



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

CLASSICAL TRIPOS Part II  
Group C History

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Friday 8 June 2007 9 to 12

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Paper C4

THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE ROMAN WORLD, A.D. 284–476

*Answer three questions.*

**Candidates who do not write legibly may find themselves at a grave disadvantage.**

**Irrelevance will be penalised.**

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS  
20 Page Booklet x 1  
Rough Work Pad x 1

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS  
None

**You may not start to read the questions printed on the subsequent pages of this question paper until instructed that you may do so by the Invigilator**

- 1 Was the Tetrarchy anything more than a set of *ad hoc* responses to the problems that had beset the Roman empire in the last half of the third century AD?
- 2 'The paradox that all autocrats face is that they can only maintain their hold on power through extensive delegation of their responsibilities.' Discuss in relation to late Roman emperors.
- 3 To what extent did late Roman emperors maintain the traditional emphasis on *civilitas* in their relations with the aristocratic elite?
- 4 Did Constantine maintain a consistent policy in his dealings with the Christian church?
- 5 Why were monks treated with such suspicion in late antiquity?
- 6 How decisive was the role played by bishops in Christian doctrinal disputes in the fourth and fifth centuries AD?
- 7 To what extent did late antiquity witness the decline of the Classical city?
- 8 Did anyone care about the poor in the later Roman world?
- 9 Why did Christian attitudes towards polytheism harden in the last quarter of the fourth century AD?
- 10 **Either** (a) Account for the growing involvement of barbarian generals in court politics in the later Roman empire.  
  
Or (b) 'By ignoring the series of violent invasions that occurred in late antiquity, historians are in danger of turning the presence of significant numbers of barbarian newcomers into little more than an early experiment in multiculturalism.' Discuss.
- 11 Assess the impact that the introduction of the colonate had on the agrarian economy.
- 12 Why were martyr shrines such a contentious issue in late antiquity?
- 13 How socially mobile was the later Roman empire?
- 14 To what extent did banditry highlight the limitations of Roman imperial power?

**15** **Either** (a) Why did *paideia* remain such an important cultural currency in late antiquity?

**Or** (b) Was there anything original about late antique Christian art?

**16** Assess Edward Gibbon's claim that the Christian church should carry much of the blame for the decline and fall of the Roman empire.

**17** What strategies did the kings of the barbarian successor states develop in their attempts to strengthen their control over their diverse subjects?

**END OF PAPER**