

OCR

Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Monday 15 June 2015 – Afternoon

GCSE ANCIENT HISTORY

A033/01 Women in ancient politics

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet.

OCR supplied materials:

- 12 page Answer Booklet (OCR12)
(sent with general stationery)

Other materials required:

None

Duration: 1 hour 15 minutes



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Complete the boxes on the Answer Booklet with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Use black ink.
- This paper has **two** options:
Option 1: Cleopatra and her impact on Roman politics, 69–30 BC.
Option 2: Agrippina the Younger and her influence on Roman politics, AD 41–59.
- Choose **one** option only. Answer **all** the questions in Section A and **one** question from Section B.
- Write the number of each question answered in the margin.
- Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- 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 **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

INSTRUCTION TO EXAMS OFFICER/INVIGILATOR

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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 Briefly outline **two** difficulties Cleopatra faced at the beginning of her reign. [5]
- 2 Read Passage 1A from Plutarch, and answer the questions which follow.

Passage 1A

With such grieving, she placed a wreath on the urn and embraced it. She then ordered her bath to be prepared. After bathing, she lay down and was served an extravagant and splendid meal. A man arrived from the countryside carrying a basket. When the guards asked him what it contained, he opened the basket, removed the leaves from the top, and showed them that it was full of figs. The guards were surprised at the size and beauty of the figs, and the man smiled and told them to take some; the guards therefore believed him and ordered him to go inside. After her meal, however, Cleopatra took a tablet, already written on and sealed, and sent it to Octavian. She then made all leave except those two women, and closed the doors.

Plutarch, *Life of Mark Antony* 85

- (a) Using Passage 1A, outline how Cleopatra prepared for her death. [4]
- (b) Explain why Cleopatra wrote to Octavian. [4]
- (c) With reference to details from Passage 1A, how accurate do you think Plutarch's description of Cleopatra's actions is? [5]

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

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

Passage 1B

One fleet was condemned to defeat by the Roman Quirinus (Romulus) – a disgrace that Roman javelins were held on the orders of a woman. On the other side, Augustus' ship had sails filled with the wind of Jupiter (a good omen), the army now taught to win victories for their homeland. Finally the sea-god Nereus had drawn up the battle line in two curves. The water shook, coloured by the flashes of light from the weapons. Then Apollo left the island of Delos, now kept still under his protection (although it used to move under the force of the angry South Wind). He stood above the ship of Augustus; a new flame shot out like the flashing light of a thunderbolt.

...

[Apollo] finished speaking and he emptied his quiver of arrows against the enemy. Close behind his bow was Caesar's spear. Trusting in Apollo Rome was victorious. The woman was punished. Her broken sceptre floats on Ionian waves. His father Julius Caesar looks down amazed from the star that fell on Mount Ida.

"I am a god," he said. "There is the proof that he is of my blood."

He is followed by Triton, god of the sea, with songs of praise, and all the sea-goddesses applauded around our standards. That woman makes for the River Nile, vainly relying on her own ship in her pointless escape. One thing she did achieve: she did not die on the appointed day.

Propertius, 4.6

- (a) How far does Passage 1B help us to understand what happened at Actium? You must use and evaluate details from Passage 1B. [14]
- (b) To what extent do the ancient sources portray Cleopatra as a coward? You must use and evaluate details from **both** Passage 1B **and** other ancient sources which you have studied. [18]

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 ‘Throughout her life Cleopatra needed the help of Roman politicians to gain and keep power in Egypt.’ Using the ancient sources, explain how far you agree with this view.

In your answer you should:

- give a brief account of Cleopatra’s position in Egypt as it developed throughout her life;
- explain how far you think Roman politicians helped Cleopatra to gain and keep power in Egypt;
- show knowledge of the relevant sections of the ancient sources;
- consider how reliable you think these sources are. **[30]**

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

OR

- 5 ‘The ancient accounts of Cleopatra are just fiction.’ Using details from the ancient sources, explain how far you agree with this view.

In your answer you should:

- give an account of what the sources say about Cleopatra’s actions and character;
- show knowledge of the relevant sections of the ancient sources;
- consider why the sources described Cleopatra as they did;
- explain whether you think the sources give a reliable account of Cleopatra. **[30]**

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

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

Do not answer questions from this option if you have already answered Option 1.

SECTION A

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

- 6 Outline **two** ways in which freedmen influenced Claudius. [5]
- 7 Read Passage 2A from Tacitus, and answer the questions which follow.

Passage 2A

The day on which the remains of Germanicus were carried into the Mausoleum of Augustus was characterised either by a deep silence or loud cries of grief. The route through the city was full of people; torches lit up the Field of Mars. The soldiers in armour, the magistrates without badges of office, the people arranged in the tribes were shouting continually that the state was destroyed, and that no hope was left; they shouted so readily and openly that you might believe they had not remembered who ruled them. But nothing affected Tiberius more than the enthusiasm for Agrippina [the Elder]; they called her the honour of the country, the only blood-relative of Augustus, the one surviving model of the old values; as they turned to the sky and the gods, they prayed that her children might be unharmed and survive their enemies.

Tacitus, *Annals* 3.4

- (a) Using Passage 2A, outline what happened at Germanicus' funeral. [4]
- (b) Explain how Agrippina the Younger's family connection with Germanicus helped her to become more powerful in Rome. [4]
- (c) With reference to details in Passage 2A, how accurate do you think Tacitus' account of these events is? [5]

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

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

Passage 2B

Soon every detail of the event was so well known that writers of the period say that the poison was placed on a very tasty dish of mushrooms. The drug did not immediately take effect, whether through Claudius' natural laziness or because he was drunk. At the same time an emptying of his bowels appeared to have helped him recover. Therefore, Agrippina was now terrified; however, since the outcome of failure was feared, she had to ignore what people might think of her, and turned for help to the doctor Xenophon, whose participation in the plot had already been secured by Agrippina. He, as if helping him to vomit, is believed to have put a feather covered in a quick-acting poison down his throat. ...

Meanwhile the senate was summoned and prayers were offered for the safety of the emperor by the consuls and priests, even while his lifeless body was being wrapped in cloths and bandages. All the while the arrangements were being made for the safe succession of Nero. ... She [Agrippina] had all the entrances and exits guarded. She put out frequent bulletins that Claudius was getting better, so that the soldiers were kept in good spirits and she could wait for the right moment according to the advice of the Chaldaean astrologers.

Tacitus, *Annals* 12.67–68

- (a) How far does Passage 2B help us to understand Agrippina's involvement in the death of Claudius and the events which followed? You must use and evaluate details from Passage 2B. [14]
- (b) How useful are Tacitus and Suetonius in helping us to understand the reasons for Claudius' murder? You must use and evaluate details from **both** Passage 2B **and** other ancient sources which you have studied. [18]

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 important was Agrippina during Claudius' reign?

In your answer you should:

- give a brief account of Agrippina's actions during Claudius' reign;
- explain whether she was significant in developing and maintaining Claudius' power;
- show knowledge of the relevant sections of the ancient sources;
- consider how accurate you think these sources are.

[30]

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

OR

10 'Whilst Agrippina controlled Nero, she was safe. Once he was in control, she was doomed.' Using the ancient sources, explain how far you agree with this view.

In your answer you should:

- give a brief account of Nero and Agrippina's actions in the early part of Nero's reign;
- explain whether Agrippina was certain to die once Nero had become emperor;
- show knowledge of relevant sections of Tacitus and Suetonius;
- consider how reliable you think these sources are.

[30]

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

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