



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Monday 2 June 2025 – 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 Question 1 **or** Question 2 **and** answer Question 3.

Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.

- 1*** To what extent did the reign of Tiberius set a pattern for the future direction of the principate?

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

- 2*** 'The imperial women had very little influence during this period.'

How far do the sources support this view?

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 people most bitter about imperial rule were the aristocrats, who had lost the political power that had always belonged to their ancestors. The average Roman had never held more than a token share of this power and could not, therefore, grieve too deeply when the monarchy of the emperor replaced the aristocracy of the Senate. In fact, many Romans welcomed this new system of government because it brought peace, stability, and therefore prosperity. In the republican period, the fate of the common man was frequently dependent on magistrates who changed every year and who were willing to sacrifice the welfare of other people to achieve their own political and financial ambitions. In the imperial period, affairs of state were conducted by bureaucrats, not politicians; by men who had served in one office for a long time and who had no illusions of securing for themselves supreme control over the Roman world.

5

10

J-A Shelton, *As the Romans Did* (adapted)

How convincing do you find Shelton's interpretation that the majority benefitted from the Julio-Claudian system of government because it brought 'peace, stability, and therefore prosperity'?

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

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

Answer Question 4 **and** answer Question 5 **or** Question 6.

Answer Question 4.

4 Read the passage below.

“We call gods and men to witness, general, that we have taken up arms, not against our fatherland nor to bring danger upon others, but to protect ourselves from wrong; for we are wretched and destitute, many of us have been driven from our country by the violence and cruelty of the moneylenders, while all have lost repute and fortune. None of us has been allowed, in accordance with the usage of our forefathers, to enjoy the protection of the law and retain our personal liberty after being stripped of our possessions, such was the inhumanity of the moneylenders and the praetor. Your forefathers often took pity on the common people of Rome and relieved their distress by decrees, and not long ago, within our own memory, because of the great amount of their debt, silver was paid in copper with the general consent of the nobles. Often the commons themselves, either motivated by a desire for political power or incensed at the arrogance of the magistrates, have taken up arms and seceded from the patricians. But we ask neither for power nor for riches, the usual causes of war and quarrels among human beings, but only for freedom, which no true man gives up except with his life. We implore you and the Senate to rescue your unhappy fellow citizens, to restore the legal protection, of which the praetor’s injustice has deprived us, and not force us to ask how we may sell our lives most dearly.”

5

10

15

Sallust, *The Catiline Conspiracy* 33

How useful is this passage for our understanding of the motivation of the Catilinarian conspirators?

[12]

Answer **either** Question 5 **or** Question 6.

5* ‘Politicians only gained success because of the threat of military action.’

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 far were the failings of the constitution responsible for the breakdown of the Republic?

You must use and analyse the ancient sources you have studied as well as your own knowledge of this period to support your answer.

[36]

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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