agrippina may have been having an incestuous relationship with Nero as a way of controlling him and exerting her own influence in government. 	<p>[30]</p> <p>[10]</p>

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
	<p><u>Good:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If Agrippina had not involved herself so much in Nero's life, he might never have become emperor – Britannicus being preferred as the legitimate son of Claudius; • Messalina had been unfaithful and involved in a political alliance with another man (Gaius Silius), whilst Agrippina seems to have been a better wife to Claudius; • Agrippina's help in running the Empire was positive because Nero was young and inexperienced; • Agrippina acted as a check on Nero's unsuitable behaviour as emperor in his early years – eg Nero's desire to act/sing/perform <p>AO3: Interpretation, Evaluation and Response [10]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agrippina gets a nearly wholly negative press in the ancient sources. Anything positive she may have done may be seen negatively because of the bias against strong, powerful women who involve themselves at all with politics; • Tacitus – writing c.50 years after the events – does this affect his reliability? • Tacitus' dislike of powerful and political women like Agrippina the Younger; • Tacitus' dislike of emperors – particularly weak emperors who are influenced by those around them; • Other sources eg Suetonius also describe Agrippina in the same way – does this make them more reliable? • Can we trust ancient male writers to present a fair and unbiased view of powerful Imperial women? • Candidates might make the point that it is easier or more reliable to find out about Agrippina's specific actions in Roman politics than the views of Nero and Claudius on her involvement; • Literary traditions of Claudius as weak and reliant on Agrippina, and Nero as young and inexperienced and so reliant on Agrippina, affect our understanding of whether she was a negative or positive influence on their reigns. 	[10]

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
10	<p>‘Nero murdered his mother because she posed a significant threat to his position and power.’ To what extent do you think this was the reason for Agrippina’s murder?</p> <p>In your answer you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give a brief account of the ways in which Agrippina was a threat to Nero’s position and power; • explain how significant a threat Agrippina was to Nero’s position and power; • show knowledge of the relevant ancient sources, including Tacitus and Suetonius; • consider how accurate you think these sources are. <p>AO1: Factual details of the threat posed by Agrippina [10] Answers may include some of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agrippina’s deadly ambition - possible involvement in the death of Claudius – due to ambition to get Nero to power; • Her support of both Octavia (against Poppaea), and Britannicus at points in Nero’s reign; • The suggestion in Tacitus that Agrippina was trying to get a ‘party’ together; • Agrippina’s links with the imperial freedman Pallas – sources even suggest sexual links; • Agrippina’s (supposed) incestuous feelings for Nero and how that affects his popularity, support and reign; • Agrippina’s desperation as Nero’s reign goes on when she is being replaced by Nero’s advisers and lovers in his decision-making and affections; • The supposed conspiracy of Agrippina with Plautus of which Nero was made aware by his freedman; • Agrippina’s political influence during his reign – her involvement in the deaths of some people at the start of his reign (without his knowledge?); • Agrippina had her own bodyguard – this could have been used against Nero and he dismissed it before her death; • The fact that Agrippina can trace her family back to Augustus through her mother Agrippina the Elder and her mother Julia the Elder – therefore she poses a threat through any male lover she takes who could contest Nero’s position; • The fact that some may have seen Agrippina as co-ruler or even the one pulling the strings behind Nero – as exemplified in the coins showing Agrippina and Nero first as equals, and then with Agrippina demoted to the reverse by Nero. 	<p>[30]</p> <p>[10]</p>

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
	<p>AO2: Understanding [10] Understanding of how far Nero murdered his mother because she posed a threat rather than for other reasons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the relative importance of the above ‘threats’ she posed, suggesting some were more ‘significant’ than others; • Understanding of the wider context of the nature of Nero’s position as emperor – 17 upon accession and so needs advisers and help in his early years, of which his mother is one alongside Burrus and Seneca, and freedmen. As time goes on, Nero may want to break away from the control of her maternal dominance over him and be more of an independent ruler; • Understanding of other reasons for Nero’s wish to kill his mother. <p>AO3: Interpretation, Evaluation and Response [10] Evaluation may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of how far she did pose a threat according to the sources; • Interpretation and evaluation of the relevant sources might include: • Tacitus – writing c.50 years after the events • Tacitus’ dislike of powerful and political women like Agrippina the Younger; • Tacitus’ dislike of the imperial system; • Other sources eg Suetonius also describe Agrippina in the same way – does this make them more reliable? • Suetonius as a biographer is interested in the entertaining stories and the personalities of those he writes about. 	<p>[10]</p> <p>[10]</p>
	Total	[30]

