

General Certificate of Secondary Education

A034 CA

Ancient History

**Ancient societies through the study of
original sources**

Specimen controlled assessment tasks

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TEACHERS

- Please refer to Section 5 of the Ancient History specification for instructions on completing controlled assessment tasks.
- Candidates complete **one** task relating to the option that they have studied.
- Candidates must not alter the wording of the tasks, however they may focus on any appropriate area of investigation and use any appropriate original sources within the parameters of the questions set.
- The total number of marks for each task is **80**.
- Marks are awarded for the quality of written communication.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- You should choose one task relating to the option that you have studied.
- You cannot alter the wording of the task.
- You can focus on a specific area of investigation and use any appropriate original sources.
- You must support your arguments with analysis and evaluation of appropriate original source material.

This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.

Candidates are reminded that for all options it is essential to support their arguments with analysis and evaluation of appropriate original source material.

Option 1: Ancient Egypt 3000–1000 BC

EITHER

1. How useful are the sources in giving us a picture of the lives of ordinary men and women in Ancient Egypt? **[80]**

OR

2. How far does the available evidence enable us to understand the economic and political influence of Egypt in the Eastern Mediterranean? **[80]**

Option 2: Ancient Crete: Minoan Civilisation 2000–1400 BC

EITHER

1. Which is the more likely explanation for the end of Minoan civilization: gradual decline in power and culture, a natural disaster, or conquest by a foreign power? **[80]**

OR

2. How clear an account can we gain from the art and sculpture of the Minoans about their way of life during this period? **[80]**

Option 3: Troy and the Mycenaeans 1450–1100 BC

EITHER

1. How useful is the evidence for our understanding of the technological developments in the skills of the Trojans and Mycenaeans during this period? **[80]**

OR

2. How reliable a picture do we have of the organisation and practice of warfare by the Trojans and Mycenaeans during this period, from both literary and archaeological evidence? **[80]**

Option 4: Ancient Persia 630–499 BC

EITHER

1. To what extent does the archaeological and literary evidence support the view that religion and religious practices played an important part in the Persian Empire? **[80]**

OR

2. Do we gain a reliable and accurate picture of the expansion of the Persian Empire from the available evidence, including Greek writers? **[80]**

Option 5: The Hellenistic World 323–133 BC

EITHER

1. To what extent do the sources give us a reliable picture of warfare during the Hellenistic period? **[80]**

OR

2. To what extent do the available sources support the view that there was a shared Hellenistic culture? **[80]**

Option 6: The Celts c. 500 BC–AD 500

EITHER

1. How useful do you find the evidence when describing and explaining the settlement and development of Celtic societies throughout Europe after 500 BC? **[80]**

OR

2. What can we learn from the evidence about the impact of Roman ideas and customs on Celtic societies at this time? **[80]**

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A034: Ancient societies through the study of original sources

The maximum mark for each of these tasks is **80**.

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GCSE Ancient History: Assessment Grid for controlled assessment

	AO1 (Select and organise relevant knowledge of historical events and sources)	AO2 (Demonstrate an understanding of relevant events and sources)	AO3 (Interpret, evaluate and respond to historical events and sources)
Level 5 Thorough	<p>22-28</p> <p>Answers contain thorough knowledge of the events, sources and issues relevant to the question. Information is detailed, thoroughly relevant, well selected and organised.</p> <p>Text is legible and spelling, grammar and punctuation are accurate. Meaning is communicated clearly.</p> <p>The candidate has written with precision and succinctness, so that the prescribed word limit is not exceeded.</p>	<p>20-24</p> <p>Answers demonstrate a thorough understanding of issues, events and sources relevant to the question.</p>	<p>22-28</p> <p>Answers interpret, analyse and evaluate evidence thoroughly and reach reasoned and substantiated conclusions.</p> <p>They construct an informed personal response based on thorough evaluation and interpretation of the source material.</p>
Level 4 Sound	<p>17-21</p> <p>Answers contain sound knowledge of the events, sources and issues relevant to most of the question. Information is sound, relevant and organised.</p> <p>Text is legible and spelling, grammar and punctuation are mostly accurate. Meaning is communicated clearly.</p> <p>The candidate has written with some precision and succinctness, but has not exceeded the prescribed word limit.</p>	<p>14-19</p> <p>Answers demonstrate a sound understanding of issues, events and sources relevant to most of the question.</p>	<p>17-21</p> <p>Answers interpret, analyse and evaluate evidence and draw relevant conclusions.</p> <p>They offer a personal response based on sound evaluation and interpretation of the source material.</p>

	AO1 (Select and organise relevant knowledge of historical events and sources)	AO2 (Demonstrate an understanding of relevant events and sources)	AO3 (Interpret, evaluate and respond to historical events and sources)
Level 3 Some	<p style="text-align: center;">11-16</p> <p>Answers contain some knowledge of the events, sources and issues relevant to some of the question. There is some evidence of selection and organisation of information. Text is legible. There are mistakes in spelling, grammar and punctuation however meaning is still communicated clearly for most of the answer. The candidate has written with precision or succinctness and has not exceeded the prescribed word limit.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10-13</p> <p>Answers show some understanding of issues, events and sources relevant to some of the question.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11-16</p> <p>Answers include some evaluation and interpretation of evidence and draw at least partially relevant conclusions. They offer a personal response based on some of the source material.</p>
Level 2 Limited	<p style="text-align: center;">6-10</p> <p>Answers contain limited knowledge of the events, sources and issues relevant to parts of the question. There is limited evidence of selection or organisation of information. Text is sometimes illegible and there are mistakes in spelling, grammar and punctuation, which sometimes hinder communication. The work of the candidate lacks precision and succinctness, but the work presented still does not exceed the prescribed word limit.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4-9</p> <p>Answers show limited understanding of events and sources.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6-10</p> <p>Answers draw limited conclusions based on the evidence they have included. Answers offer a personal response at a limited level.</p>

	AO1 (Select and organise relevant knowledge of historical events and sources)	AO2 (Demonstrate an understanding of relevant events and sources)	AO3 (Interpret, evaluate and respond to historical events and sources)
Level 1 Minimal/ None	<p style="text-align: center;">0-5</p> <p>Answers contain minimal or no knowledge of events, sources and issues. Information that has been included is disorganised and has minimal or no relevance. Text is often illegible. Frequent mistakes in spelling, grammar and punctuation impede communication of meaning. The candidate has either written relatively little or it is of some length but the content is not focused on the task.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">0-3</p> <p>Answers show minimal or no understanding of events or sources.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">0-5</p> <p>Answers offer a minimal personal response, without reference to evidence, or no response.</p>

Assessment Objectives Grid (includes QWC)

Question	AO1	AO2	AO3	Total
All	28	24	28	80
Total	28	24	28	80

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