

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION
ANCIENT HISTORY

A033

Women in ancient politics

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet

OCR Supplied Materials:

- 8 page Answer Booklet

Other Materials Required:

None

Monday 21 June 2010
Afternoon

Duration: 1 hour 15 minutes



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided in the Answer Booklet.
- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Use black ink.
- This paper has **two** options:
Option 1: Cleopatra and her impact on Roman politics, 69-30 BC.
Option 2: Agrippina the Younger and her influence on Roman politics, AD 41-59.
- Answer questions from **one** option only.
- Answer **all** the questions in Section A and **one** question from Section B.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks for each question is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **80**.
- Marks are awarded in Section B for the quality of written communication of your answer.
- This document consists of **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Option 1: Cleopatra and her impact on Roman politics, 69-30 BC**Section A**

Answer **all** the questions in this section.

- 1 Briefly outline **two** details of Cleopatra's death. [5]

- 2 Read the following passage from Velleius Paterculus, and answer the questions which follow.

Then the day of the greatest battle arrived. Now Octavian Caesar and Antony led out their fleets to fight, one to save the world, the other to destroy it. ... At the start of the battle, one side had everything – general, rowers, and soldiers; the other had nothing except soldiers. Cleopatra was the first to flee. Antony preferred to join the fleeing queen rather than his fighting soldiers; the general, who ought to have punished deserters severely, became a deserter from his own army. Even though they had lost their leader, they were determined to carry on the fight for as long and as bravely as they could; despite losing hope for victory they fought to the death. ... To be honest, the soldiers had been the best of generals, while the general took the role of the worst soldier fleeing the battle; it might be asked whether he would have acted in victory as he wished or as Cleopatra wished since it had been her decision which had led him to flee.

Velleius Paterculus, *History of Rome* 2.85

- (a) Describe what is happening in this passage **and** explain why these events were significant for Cleopatra. [4 + 4]

- (b) How accurate do you think Velleius Paterculus' account of the events in this passage is? Explain your opinion. [5]

Option 1: Cleopatra and her impact on Roman politics, 69-30 BC

- 3 Read the following passage from Horace, and answer the questions which follow.

Now friends is the time to drink and to dance,

She [Cleopatra] had with her that disgraceful mob of diseased men; she herself was out of control, hoping for whatever she wanted, made drunk by sweet good fortune. But hardly one ship was saved from the fire; and although she was out of her mind, drunk on Italian wine, Caesar brought her back to her senses and to real fears; as she fled from Italy, Caesar pursued her, just like the hawk hunts the gentle dove, or a quick hunter pursues the hare on the snow-filled plains of Thessaly. His aim: to put in chains this doomed, destructive monster.

But she sought a nobler way to die; she did not, like most women, fear the sword, nor did she escape on a swift ship to some secret shore where she could hide. She dared to look upon her defeated palace calmly and bravely held onto the bitter snakes so that her body might drink their black poison.

Determined to die, she became even more fierce; she had no intention, although no longer a queen, to be brought in ships to Rome, and led in a proud triumph, for she was not some obscure, ordinary woman.

Horace, *Odes* 1.37

- (a) In what ways does this passage help us to understand Cleopatra's character and political significance? [14]
- (b) How far do you think that the portrayal of Cleopatra's character in the ancient sources is reliable?
You must refer **both** to this passage **and** to other ancient sources which you have studied. [18]

Option 1: Cleopatra and her impact on Roman politics, 69-30 BC**Section B**

Answer **either** Question 4 **or** Question 5.

- 4 'Cleopatra must be held responsible for Mark Antony's political and military failure.' From your reading of the ancient sources, to what extent do you think this is a fair assessment?

In your answer you should:

- give an account of the involvement of Cleopatra in Mark Antony's political and military actions;
- explain how you think this affected Mark Antony's behaviour;
- show knowledge of what the sources say about Cleopatra's involvement;
- consider how reliable you think these sources are. **[30]**

- 5 'Gaining political influence in Rome was Cleopatra's only motive in her relationships with leading Romans.' From your reading of the ancient sources, to what extent do you think this is a fair assessment?

In your answer you should:

- give a brief account of Cleopatra's personal and political relations with Julius Caesar and Mark Antony;
- explain what you think Cleopatra's motives were in her relationships with leading Romans;
- show knowledge of what the sources say about Cleopatra's motives;
- consider how reliable you think these sources are. **[30]**

Option 2: Agrippina the Younger and her influence on Roman politics, AD 41-59

Do not answer questions from this option if you have already answered Option 1.

Section A

Answer **all** the questions in this section.

- 1 Briefly outline **two** ways in which Agrippina used her influence in Roman politics. [5]
- 2 Read the following passage from Tacitus, and answer the questions which follow.

At last, considering her a serious problem no matter where she was held, he decided to kill her. He had only to work out how – poison, sword or some other means. His first thought was poison. But if it was given during a meal with the emperor, it could not be put down to bad luck after Britannicus' similar death. Also it seemed difficult to bribe her servants when her own experience of criminal acts prepared her for plots against herself. In addition she had protected her body by taking antidotes in advance. No one could suggest how they could cover up a murder by the sword. Besides they feared that anyone chosen for this crime would refuse such an order.

Tacitus, *Annals* 14.3

- (a) Using this passage, outline the ways Nero thought of to kill his mother **and** explain the difficulties with each of them. [4+4]
- (b) Explain whether you think Tacitus' account of Nero's plans in this passage is accurate. [5]

Option 2: Agrippina the Younger and her influence on Roman politics, AD 41-59

- 3** Read the following passage from Suetonius, and answer the questions which follow.

Soon afterwards he also made his will and sealed it with all the magistrates as witnesses. However, Agrippina stopped him from going further with his plans. For her own conscience and quite a few informers were now accusing her of many crimes.

There is general agreement that Claudius was poisoned, but a lot of argument about when it happened and who poisoned him. One version is that it was his food-taster, the eunuch Halotus, during a feast with the priests in the Citadel. Another view is that Agrippina herself did it at a family dinner when she gave him poisoned mushrooms, his favourite food.

There are differences in the stories of what happened afterwards. Many say that the minute he swallowed the poison, he was unable to speak; then that he was in the greatest pain throughout the night until dawn when he died. ...

His death was kept secret until everything was arranged for his successor.

Suetonius, *Claudius* 44–45

- (a)** In what ways does this passage help us to understand Agrippina's involvement in Claudius' death? **[14]**
- (b)** How far do you think that the descriptions of Agrippina's actions in the ancient sources are reliable?
You must refer **both** to this passage **and** to other ancient sources which you have studied. **[18]**

Option 2: Agrippina the Younger and her influence on Roman politics, AD 41-59**Section B**

Answer **either** Question 4 **or** Question 5.

- 4 'The influence of freedmen in the Imperial Court made it easy for Agrippina to gain power in Rome.' From your reading of the ancient sources, to what extent do you think this is a fair assessment?

In your answer you should:

- give a brief account of the means by which Agrippina gained position and power;
- explain how Agrippina's relationship with imperial freedmen made it easier for her to increase her power;
- show knowledge of what the sources tell us about Agrippina's position and power;
- consider how reliable you think these sources are. [30]

- 5 'It is impossible for us to know the truth about Agrippina's character.' From your reading of the ancient sources, to what extent do you think this is a fair assessment?

In your answer you should:

- give a brief account of at least **three** of Agrippina's actions;
- explain what you think these actions tell us about Agrippina's character;
- show knowledge of what the sources tell us about Agrippina's character;
- consider how accurate you think these sources are. [30]

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