

A LEVEL

Examiners' report

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

H408

For first teaching in 2017

H408/22 Summer 2024 series

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Introduction

Our examiners' reports are produced to offer constructive feedback on candidates' performance in the examinations. They provide useful guidance for future candidates.

The reports will include a general commentary on candidates' performance, identify technical aspects examined in the questions and highlight good performance and where performance could be improved. A selection of candidate answers is also provided. The reports will also explain aspects which caused difficulty and why the difficulties arose, whether through a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique, or any other identifiable and explainable reason.

Where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report.

A full copy of the question paper and the mark scheme can be downloaded from OCR.

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Paper 22 series overview

Candidates showed that they generally had good knowledge of both the events in Augustus' life and the sources. Generally, candidates made use of a good range of sources. Most candidates were secure in their knowledge of the material culture sources. However, they were less secure on the content of the poetry in the literary sources, often confusing authors and poems. Also, many candidates were not secure in the dates of both Augustus' career and of the sources, which limited their usefulness in advancing the discussion. More successful responses used the sources as evidence for the opinions expressed in them, but there were some candidates who did not use many sources in the essay questions. Use of scholars was variable, ranging from good engagement with several scholars to no scholars at all.

Legibility and the quality of written communication are still an issue. This can particularly be seen in the spelling of names and technical terms. Candidates should be advised to read through what they have written to make sure that their work communicates their ideas clearly and effectively. They should also use paragraphs in writing answers to make it easier to follow the points being made.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • read the questions carefully • used both literary and material culture evidence • provided quotations/close reference to the literary sources • were aware of the historical and social context of the sources, including the relevant dates • addressed the question directly • came to a conclusion • in higher tariff questions, used paragraphs to clarify points made and the line of argument • in the essay questions, discussed sources and their effect • in the essay questions, used scholars effectively with good engagement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • made little reference to sources in the essay questions • used information which was not relevant to the question • wrote lengthy introductions to some responses • started a response to higher tariff questions with a conclusion and then disagreed with their introduction, leading to a confusing argument • in the higher tariff questions, wrote a continuous response which made it difficult to follow the argument or the separate points being made • in the essay questions, made little, if any, use of scholars with little, if any, engagement.

Assessment for learning



Candidates should be reminded to:

- follow the instructions carefully
- number questions carefully
- write clearly and legibly
- start each 10-, 20- and 30-mark question on a new page of the answer booklet; very few candidates did this, sometimes not even leaving a gap between answers, making it difficult to work out where one answer ended and the next one began.

Assessment for learning

Candidates should be aware of the correct dates both of events in Augustus' life and the dates when material sources and literary sources were produced.

