

**Monday 17 June 2013 – Afternoon**

**GCSE ANCIENT HISTORY**

**A033/01** Women in ancient politics

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

**OCR supplied materials:**  
None

**Other materials required:**  
None

**Duration:** 1 hour 15 minutes



Candidate forename		Candidate surname	
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Centre number						Candidate number				
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**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes above. Please write clearly and in capital letters.
- Use black ink.
- This paper has **two** options:  
Option 1: Cleopatra and her impact on Roman politics, 69–30 BC, which starts on page 3.  
Option 2: Agrippina the Younger and her influence on Roman politics, AD 41–59, which starts on page 17.
- Choose **one** option only. Answer **all** the questions in Section A and **one** question from Section B.
- Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided. If additional space is required, you should use the lined pages at the end of this booklet. The question number(s) must be clearly shown.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

- The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **86**.
- You will be assessed on the quality of written communication in your answer to the following questions: 4 or 5 (Option 1), or, 9 or 10 (Option 2). Questions marked with a pencil (✎) will carry 6 additional marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- This document consists of **32** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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**3**

Answer questions from **either** Option 1 **or** Option 2.

**Option 1: Cleopatra and her impact on Roman politics, 69–30 BC**

**SECTION A**

Answer **all** the questions in this section.

**1** Outline **two** reasons why Roman leaders wanted a political relationship with Cleopatra.

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**Option 1: Cleopatra and her impact on Roman politics, 69–30 BC**

- 2 Read Passage 1A from Plutarch, and answer the questions which follow.

**Passage 1A**

She received many requests both from Antony himself and from his friends calling for her to visit him; yet, she treated him with such contempt and laughed at him to the extent that she sailed up the river Cydnus in a river-craft covered in gold, its purple sails in the wind, its rowers pressing on with silver oars to the sound of flutes, pipes and citharas. She herself lay back beneath a canopy embroidered with gold, dressed to look like Aphrodite [Venus] in some painting, while on both sides stood boys made up as Cupids in paintings who fanned her. ... Some of the people escorted her on both banks of the river right up the river from its mouth, while others came down from the city to see the sight. The crowd that had gathered in the market-place gradually moved away. Finally only Antony himself, seated on his platform, remained. Everywhere there was the rumour that Aphrodite would celebrate with Dionysus [Bacchus] for the good of Asia.

Plutarch, *Life of Mark Antony* 26

- (a) Using details from Passage 1A, describe **one** way in which Cleopatra presented herself in public.

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**Option 1: Cleopatra and her impact on Roman politics, 69–30 BC**

**(b)** Explain how Passage 1A shows the importance of the meeting between Mark Antony and Cleopatra.

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**(c)** How accurate do you think Plutarch’s description of the events in Passage 1A is?

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**Option 1: Cleopatra and her impact on Roman politics, 69–30 BC**

3 Read Passage 1B from Plutarch, and answer the questions which follow.

**Passage 1B**

A few days later, Octavian himself came to meet her and talk with her to give her some comfort. He found her depressed lying on a bed wearing a single tunic. As he entered, she leapt up and fell at his feet; her hair and face looked terrible and wild, her voice trembled, and her eyes were pale and sunken. There were plainly many marks from the blows on her breasts; simply, her body seemed to be in no better state than her spirit. Even so, her charm and the attractiveness of her beauty were completely gone, but, despite her sad situation, they shone forth from within and were visible in the movement of her face. Octavian told her to lie down and he sat beside her. She tried to excuse her actions, saying that she had acted out of necessity and fear of Antony. When Octavian answered every excuse she made, she quickly changed her approach and tried to gain his pity by prayers, as much as any woman would who was especially anxious to live. Finally she gave him a written account which listed all her wealth; ... He told her, therefore, that she could arrange all this herself, and that he would treat her better than she might have hoped in other matters. He then left thinking he had deceived her, when in fact he was the one who had been deceived.

Plutarch, *Life of Mark Antony* 83

(a) In what ways does Passage 1B help us to understand how Cleopatra tried to gain the sympathy and support of Octavian? [14]

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**Option 1: Cleopatra and her impact on Roman politics, 69–30 BC**

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**Option 1: Cleopatra and her impact on Roman politics, 69–30 BC**

**Passage 1B** repeated, for reference

A few days later, Octavian himself came to meet her and talk with her to give her some comfort. He found her depressed lying on a bed wearing a single tunic. As he entered, she leapt up and fell at his feet; her hair and face looked terrible and wild, her voice trembled, and her eyes were pale and sunken. There were plainly many marks from the blows on her breasts; simply, her body seemed to be in no better state than her spirit. Even so, her charm and the attractiveness of her beauty were completely gone, but, despite her sad situation, they shone forth from within and were visible in the movement of her face. Octavian told her to lie down and he sat beside her. She tried to excuse her actions, saying that she had acted out of necessity and fear of Antony. When Octavian answered every excuse she made, she quickly changed her approach and tried to gain his pity by prayers, as much as any woman would who was especially anxious to live. Finally she gave him a written account which listed all her wealth; ... He told her, therefore, that she could arrange all this herself, and that he would treat her better than she might have hoped in other matters. He then left thinking he had deceived her, when in fact he was the one who had been deceived.

Plutarch, *Life of Mark Antony* 83

**(b)** In your opinion, how useful are the ancient sources for our understanding of Cleopatra’s situation at the end of her life?

You must refer **both** to Passage 1B **and** to other ancient sources which you have studied. **[18]**

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**Option 1: Cleopatra and her impact on Roman politics, 69–30 BC****SECTION B**

Answer **either** Question 4 **or** Question 5.


