

**General Certificate of Secondary Education**  
**Ancient History**  
**Ancient societies through the study of  
original sources**

**A034 CA**

**Specimen controlled assessment tasks**

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR TEACHERS

- Please refer to Section 5 of the Ancient History specification for instructions on completing controlled assessment tasks.
- Candidates complete **one** task relating to the option that they have studied.
- Candidates must not alter the wording of the tasks, however they may focus on any appropriate area of investigation and use any appropriate original sources within the parameters of the questions set.
- The total number of marks for each task is **80**.
- Marks are awarded for the quality of written communication.

## INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- You should choose one task relating to the option that you have studied.
- You cannot alter the wording of the task.
- You can focus on a specific area of investigation and use any appropriate original sources.
- You must support your arguments with analysis and evaluation of appropriate original source material.

This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.

***Candidates are reminded that for all options it is essential to support their arguments with analysis and evaluation of appropriate original source material.***

**Option 1: Ancient Egypt 3000–1000 BC**

EITHER

1. How useful are the sources in giving us a picture of the lives of ordinary men and women in Ancient Egypt? **[80]**

OR

2. How far does the available evidence enable us to understand the economic and political influence of Egypt in the Eastern Mediterranean? **[80]**

**Option 2: Ancient Crete: Minoan Civilisation 2000–1400 BC**

EITHER

1. Which is the more likely explanation for the end of Minoan civilization: gradual decline in power and culture, a natural disaster, or conquest by a foreign power? **[80]**

OR

2. How clear an account can we gain from the art and sculpture of the Minoans about their way of life during this period? **[80]**

**Option 3: Troy and the Mycenaeans 1450–1100 BC**

EITHER

1. How useful is the evidence for our understanding of the technological developments in the skills of the Trojans and Mycenaeans during this period? **[80]**

OR

2. How reliable a picture do we have of the organisation and practice of warfare by the Trojans and Mycenaeans during this period, from both literary and archaeological evidence? **[80]**

**Option 4: Ancient Persia 630–499 BC**

EITHER

1. To what extent does the archaeological and literary evidence support the view that religion and religious practices played an important part in the Persian Empire? **[80]**

OR

2. Do we gain a reliable and accurate picture of the expansion of the Persian Empire from the available evidence, including Greek writers? **[80]**

**Option 5: The Hellenistic World 323–133 BC**

EITHER

1. To what extent do the sources give us a reliable picture of warfare during the Hellenistic period? **[80]**

OR

2. To what extent do the available sources support the view that there was a shared Hellenistic culture? **[80]**

**Option 6: The Celts c. 500 BC–AD 500**

EITHER

1. How useful do you find the evidence when describing and explaining the settlement and development of Celtic societies throughout Europe after 500 BC? **[80]**

OR

2. What can we learn from the evidence about the impact of Roman ideas and customs on Celtic societies at this time? **[80]**

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