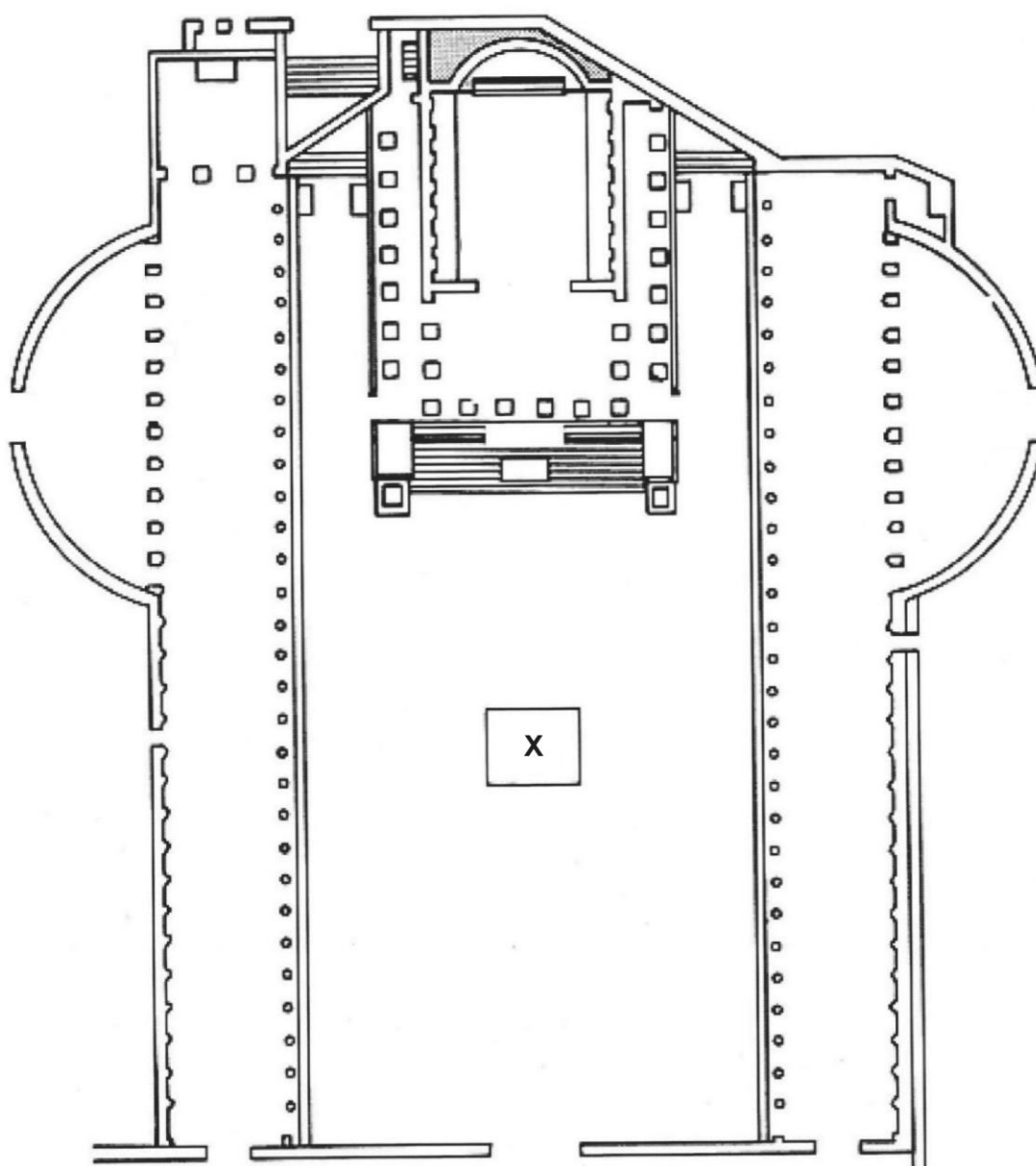
Section A overview

Most candidates had a sound knowledge of both sources and were able to use them as a starting point in their answer to Question 8. Lack of knowledge of dates sometimes contributed to mistakes in discussion of why some sources were produced and the effect they had in creating a good image of Augustus. In general, candidates made good use of Source A and Source B as a starting point for their answer to Question 8.

Question 1

Source A

The Forum of Augustus in Rome



1 When was building work on the temple shown in **Source A** completed?

[1]

Many candidates struggled to answer this question correctly.

Question 2

2 What statue stood at the point marked **X**?

[1]

Most of the candidates identified the statue correctly, although some did not identify which statue of Augustus it was, or even that it was a statue of Augustus.

Question 3

3 Explain how the Forum of Augustus strengthened Augustus' public image in Rome. Use references to **Source A** to support your answer.

[10]

Candidates were generally able to provide at least reasonable knowledge and analysis of the source. Many candidates showed good knowledge of the Mars Ultor temple and the various statues both in it and around the Forum. Some offered useful supplementary evidence regarding the unusual shape of the Forum and the expensive materials used in creating the temple, for example. Many candidates also had good knowledge of Augustus' vow to dedicate the temple to the god after the Battle of Philippi. There was some confusion about where statues were located, but more successful responses were able to discuss how the Quadriga statue of Augustus strengthened his public image.

Misconception



Many candidates thought that the Temple of Mars Ultor was vowed after the Battle of Actium.

Exemplar 1

3	One way in which Augustus' Forum strengthened his public image was through the quadriga statue. This represented his triple triumph (Actium, Dalmatia and Alexandria), presenting him as a capable military leader and having virtus. More so, the temple of Mars ^{insourceA} strengthened his public image by presenting him as having piety (duty to father, gods and the state). It was built as Augustus received help from Mars the Avenger when fighting Brutus and Cassius in order to avenge his father Julius Caesar. This showed his piety, thus strengthening his public image.
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This exemplar deals with two points, using details from the Forum and explaining how they strengthened Augustus' Imperial Image.

Question 4

Source B

Res Gestae Divi Augusti 10, 20, 21

By a decree of the senate, my name was included in the Salian hymn, and it was sanctified by a law that I should be inviolate for ever, and that I should hold tribunician power as long as I should live. I refused to be made *pontifex maximus*, in the place of my colleague who was still alive, when that priesthood that my father had held was offered to me by the people. Some years later, I received the priesthood, in the consulship of Publius Sulpicius and Gaius Valgus, on the death of the man who had held it since the occasion of civil disturbance, with a multitude gathering together for my election from the whole of Italy, so many as had never been seen before that time in Rome.

