

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Advanced Subsidiary GCE

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION (JACT)

2739

Roman Historians

Tuesday

7 JUNE 2005

Morning

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional materials:
Answer booklet

TIME 1 hour 30 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name, Centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the answer booklet.
- You must answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.
- Start your answer to each question on a new page.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.
- All questions are worth 50 marks in total including 5 marks for quality of written communication.

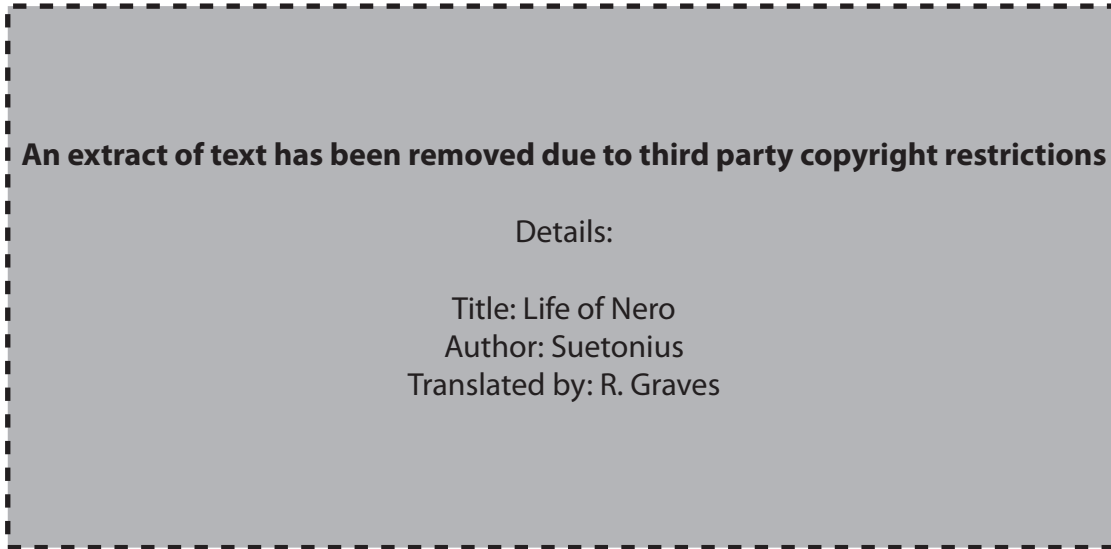
This question paper consists of 4 printed pages.

Section A

Answer one question from this section.

A1 Read the translation below and answer the questions at the end.

Not satisfied with seducing...



5

10

15

...he emerged proved it

SUETONIUS, Life of Nero 28 (R. Graves; Penguin)

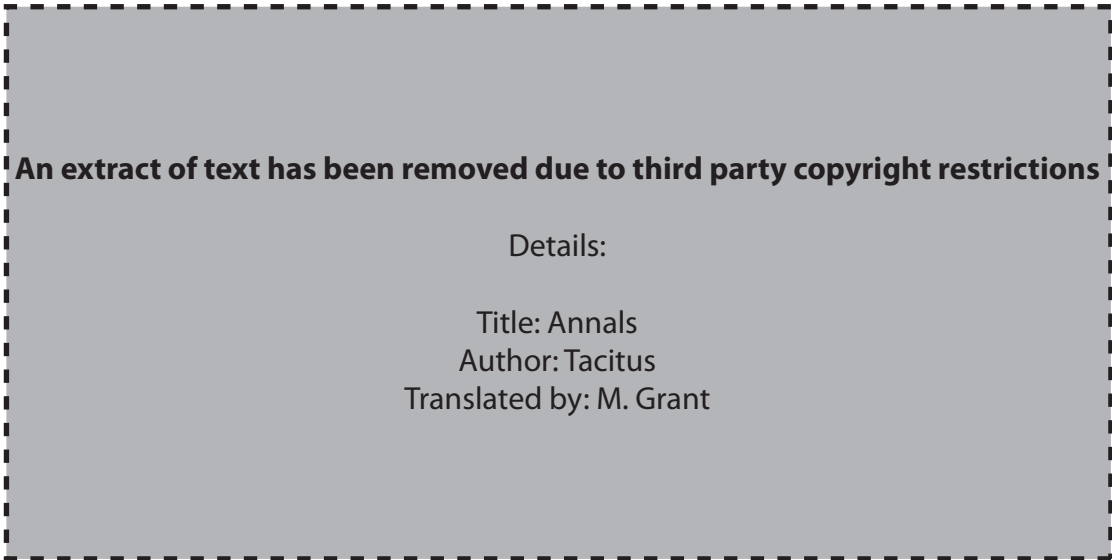
- (a) (i) What position did a Vestal Virgin (line 2) hold in Roman society?
- (ii) Describe in detail how Nero's relationship with Agrippina comes to an end. [10]
- (b) How does Suetonius make this passage interesting? In your answer, you should include discussion of what he says and how he says it. [15]
- (c) What does this passage reveal about Suetonius' use of sources? How typical is this of his approach to sources elsewhere in his Life of Nero ? [20]

[Quality of Written Communication: 5 marks]

[Total: 50 marks]

A2 Read the translation below and answer the questions at the end.

Poppaea's arguments, playing on...



...died a natural death

TACITUS, Annals 14.62 (M. Grant; Penguin)

- (a) (i) Who are Poppaea (line 1) and Octavia (line 2) and what is their relationship with Nero? [10]
 (ii) Explain the situation as this passage opens. [10]
- (b) How does Tacitus make this passage interesting? In your answer, you should include discussion of what he says and how he says it. [15]
- (c) How does Tacitus portray Nero in this passage? How typical is this of the way he is portrayed elsewhere in the Annals? [20]

[Quality of Written Communication: 5 marks]

[Total: 50 marks]

Section B

Answer one question from this section.

- B3 'Suetonius is more interested in the personalities of his subjects than in their achievements.' To what extent do you believe *Life of Nero* demonstrates this? [50]
- B4 Which author, Tacitus or Suetonius, have you found more enjoyable to read? In your answer, you should include discussion of literary style and choice of subject matter. [50]