



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Wednesday 18 May 2022 – Afternoon

GCSE (9–1) Classical Civilisation

J199/12 Women in the Ancient World

Insert

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes



INSTRUCTIONS

- Do **not** send this Insert for marking. Keep it in the centre or recycle it.

INFORMATION

- The questions tell you which source you need to use.
- This document has **8** pages.

ADVICE

- Read this Insert carefully before you start your answers.

INSERT

Source A



The ruins of the speakers' platform at Athens

Source B

PRAXAGORA: Please take your seats, so I can put a question to you since I see you're all actually gathered: have you done everything that was agreed at the Scira?

WOMAN A: I have. Firstly, I've let my armpits get hairier than a bush, as we decided, and also, when my husband had gone to the assembly, I smeared oil all over my body and stood in the sun getting a tan all day.

WOMAN B: And me! I threw out my razor first, so I'd get completely hairy and not even look like a woman anymore!

PRAXAGORA: And do you have the beards which you were told to bring with you to our next meeting?

Aristophanes Assemblywomen

Source C

The leading women came to the court and said: 'You are not husbands, but enemies, because you condemn her who discovered safety for us.' Then the Athenians amended the law, so that free-born women could learn the art of medicine.

Hyginus Fabulae 274

Source D

Greek amphora

Source E

JASON: O my children, what an evil mother you had!

MEDEA: O children, how you have perished by your father's sickness.

JASON: It was hardly my hand which killed them!

MEDEA: No, but the insult of your new marriage did.

Euripides Medea

Source F



The building in Rome where Senators discussed the running of the city with the highest ranking magistrates.

Source G

Amongst these women was Sempronia, who had frequently committed many crimes of manly audacity. This woman was fortunate enough when viewed in light of her birth and her beauty, as well as in comparison to her husband and children. She was well versed in Greek and Latin literature, in music and in dancing she was more elegant than an honest woman should be, and many other things which are associated with a life of luxury. As far as she was concerned, however, pretty much everything was of more worth than honour and modesty. Whether she was more careless of her money or her reputation, you could not easily tell; her lustful nature burned so much that she pursued men more often than she was pursued. What is more, she had previously – and often – betrayed someone's trust, not paid her debts and even known about a murder. She had fallen headlong into both luxury, and poverty. In truth, her mind was not lacking in intelligence; she was able to write poetry, to tell a joke, to speak both modestly or seductively or boldly. In short, she had considerable humour and much charm.

Sallust Conspiracy 25

Source H

He, preparing to swim across, was held back
by love of his child, and fear for his dear burden. Quickly,
debating all options with himself, he settled reluctantly
on this idea: the warrior fastened his daughter to the giant spear,
solid with knots and of seasoned oak, he chanced to be carrying
in his strong hand, wrapping her in the bark of a cork-tree
from the woods, and tying her wisely to the middle of the shaft:
then balancing it in his mighty hand he cried out to the heavens:
'Kind virgin daughter of Latona, dweller in the woods, I her father
dedicate this child to your service: fleeing the enemy through the air,
yours is the first weapon she clasps as a suppliant. Goddess I beg you
to accept as your own this that I now commit to the uncertain breeze.'

Virgil Aeneid

Source I

But he earned the greatest disapproval from everyone because of his passion for Cleopatra – not now the passion he had displayed in Egypt (for that was a matter of hearsay), but that which was displayed in Rome itself. For she had come to the city with her husband and settled in Caesar's own house, so that he too got a bad reputation because of both of them.

Cassius Dio Roman History XLIII 27

Source J



The 'Ampharete stele' (grave marker)

Source K

Your wish that we give you a great-grandchild cannot be greater than your sorrow will be when you hear that your granddaughter has had a miscarriage. She is young and inexperienced and did not realise she was pregnant, so she did not take proper care of herself and even did some things she should not have done at all. She has learned a severe lesson and nearly paid for it with her life. Therefore, though it is unfortunate at your age to be deprived of seeing your posterity, you should thank the gods, though they denied you your great-grandchild this time, that they preserved your granddaughter. They will surely grant your wish in future: we at least now know that she is capable of conceiving a child.

I am giving you the same advice and encouragement as I give myself. You cannot want great-grandchildren more than I want children. Descent from your side and mine will give them an easy path to office and a well-known name and an established family tree. Let them now be born and turn our sorrow into joy. Farewell.

Pliny the Younger Letters 7.5 (To his wife's grandfather)

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