Marking Grids for Section A

	AO1 (Recall, Select, Organise)		AO2 (Understand)		AO3 (Interpret, Evaluate, Respond)	
Level 5 Thorough	4 Answers contain thorough knowledge of the events, sources and issues relevant to the question. Information is detailed, thoroughly relevant, well selected and organised.	5	4 Answers demonstrate a thorough understanding of issues, events, and sources relevant to the question	5	5 Answers interpret, analyse and evaluate evidence thoroughly and reach reasoned and substantiated conclusions. They construct an informed personal response based on thorough evaluation and interpretation of the source material.	7-8
Level 4 Sound	3 Answers contain sound knowledge of the events, sources and issues relevant to most of the question. Information is sound , relevant and organised.	3-4	3 Answers demonstrate a sound understanding of issues, events, and sources relevant to most of the question	3-4	3-4 Answers interpret, analyse and evaluate evidence and draw relevant conclusions. They offer a personal response based on sound evaluation and interpretation of the source material.	5-6
Level 3 Some	2 Answers contain some knowledge of the events, sources and issues relevant to some of the question There is some evidence of selection and organisation of information.		2 Answers show some understanding of issues, events, and sources relevant to some of the question		2 Answers include some evaluation and interpretation of evidence and draw at least partially relevant conclusions. They offer a personal response based on some of the source material.	3-4
Level 1/2 Limited/None	0-1 Answers contain limited or no knowledge of events, sources and issues. Information that has been included is disorganised and has limited or no relevance.		0-1 Answers show limited or no understanding of events or sources.		0-1 Answers offer limited or no evaluation. They offer a personal response based on limited or no evidence, or no response.	0-2

Marking Grids for Section B

	AO1 (Recall, Select, Organise)	AO2 (Understand)	AO3 (Interpret, Evaluate, Respond)
Level 5 Thorough	<p>8-10</p> <p>Answers contain thorough knowledge of the events, sources and issues relevant to the question. Information is detailed, thoroughly relevant, well selected and organised. Text is legible and spelling, grammar and punctuation are accurate. Meaning is communicated clearly.</p>	<p>8-10</p> <p>Answers demonstrate a thorough understanding of issues, events, and sources relevant to the question</p>	<p>8-10</p> <p>Answers interpret, analyse and evaluate evidence thoroughly and reach reasoned and substantiated conclusions. They construct an informed personal response based on thorough evaluation and interpretation of the source material.</p>
Level 4 Sound	<p>6-7</p> <p>Answers contain sound knowledge of the events, sources and issues relevant to most of the question. Information is sound, relevant and organised. Text is legible and spelling, grammar and punctuation are mostly accurate. Meaning is communicated clearly.</p>	<p>6-7</p> <p>Answers demonstrate a sound understanding of issues, events, and sources relevant to most of the question</p>	<p>6-7</p> <p>Answers interpret, analyse and evaluate evidence and draw relevant conclusions. They offer a personal response based on sound evaluation and interpretation of the source material.</p>
Level 3 Some/Partial	<p>4-5</p> <p>Answers contain some knowledge of the events, sources and issues relevant to some of the question. There is some evidence of selection and organisation of information. Text is legible. There are mistakes in spelling, grammar and punctuation however meaning is still communicated clearly for most of the answer.</p>	<p>4-5</p> <p>Answers show some understanding of issues, events, and sources relevant to some of the question</p>	<p>4-5</p> <p>Answers include some evaluation and interpretation of evidence and draw at least partially relevant conclusions. They offer a personal response based on some of the source material.</p>

	AO1 (Recall, Select, Organise)	AO2 (Understand)	AO3 (Interpret, Evaluate, Respond)
Level 2 Limited	<p style="text-align: center;">2-3</p> <p>Answers contain limited knowledge of the events, sources and issues relevant to parts of the question. There is limited evidence of selection or organisation of information. Text is sometimes illegible and there are mistakes in spelling, grammar and punctuation, which sometimes hinder communication.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2-3</p> <p>Answers show limited understanding of events and sources.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2-3</p> <p>Answers draw limited conclusions based on the evidence they have included. Answers offer a personal response at a limited level.</p>
Level 1 Minimal/None	<p style="text-align: center;">0-1</p> <p>Answers contain minimal or no knowledge of events, sources and issues. Information that has been included is disorganised and has minimal or no relevance. Text is often illegible. Frequent mistakes in spelling, grammar and punctuation impede communication of meaning.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">0-1</p> <p>Answers show minimal or no understanding of events or sources.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">0-1</p> <p>Answers offer a minimal personal response, without reference to evidence, or no response.</p>

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