

AS LEVEL

Examiners' report

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

H008

For first teaching in 2017

H008/22 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, but 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.

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 higher tariff questions 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 the 8-mark questions, made four separate, distinct points • in higher tariff questions, used paragraphs to clarify points made and the line of argument • in the essay questions, discussed sources and their effect. 	<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, including lower tariff questions • started a response to higher tariff questions with a conclusion and then disagreed with their introduction, leading to a confusing argument • In both the 8-mark and the higher tariff questions, wrote a continuous response which made it difficult to follow the argument or the separate points being made.

Assessment for learning



Candidates should be reminded to:

- follow the instructions carefully
- number questions clearly and carefully, especially when identifying which essay question is being answered
- write clearly and legibly
- start the answer to each 8-, 16- and 25-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.

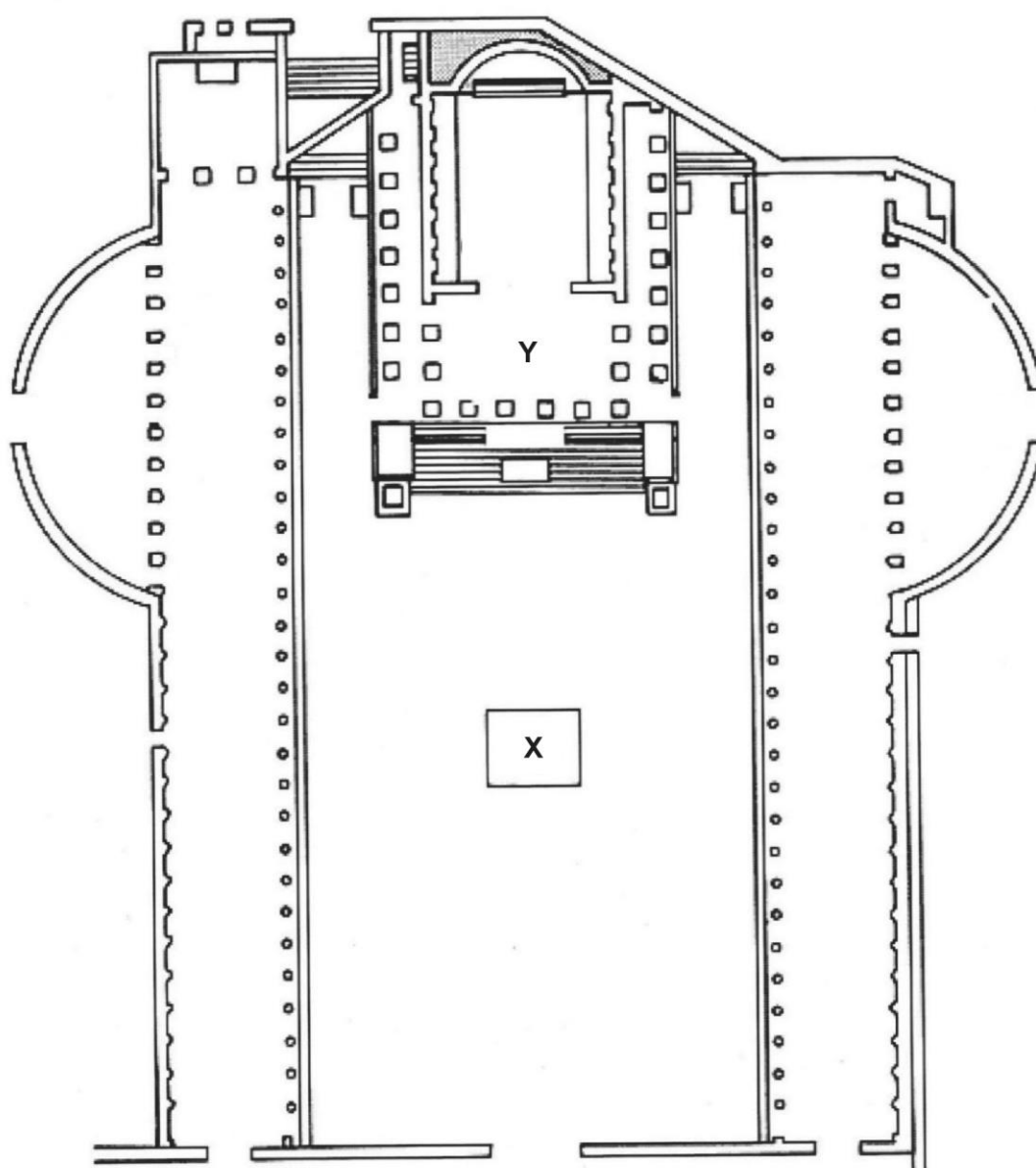
Section A overview

Most candidates had a sound knowledge of both sources and were able to use them as a starting point in their answer to Question 10. 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.

Question 1

Source A

The Forum of Augustus in Rome



1 When was the Forum of Augustus officially opened?

[1]

Many candidates struggled to answer this question correctly.

Assessment for learning

To answer this type of question, there is no need for candidates to write a full sentence. Time can be saved by writing a one-word or short answer. The same goes for Questions 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

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 To which god was **Temple Y** dedicated? [1]

The vast majority of candidates correctly identified that the temple was dedicated to Mars.

Question 4

- 4 Why do you think Augustus dedicated this temple in his forum? [1]

The majority of candidates were able to provide a sound answer to the question.

