

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION**

A033

ANCIENT HISTORY

Women in ancient politics

WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE 2011: Afternoon

DURATION: 1 hour 15 minutes

SUITABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES

Candidates answer on the answer booklet.

OCR SUPPLIED MATERIALS:

**8 page answer booklet
(sent with general stationery)**

OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED:

None

READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the answer booklet. Please write clearly and in capital letters.
- Use black ink.
- Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- 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.
- Answer questions from ONE option only.
- Answer ALL the questions in Section A and ONE question from Section B.

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 80.
- Marks are awarded in Section B for the quality of written communication of your answer.

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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 ways in which Cleopatra was politically important. [5]**

- 2 Read the passage opposite from Propertius, and answer the questions which follow.**
 - (a) Outline the main events described in this passage. [4]**

 - (b) Using this passage, explain why Cleopatra and Mark Antony acted as they did. [4]**

 - (c) In your opinion, how accurate is Propertius' account of the events described in this passage? [5]**

He 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.

The gods had a better plan: one woman would not have made so great a triumph through the streets where previously the defeated Jugurtha had been led.

In this way Apollo of Actium built his monument. Each arrow shot destroyed ten of her ships.

Propertius, *Elegies*, 4.6:49–60

OPTION 1: CLEOPATRA AND HER IMPACT ON ROMAN POLITICS, 69–30 BC

- 3 Read the following passage from Plutarch and answer the questions which follow.**

So Cleopatra pretended to love Antony with passion, and with little food, she allowed her body to waste away; when Antony was nearby, she would let her eyes fill with desire for him; when he went away, she would look faint and ill. She would find ways often to be seen crying, and then would quickly wipe away the tears and hide them, as if she wanted him not to notice them. She did all this while Antony was getting ready to go from Syria to join the Median king. Her flatterers worked hard on Antony for her; they used to complain that Antony was harsh and cruel and determined to destroy a mistress who was devoted to one man, him alone. They would tell Antony that Octavia had married him for politics and for her brother, and took pleasure in having the name of wife. Cleopatra on the other hand, queen of so many men, was called Antony's lover; she did not avoid this name nor think it unworthy of her, as long as it was possible for her to see him and be with him. If he drove her away, she could not bear to live. At last they melted and unmanned Antony so much that he was afraid that Cleopatra would kill herself, and so went back to Alexandria.

Plutarch, *Life of Mark Antony*, 53

- (a) In what ways does this passage help us to understand Cleopatra's influence on Mark Antony? [14]**
- (b) How typical of the ancient accounts is this passage's description of Cleopatra's behaviour towards political leaders?
You must refer BOTH to this passage AND to 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 IN THIS SECTION FOR THE QUALITY OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION IN YOUR ANSWER.

- 4 ‘A doomed, destructive monster’ (Horace, *Odes*, 1.37). To what extent do you think this is a fair assessment of Cleopatra?**

In your answer you should:

- **give a brief account of Cleopatra’s character and political actions;**
- **explain whether you think Cleopatra’s character and political actions show her to be a ‘doomed, destructive monster’;**
- **show knowledge of what Horace and other ancient sources tell us about Cleopatra’s character and political actions;**
- **consider how reliable you think these sources are.**

[30]

5 'For Cleopatra, the Battle of Actium was more significant than any other event.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?

In your answer you should:

- **give a brief account of the events surrounding the Battle of Actium and other important events in Cleopatra's life;**
- **explain how far you think that the Battle of Actium was more significant than other events;**
- **show knowledge of what the ancient sources tell us about the significance of these events for Cleopatra;**
- **consider how accurate you think these sources are. [30]**

**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 Briefly outline TWO ways in which Agrippina had control over Nero in his reign. [5]**

7 Read the following passage from Suetonius, and answer the questions which follow.

He was annoyed by the way his mother questioned and criticised his every word and action, but he only went so far at first as to make her disliked by giving the impression that he would give up being emperor, and go and live on the island of Rhodes. Next he took away all her privileges and her power, as well as her guard of Roman and German soldiers. He refused to let her live with him in the palace. Then he tried everything possible to annoy her: he bribed men to bring law suits against her while she stayed in the city of Rome; then, when she went to live in the country by the sea, he got others to go past her house and interrupt her peace and quiet with noisy partying and insulting jokes.

Therefore, terrified by her violence and threats, he decided to get rid of her.

Suetonius, *Nero*, 34

- (a) In what ways does Nero try to annoy Agrippina in this passage? [4]**
- (b) With reference to this passage, explain ONE reason why Nero turned against Agrippina. [4]**
- (c) In your opinion, is Suetonius' account of Nero's attitude towards Agrippina in this passage accurate? [5]**

OPTION 2: AGRIPPINA THE YOUNGER AND HER INFLUENCE ON ROMAN POLITICS, AD 41–59

- 8 Read the following passage from Tacitus and answer the questions which follow.**

This argument won over Claudius, supported by the attractions of Agrippina herself. Under the excuse of their close family relationship, she frequently visited her uncle, and gained his affection so that she was preferred to the others, and, although she was not yet his wife, she could already use the power as if she was married to him. When she was certain he would marry her, she started still greater schemes; she wanted a marriage between Domitius, her son by Cn. Ahenobarbus, and Octavia, the emperor's daughter. However, this marriage could not be achieved without a crime, because Claudius had engaged Octavia to L. Silanus. He was a young man famous for other reasons; Claudius had recommended the people support him by giving him the honour of triumphal decorations and a magnificent gladiatorial show. But nothing is difficult, it seems, in the mind of an emperor, who has no judgements and no hatreds unless they are suggested and ordered by others.

Tacitus, *Annals*, 12.3

- (a) In what ways does this passage help us to understand Agrippina's influence over Claudius?**
[14]
- (b) How reliably do the sources portray Agrippina's position and power?**
You must refer BOTH to this passage AND to 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 IN THIS SECTION FOR THE QUALITY OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION IN YOUR ANSWER.

9 To what extent do you think that Agrippina was a bad influence on Roman politics?

In your answer you should:

- **give a brief account of Agrippina's role in Roman politics;**
- **explain whether you think her influence on politics was good or bad;**
- **show knowledge of what Tacitus and Suetonius tell us about Agrippina's influence on politics;**
- **consider how reliable you think these sources are.**

[30]

10 'Nero murdered his mother because she posed a significant threat to his position and power.' To what extent do you think this was the reason for Agrippina's murder?

In your answer you should:

- **give a brief account of the ways in which Agrippina was a threat to Nero's position and power;**
- **explain how significant a threat Agrippina was to Nero's position and power;**
- **show knowledge of the relevant ancient sources, including Tacitus and Suetonius;**
- **consider how accurate you think these sources are. [30]**



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