



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Tuesday 20 October 2020 – Afternoon

A Level Ancient History

H407/21 Republic and Empire

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Answer **four** questions in total:
Section A: Answer Question 1 **or** Question 2 **and** answer Question 3.
Section B: Answer Question 4 **and** answer Question 5 **or** Question 6.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **98**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document has **4** pages.

ADVICE

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

SECTION A: The Julio-Claudian Emperors, 31 BC–AD 68

Answer **either** question 1 **or** question 2 **and** then question 3.

Answer **either** question 1 **or** question 2.

- 1* 'The sources consistently underestimate the significance of the contribution of other individuals to the reigns of the Julio-Claudian emperors.' How far do you agree with this view?

You must use and analyse the ancient sources you have studied as well as your own knowledge to support your answer. **[30]**

- 2* How effectively did the Julio-Claudian emperors deal with challenges to their rule?

You must use and analyse the ancient sources you have studied as well as your own knowledge to support your answer. **[30]**

Answer question 3.

- 3 Read the interpretation below.

The Roman people, ecstatic that their favourite had at last come into his own, gave themselves over to wild celebration. ...

Not that Caligula (Gaius) was naïve enough to take this mood of optimism for granted. ... His presence at Tiberius' side had given him an instinctive and pitiless understanding of the workings of power. Unlike his grimly austere predecessor, who scorned to lavish bribes on the people, Caligula was more than happy to buy popularity. ... Donatives were splashed out on the citizens of the capital, on the legions and – most generously of all – on the Praetorians. Nor was the Senate neglected. Caligula showed himself alert to its sensitivities. The serving consuls were permitted to serve out their term of office; and when the Princeps did finally lay claim to the consulship ... his choice of colleague signalled a pointed rejection of his predecessor. Claudius ... was elevated simultaneously into the Senate and to the consulship. ... Caligula explicitly repudiated all the most detested features of Tiberius' reign: the informers, the treason trials, the executions. To the listening Senate, it sounded almost too good to be true. **5**

Which perhaps it was. ... There was no one in the Senate ... who could believe any longer in the silken hypocrisies that had once served to veil what Rome had become. ... Few senators had been put at ease by the new master's smooth assurances. ... No matter how convincing his performance, everyone suspected that it was just that: a performance. **10**

T. Holland, *Dynasty: The Rise and Fall of the House of Caesar* (adapted) **15**

How convincing do you find Holland's interpretation of Gaius' (Caligula's) actions and behaviour?

You must use your knowledge of the historical period and the ancient sources you have studied to analyse and evaluate Holland's interpretation. **[20]**

SECTION B: The Breakdown of the Late Republic, 88–31 BC

Answer question 4 **and** then **either** question 5 **or** question 6.

Answer question 4.

4 Read the passage below.

Sulla now busied himself with slaughter, and filled the city with more murders that anyone could count or determine. Many, too, were killed as a result of private feuds. Although they had nothing to do with Sulla, he gave his consent in order to gratify his supporters. At last one of the younger men, Gaius Metellus, had the courage to ask Sulla in the Senate when these evils were going to end, and how much further he would go before they might expect these things to finish. 'We do not ask you,' he said, 'to free from punishment those who you have decided to kill, but to free from suspense those who you have decided to save.' And when Sulla answered that he did not yet know whom he would spare, Metellus said in reply, 'Well, then, let us know who you are planning to punish.' This Sulla said he would do. Some people, however, say that it was not Metellus, but Fufidius, one of Sulla's fawning followers, who made this last speech to him. Be that as it may, Sulla at once proscribed 80 men, without communicating with any magistrate. And despite the general outrage, a day later he proscribed another 220, and then on the next day, the same number again. Referring to these measures in a public speech, he said that he was proscribing those who came to mind, and those who now escaped his memory, he would proscribe at a later date. He also proscribed anyone who sheltered and saved a proscribed person, making death the punishment for such acts of kindness.

Plutarch, *Sulla* 31

How useful is the passage for our understanding of the proscriptions of Sulla? [12]

Answer **either** question 5 **or** question 6.

5* 'Politicians only gained success by using violence and corruption.' How far do the sources support this view of political activity during this period?

You must use and analyse the ancient sources you have studied as well as your own knowledge to support your answer. [36]

6* How significant was the contribution of Julius Caesar to the breakdown of the Republic?

You must use and analyse the ancient sources you have studied as well as your own knowledge to support your answer. [36]

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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