**Marks are awarded for the quality of written communication in your answer.**

- 4 ‘Cleopatra was only interested in Roman politicians as a way to gain power.’ Using the ancient sources, explain how far you agree with this view.

In your answer you should:

- give a brief account of Cleopatra’s relationships with Roman politicians;
- explain whether you think Cleopatra used Roman politicians to gain power;
- show knowledge of the relevant sections of the ancient sources;
- consider how reliable you think these sources are.

**[30]**

 Spelling, punctuation and grammar **[6]**

- 5 ‘Cleopatra was not afraid to die.’ Using the ancient sources, explain how far Cleopatra showed courage throughout her life.

In your answer you should:

- give a brief account of Cleopatra’s life from 69–30 BC;
- explain the extent to which Cleopatra showed courage in her behaviour and actions;
- show knowledge of the relevant sections of the ancient sources;
- consider how reliable you think these sources are.

**[30]**

 Spelling, punctuation and grammar **[6]**







**Option 1: Cleopatra and her impact on Roman politics, 69–30 BC**

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Option 1: Cleopatra and her impact on Roman politics, 69–30 BC

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**Option 2: Agrippina the Younger and her influence on Roman politics, AD 41–59**

**(b)** Using details from Passage 2A, explain **one** reaction to Agrippina’s involvement in politics.

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**(c)** In your opinion, how accurate is Tacitus’ description of Agrippina’s political power in Passage 2A?

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**Option 2: Agrippina the Younger and her influence on Roman politics, AD 41–59**

8 Read Passage 2B from Suetonius, and answer the questions which follow.

**Passage 2B**

Three times he tried to poison her. However, he realised that she had prepared for this by taking antidotes. In her bedroom he had a ceiling built, so that, by means of machine which loosened it, it would fall on her while she slept. This plot was revealed by some of those in on it. Next he devised a collapsible boat: the idea was to kill her either in a shipwreck or by the collapse of its cabin. ... He stayed awake in great fear for the rest of the time, waiting to hear what had happened. Then he learned that everything had gone wrong and that she had escaped by swimming. He now had no idea what to do. When Agerinus, Agrippina's freedman, arrived to announce joyfully that she was safe and unharmed, Nero arranged for someone to throw a dagger down secretly beside Agerinus. At once Nero ordered the freedman to be arrested accusing him of being sent to assassinate himself and ordered his mother to be killed. It was to look as if she had taken her own life once she knew that her attempted murder of Nero had been revealed. Credible writers provide horrible facts: he could not wait to see the dead body ... .

Suetonius, *Nero* 34

(a) In what ways does Passage 2B help us to understand the difficulties Nero faced in trying to kill Agrippina? [14]

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**Option 2: Agrippina the Younger and her influence on Roman politics, AD 41–59**

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**Option 2: Agrippina the Younger and her influence on Roman politics, AD 41–59**

**Passage 2B**, repeated for reference

Three times he tried to poison her. However, he realised that she had prepared for this by taking antidotes. In her bedroom he had a ceiling built, so that, by means of machine which loosened it, it would fall on her while she slept. This plot was revealed by some of those in on it. Next he devised a collapsible boat: the idea was to kill her either in a shipwreck or by the collapse of its cabin. ... He stayed awake in great fear for the rest of the time, waiting to hear what had happened. Then he learned that everything had gone wrong and that she had escaped by swimming. He now had no idea what to do. When Agerinus, Agrippina’s freedman, arrived to announce joyfully that she was safe and unharmed, Nero arranged for someone to throw a dagger down secretly beside Agerinus. At once Nero ordered the freedman to be arrested accusing him of being sent to assassinate himself and ordered his mother to be killed. It was to look as if she had taken her own life once she knew that her attempted murder of Nero had been revealed. Credible writers provide horrible facts: he could not wait to see the dead body ...

Suetonius, *Nero* 34

**(b)** How useful are the ancient sources in helping us to understand why Nero wanted to kill Agrippina?

You must refer **both** to Passage 2B **and** to other ancient sources which you have studied.

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**Option 2: Agrippina the Younger and her influence on Roman politics, AD 41–59****SECTION B**

Answer **either** Question 9 **or** Question 10.

**Marks are awarded for the quality of written communication in your answer.**

- 9** How far do the ancient sources show that Agrippina's ambition to become powerful changed her relationship with Nero?

In your answer you should:

- give a brief account of Agrippina's relationship with Nero;
- explain how far Agrippina's ambition to become powerful affected her relationship with Nero;
- show knowledge of relevant sections of Tacitus and Suetonius;
- consider how reliable you think these sources are. **[30]**

 Spelling, punctuation and grammar **[6]**

- 10** To what extent do the ancient sources suggest that Agrippina was the most important person in the imperial courts of Claudius and Nero?

In your answer you should:

- give a brief account of Agrippina's involvement in the imperial courts of Claudius and Nero;
- explain whether you think Agrippina was more important than others in the imperial courts of Claudius and Nero;
- show knowledge of the relevant sections of the ancient sources;
- consider how accurate you think these sources are. **[30]**

 Spelling, punctuation and grammar **[6]**













**ADDITIONAL ANSWER SPACE**

If additional answer space is required, you should use the following lined page(s). The question number(s) must be clearly shown in the margins.

A large area of lined paper for writing answers. It features a vertical margin line on the left side and horizontal dotted lines for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page.



A large rectangular area with a solid vertical line on the left side and horizontal dotted lines across the rest of the page, intended for writing answers.



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