Question 5

- 5 Explain how the Forum of Augustus strengthened Augustus' public image in Rome. Make **four** points and support each point with reference to **Source A**. [8]

Candidates were generally able to make a variety of points about the Forum and its contents. There was often confusion about where statues were located, e.g. Venus Genetrix and Deified Julius Caesar being in the Forum, not the temple.

Misconception

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

Exemplar 1

5.	<p>The Forum of Augustus strengthened Augustus' image by highlighting his divine lineage. The exedra show statues of the Julian line such as Romulus on one side and Aeneas on the other. This reminded the public of Augustus' direct link to Venus' family line as well as Caesar, showing him to be <i>divi filius</i> (son of a god) and legitimising his position in power.</p> <p>The forum also highlights Augustus' piety as the temple to Mars Ultor shows he is giving thanks for the aid of the Gods in avenging his father. This shows he respects the Gods and is dedicated to respecting his ancestors which also excuses and washes away the sins of civil war through his religious piety.</p>
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The exemplar above shows two well-made points. In each case, the point is made, and the evidence is given and then explained.

Question 6

Source B

Res Gestae Divi Augusti 10, 20

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

6 Who wrote the *Res Gestae Divi Augusti*?

[1]

Virtually all candidates answered this question correctly.

Question 7

7 When were the *Res Gestae Divi Augusti* written?

[1]

Most candidates answered this question correctly.

Question 8

8 Who is the colleague referred to in line 3?

[1]

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

Question 9

9 Why do you think that **Source B** was displayed outside the Mausoleum of Augustus?

[1]

The majority of candidates were able to provide a sound answer to the question.

Question 10

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

Make **four** points and support each point with reference to **Source B**.

[8]

Most candidates were able to find a good range of material to use, and explain how this improved the lives of the inhabitants of Rome. They explained how the extract from *Res Gestae* showed this, as can be seen in the exemplar below. Some candidates did not read the question carefully, and answered about how the source improved Augustus' image.

Exemplar 2

10		Source B shows us that Augustus improved the lives of the inhabitants of Rome as it talks about him rebuilding places of socialising and entertainment for the people of Rome. This improves their lives as he is making sure they enjoy
		living in Rome. This is shown in Source B, when it says, "I rebuilt the Capitol and the Theatre of Pompey."
		Another way in which it shows he improved the lives of the people of Rome is because it talks about how Augustus provided clean water for the inhabitants. This is seen in the quote, "I rebuilt aqueducts."

Question 11*

11* 'Religion was very important to the image Augustus wanted to present of himself.'

Explain how far you agree with this statement.

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

[16]

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 drew on candidates' 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. There were also a number of candidates who provided a counter argument, citing the 'feast of the gods' 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 12 was by far the more popular of the two questions. Several candidates quoted scholars. Although this is not a requirement at AS Level, use of scholars was still credited.

Question 12*

12* 'Augustus' relationship with Julius Caesar was vital in helping him both to gain power and to keep it.'

Explain how far you agree with this statement. Justify your response with close reference to the sources you have studied. **[25]**

Candidates generally had a good idea of how Augustus used his relationship with Julius Caesar in gaining power, and in keeping it. Most discussed how Caesar was important as in Augustus gaining recognition and the support of Caesar's veterans as a power base. 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 the poems of Horace, Propertius and Ovid.

Several candidates drifted away from the subject of the question, answering a general question on the various factors which enabled Augustus to gain and keep power, 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 answer had to be the relationship with Julius Caesar.

Question 13*

13* Explain how far the sources you have studied show that Augustus successfully presented the Imperial family as good role models for Roman citizens. **[25]**

Candidates generally showed good knowledge of the various members of Augustus' family, and the role they played in his life. More successful responses discussed how he presented his family to the Roman people, using a variety of sources. These included sculpture, such as the Head of Livia and the Prima Porta statue, literature, including Propertius and Ovid, as well as Suetonius and the *Res Gestae*, and coins. The members of the family mentioned most often were Livia, his grandsons Gaius and Lucius, and his stepsons Drusus and Tiberius. Candidates also discussed the other female members of the Imperial family, such as the two Julias, using them as an argument to say that they were not good role models. Most candidates did concentrate on the presentation of the family, as can be seen in the extract below, which deals with Livia.

Exemplar 3

		<p>Augustus' wife Livia was presented as a good role model for Roman women through her morals, behaviour and style. The best of Livia is a piece of material evidence that demonstrates</p>
		<p>Livia's impact and influence over Roman beauty standards. The hairstyle Livia is depicted wearing was incredibly popular at the time, and therefore presents Livia as the ideal woman and therefore a good role model for Roman citizens. Furthermore, Livia is presented as a good role model through the Ara Pacis. She is depicted in very modest clothing, almost fully covered up apart from her face and hands. This shows that Livia was presented to be very modest and pious. These were traits of an ideal Roman woman and therefore show Livia to be a good role model and a matrona figure. Lastly, Livia is depicted as a good role model through her presentation as a good mother. On the Ara Pacis, she is depicted with her hand upon a child's head and her gaze fixed on the child. This presents her as a good and caring mother looking out for her child. This was an ideal trait of Roman women and therefore she would have been a good role model.</p>

This candidate has discussed the presentation of Livia as an ideal role model for Roman women, and used a range of sources to show how this presentation was created.

Some candidates were more concerned with the impact of the Imperial family on Augustus' own image. These answers often contained references to the relationship with Julius Caesar, which may have had an impact on Augustus' Imperial image, but was not discussed as a role model, good or bad.

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