

**Wednesday 30 May 2012 – Morning**

**GCSE ANCIENT HISTORY**

**A033** 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, starting on page 3.  
Option 2: Agrippina the Younger and her influence on Roman politics, AD 41–59, starting on page 17.
- Answer questions from **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 **80**.
- Marks are awarded in Section B for the quality of written communication of your answer.
- 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** Briefly outline **two** details of Cleopatra's role in the Battle of Actium.

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

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

**Passage 1A**

He even made love to queens, among whom was Eunoe, wife of Bogudes the Moor, and Caesar presented very many, expensive gifts to her and her husband, so Naso has written. But he especially loved Cleopatra. He often kept feasts with her going until dawn and he sailed with her in the state yacht through Egypt almost as far as Ethiopia – or at least would have, if his army had not refused to follow him there. He finally summoned her to the city of Rome and sent her back only when she had received the greatest honours and rewards. He allowed her to call her son by him by his own name. Certain Greek writers have reported that he was similar to Caesar in appearance and in his way of walking.

Suetonius, *The Divine Julius* 52

(a) Outline the ways in which Caesar treated Cleopatra in Passage 1A.

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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**

On the next day, Antony supplied the banquet for her; he was eager to surpass her feast in its brilliance and presentation; however, in both of these he was completely defeated and left way behind. He was the first to joke about the squalid and common nature of his efforts. Cleopatra saw in these jokes that in Antony there was a lot of the soldier and the common man, and used this way of behaving towards him, showing confidence and no restraint now. Her beauty, so we are told, was not itself outstanding; it did not immediately strike those who saw her; yet being with her had an inescapable hold; when talking with her, she was persuasive, and the character which surrounded her whole manner in company had a force to it. Her voice had a pleasantness of tone; and her tongue, like some musical instrument with many strings, could be turned to whatever language she wished, so that in conversations with barbarians, she rarely spoke through any interpreter, mostly making replies on her own.

Plutarch, *Life of Mark Antony* 27

(a) In what ways does Passage 1B help us to understand why Mark Antony was attracted to Cleopatra? [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

On the next day, Antony supplied the banquet for her; he was eager to surpass her feast in its brilliance and presentation; however, in both of these he was completely defeated and left way behind. He was the first to joke about the squalid and common nature of his efforts. Cleopatra saw in these jokes that in Antony there was a lot of the soldier and the common man, and used this way of behaving towards him, showing confidence and no restraint now. Her beauty, so we are told, was not itself outstanding; it did not immediately strike those who saw her; yet being with her had an inescapable hold; when talking with her, she was persuasive, and the character which surrounded her whole manner in company had a force to it. Her voice had a pleasantness of tone; and her tongue, like some musical instrument with many strings, could be turned to whatever language she wished, so that in conversations with barbarians, she rarely spoke through any interpreter, mostly making replies on her own.

Plutarch, *Life of Mark Antony* 27

**(b)** How typical of the ancient sources is Passage 1B’s description of Cleopatra? You must refer **both** to Passage 1B **and** to other ancient sources which you have studied.

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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****Section B**

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

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

**4** ‘Cleopatra was always a failure as a political leader.’ To what extent do you agree with this view?

In your answer you should:

- give a brief account of Cleopatra’s actions as a political leader;
- explain whether you think these actions show Cleopatra to be a success or failure;
- show knowledge of relevant ancient sources;
- consider how reliable you think these sources are.

**[30]**

**5** In her relationships with Roman leaders, how far do you think Cleopatra was able to influence and control them?

In your answer you should:

- give a brief account of Cleopatra’s relationships with Roman leaders;
- explain the ways in which Cleopatra was able to influence and control Roman leaders;
- show knowledge of relevant ancient sources;
- consider how reliable you think these sources are.

**[30]**

**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**

**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** details of Nero’s behaviour towards Agrippina.

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

7 Read Passage 2A from Tacitus, and answer the questions which follow.

**Passage 2A**

There would have been more murders, if Burrus and Seneca had not opposed them. ... For both of them there was the struggle against Agrippina; she was burning with all the desire of her criminally-gained power; she had the help of Pallas who had ruined Claudius by encouraging his incestuous marriage and the destructive adoption of Nero. Nero was not the sort to give in to slaves. Furthermore, Nero loathed Pallas, whose arrogant attitude went far beyond what was expected of a free slave. Even so, publicly every honour was piled on Agrippina. When a tribune, whose customary job it was, asked for the password, he was given "The Best of Mothers". The Senate also decreed her two lictors, and the office of priestess to Claudius; at the same meeting they decreed a public funeral and deification for Claudius.

Tacitus, *Annals* 13.2

**(a)** Describe the different attitudes towards Agrippina 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 Tacitus and answer the questions which follow.

**Passage 2B**

She [Agrippina] was particularly alarmed by what Claudius said once when drunk - that he was destined to suffer the crimes of his wives and then to punish them; she decided to act and to do it quickly. First she ruined Domitia Lepida for purely feminine reasons. Lepida was the daughter of the younger Antonia, as the grandniece of Augustus, the second cousin of Agrippina, and sister of her husband Domitius Ahenobarbus, and so believed herself to be the equal of Agrippina in status. They were virtually equal in beauty, youth and wealth. Both were immoral, notorious and vicious; they rivalled each other in crime as much as in the prosperity provided for them by fortune. The bitterest struggle was over who should have the most influence with Nero - his aunt or his mother. Lepida was winning over his young mind by flattery and extravagant gifts; on the other hand, Agrippina, who could give her son an empire but could not tolerate him being emperor, was harsh and menacing.

Tacitus, *Annals* 12.64

(a) In what ways does Passage 2B help us to understand the reasons for Agrippina’s treatment of Domitia Lepida? [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

She [Agrippina] was particularly alarmed by what Claudius said once when drunk - that he was destined to suffer the crimes of his wives and then to punish them; she decided to act and to do it quickly. First she ruined Domitia Lepida for purely feminine reasons. Lepida was the daughter of the younger Antonia, as the grandniece of Augustus, the second cousin of Agrippina, and sister of her husband Domitius Ahenobarbus, and so believed herself to be the equal of Agrippina in status. They were virtually equal in beauty, youth and wealth. Both were immoral, notorious and vicious; they rivalled each other in crime as much as in the prosperity provided for them by fortune. The bitterest struggle was over who should have the most influence with Nero - his aunt or his mother. Lepida was winning over his young mind by flattery and extravagant gifts; on the other hand, Agrippina, who could give her son an empire but could not tolerate him being emperor, was harsh and menacing.

Tacitus, *Annals* 12.64

- (b) How typical is this description of the ways in which Agrippina dealt with rivals and threats to her power?  
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** ‘Agrippina became powerful only because of the weaknesses of Claudius.’ To what extent do you agree with this statement?

In your answer you should:

- give a brief account of Claudius’ weaknesses and how Agrippina took advantage of them;
- explain whether there were other reasons for her becoming powerful;
- show knowledge of relevant ancient sources, including Tacitus and Suetonius;
- consider how reliable you think these sources are.

**[30]**

- 10** ‘The sources all exaggerate Agrippina’s influence on Roman politics.’ To what extent do you agree with this statement?

In your answer you should:

- give a brief account of Agrippina’s role and influence in Roman politics;
- show knowledge of what the ancient sources tell us about Agrippina’s influence in politics;
- explain whether you think that Tacitus and Suetonius exaggerate Agrippina’s influence;
- consider how reliable you think these sources are.

**[30]**



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

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