5

I rebuilt the Capitol and the Theatre of Pompey, both works at great expense without inscribing my name on either of them. In numerous places, I rebuilt aqueducts that had fallen into disrepair, and I doubled the capacity of the aqueduct called Marcia, by bringing in water from a new spring. I completed the Forum of Julius and the basilica between the Temple of Castor and the Temple of Saturn, works started and almost completed by my father, and when the basilica was consumed by fire, I expanded it. I began it under the names of my sons, and, should I not finish it in my lifetime, I order that it should be completed by my heirs. In my sixth consulship I restored eighty two temples of the gods in the city by the authority of the senate, missing out none that needed to be rebuilt at that time. In my seventh consulship, I rebuilt the Flaminian Way from the city to Ariminum, and all the bridges except the Mulvian and the Minucian.

10

15

I built the Temple of Mars the Avenger and the Forum of Augustus on private ground from war booty. I built the Theatre at the temple of Apollo, on ground in large part bought from private owners, which was under the name of my son-in-law, Marcus Marcellus. I dedicated gifts from booty in the Capitol and in the temples of the Divine Julius and in the temple of Mars the Avenger, which cost me about one hundred million sesterces. In my fifth consulship, I sent back thirty five thousand in weight of gold crowns, contributed to my triumphs by the towns and colonies of Italy, and afterwards, whenever I was named *imperator*, I did not accept the golden crown, which they voted to me with the same benevolence as before.

20

25

4 Who is the 'colleague' referred to in line 3?

[1]

There were some incorrect answers to this question, but most answers were correct.

Question 5

5 In what year did Augustus become *pontifex maximus*?

[1]

Many candidates answered this question correctly, but there was some confusion over the date.

Question 6

- 6 Outside which building were the *Res Gestae Divi Augusti* originally displayed? [1]

Most candidates answered this question correctly, although there was a range of alternative answers such as the Forum of Augustus and the Temple of Apollo.

Question 7

- 7 Explain how effectively **Source B** shows that Augustus improved the lives of the inhabitants of Rome. [10]

Most candidates were able to find a good range of material to use, and explained how this improved the lives of the inhabitants of Rome. A number of responses showed excellent analysis and scored accompanying high marks. Some responses did not differentiate between different types of improvement, offering comments on improvements to infrastructure in general rather than on specifics. Less successful responses tended to list without explanation, often stating, e.g. that by repairing aqueducts, Augustus improved the lives of the inhabitants of Rome without stating why this was.

Some candidates did not read the question carefully and answered about how the source improved Augustus' Imperial Image rather than the lives of the inhabitants of Rome.

The exemplar below looks at two points from the extract and deals effectively with the question.

Exemplar 2

What the inhabitants of Rome would have likely appreciated most would be the 'rebuilt aqueducts' and theatres. At this time, fresh clean water would not have been the easiest to obtain, as such by introducing better and new aqueducts this would have majorly improved the daily lives of many Romans. Agrippa, Augustus' best friend and colleague, took on a lot of the building project works, including the construction of aqueducts however he is not mentioned here in order for Augustus to further glorify himself. ~~and the~~ The 'theatre of Pompey' and 'the theatre at the Temple of Apollo' would also have been welcome additions to the city as it meant entertainment. Most Romans spent their whole lives working, as such celebration days or events would have been welcomed and with the new theatres, thanks to Augustus, allowed more entertainment.

Question 8*

8* Explain how effectively Augustus presented an image of himself as a good religious leader.

You may use **Source(s) A and/or B** as a starting point in your answer.

[20]

Virtually all candidates were able to make use of Source A and Source B in their responses, extracting the appropriate details to show how important religion was to Augustus. Some candidates were unable to provide many details beyond the sources, but more successful responses saw candidates draw on their knowledge of Suetonius and the *Res Gestae* to discuss his membership of the priestly colleges and his restoration of neglected cults. Candidates also used a range of sources, such as coins, the Ara Pacis and the Prima Porta statue as evidence for the points being made. As well as discussing Augustus' active involvement in religious practices, many candidates also discussed his divine links as '*divi filius*' and his family relationship to gods such as Venus, and also the cult of his *genius* and his portrayal on the Kalabsha Gate.

The key to good AO2 marks was to provide analysis and evaluation of different types of religious leadership. Less successful responses in this regard tended to list different pieces of evidence and conclude that these simply showed good leadership without much precise analysis of the kind of leadership that the evidence suggested. There were also a number of candidates who provided a counter argument, citing the 'feast of the gods' and worship of Augustus' *genius*, as seen in the colossal statue in his Forum and his portrayal on the Kalabsha Gate as evidence.

Section B overview

Candidates generally had a good idea of the background information required to answer both of the questions. Many had good knowledge of the sources and used them well, but there were a number of responses which did not contain much, if any, reference to sources. As both questions required a discussion of sources, this limited the AO1 mark which could be scored.

Question 9 was by far the more popular of the two questions.

Assessment for learning



Candidates should read the questions carefully and use sources as appropriate.

Question 9*

9* 'Augustus' association with Julius Caesar was vital to the creation of his imperial image.'

Assess the extent to which the sources you have studied support this statement.

[30]

Most candidates showed at least some knowledge of Caesar's influence on Augustus' image in his rise to power and thereafter. Sometimes this was rather limited to initial co-marketing and adoption of the concept of '*divi filius*'. More successful responses filled in the gaps, analysing the source evidence behind the support of the military and plebs, the avenging of the assassins and the continuation of Caesar's building projects. They also recognised how Augustus had to be careful of too close an association with an assassinated dictator. Factors mentioned in Augustus keeping power included his position as '*divi filius*' and his distancing himself from Caesar the man.

More successful responses made use of a variety of sources, mostly coins and literature, including the *Res Gestae* and Suetonius; the poems of Horace, Propertius and Ovid were less popular. However, a number of candidates made little or no use of sources, despite the instruction in the question.

Several candidates drifted away from the subject of the question, answering a general question on the various factors which enabled Augustus to create his Imperial Image, with the relationship with Julius Caesar being a minor aspect of the detail discussed. Although there is room for discussion of these other factors, for candidates to access the higher range of marks, the main focus of the response had to be the relationship with Julius Caesar.

Question 10*

10* Evaluate whether the imperial family helped or hindered Augustus' presentation of his image.

Justify your answer with close reference to the sources you have studied.

[30]

Candidates generally showed good knowledge of the various members of Augustus' family, and the role they played in his life. Livia and Gaius and Lucius were the most popular subjects for discussion, but Drusus and Tiberius were also mentioned. Many candidates discussed the role played by Julius Caesar in Augustus' presentation of his image, but at times some candidates made this the major part of the response, which limited the variety of material used. Most candidates balanced their arguments well, mentioning help in the main but also some hindrance. Some less successful responses omitted mention of hindrances. The main evidence for the family as a hindrance was the banishment of the two Julias and some candidates also mentioned the banishment of Postumus Agrippa. Quite often, these were discussed without mentioning Suetonius as a source. There was also, at times, confusion over Augustus' relationship to the two Julias. Generally, knowledge of sources was good. The main sources used were the Bust of Livia, the Ara Pacis and the Gaius and Lucius coin. There was generally good use of scholars' comments with appropriate engagement.

The exemplar below discusses the way in which the Imperial Family aided Augustus' presentation of himself as a military leader, with use of scholars. The candidate hasn't really engaged with the quote from Mary Beard though.

OCR support



OCR has produced a blog detailing where you can find suitable material that meets the requirement for 'secondary scholars and academics', what we expect candidates to do with it in the exam and how examiners go about marking the scholarship requirement.

[Read the blog here.](#)

Exemplar 3

Augustus was always presented as a powerful imperator and *divi filius*, son of a god, having used his father Julius Caesar as a 'passport to power' as stated by Mary Beard. This strong image continued after the end of Civil War and was reflected in the action of his family lineage. Horace's poem *Drusus* and the Claudians presents Drusus' ~~military~~ successful military campaigns. Horace also presents the Romans as being in debt to that of the Claudian lineage stemming from that of Livius' side of the family due to their contribution in the Punic wars as seen through 'Hamilcar'. These successful campaigns were in part to what made the Roman

empire so great. The Prima Porta breast plate depicts Tiberius reclaiming the Parthian standards, a strong symbol of Rome's military power and a moment which resolidified the Rome's status. Gaius and Lucius' depictions on the 2BC-4AD coins next to that of shields further expresses the imperial families connection to military victory and success. Galinsky presents peace and war as being 'intrinsically linked' by Augustus and this is undoubtedly true & when looking towards both Augustus and his families depictions of sheer military prowess. His family member help to build the larger Roman empire and were significant in ~~also~~ helping to define and found the military strength stemming from the centre of the empire, Rome.

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