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Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Friday 17 June 2016 – Afternoon

GCSE ANCIENT HISTORY

A033/01 Women in ancient politics

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

OCR supplied materials:

- 12 page Answer Booklet (OCR12)
(sent with general stationery)
- Insert (A033/01/I – inserted)

Other materials required:

None

Duration: 1 hour 15 minutes



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- The Insert will be found inside this document.
- Complete the boxes on the Answer Booklet with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Use black ink.
- 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.
- Choose **one** option only. Answer **all** the questions in Section A and **one** question from Section B.
- Write the number of each question answered in the margin.
- Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- 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 Insert contains an image for use with Question 7 (Option 2).
- The total number of marks for this paper is **86**.
- You will be assessed on the quality of written communication in your answer to the following questions: 4 or 5 (Option 1), or, 9 or 10 (Option 2). Questions marked with a pencil (✎) will carry 6 additional marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- This document consists of **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

INSTRUCTION TO EXAMS OFFICER/INVIGILATOR

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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** details of Cleopatra’s first meeting with Julius Caesar. [5]
- 2 Read Passage 1A from Plutarch, and answer the questions which follow.

Passage 1A

We are told that the asp was carried in with those figs and was hidden beneath the leaves. This is what Cleopatra had ordered. It was so the asp might strike her body without her realising it. But when she removed some figs, she saw it and said: “So here it was all the time,” and lifting her sleeve, she held out her bare arm for the asp to bite. But others tell us that the asp was kept guarded shut up in a water-jar. Cleopatra kept disturbing it and getting it annoyed with a golden stick; eventually it jumped up and bit into her arm. No one really knows the truth. It is also said that she carried poison in a hollow hairpin and kept the pin hidden in her hair. But there was neither stain nor any other sign of poison on her body. ... Others claim that there were two hardly noticeable puncture marks on Cleopatra’s arm which is what Octavian appeared to believe. ... These, therefore, are the various stories of what happened.

Plutarch, *Life of Mark Antony* 86

- (a) Outline the different accounts of Cleopatra’s death in Passage 1A. [4]
- (b) Explain Cleopatra’s attitude to her own death using details from Passage 1A. [4]
- (c) Using details from Passage 1A, how accurate do you think Plutarch’s description of Cleopatra’s death is? [5]

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

Now Cleopatra displayed her flattery ... while Antony was spending his time either in some amusement or some serious matter, she was always bringing some new pleasurable diversion or charming activity, and so keeping him well-trained and under control both day and night. She played dice with him, drank with him, hunted with him, and when he exercised himself in full armour she watched him; when at night he liked to stand outside the doors or windows of the ordinary people to make fun of those inside, she used to put on the clothes of a servant-girl and join him in his games. Antony also would dress up like some slave. He often returned home driven by abuse and sometimes blows. In fact most people knew it was him. The Alexandrians enjoyed this sort of silly behaviour and played along with their usual good taste, saying with affection that Antony put on his tragic face for the Romans and his comic one for them. It would be pointless to list all the many childish games he got up to at that time.

Plutarch, *Life of Mark Antony* 29

- (a) In what ways does Passage 1B help us to understand whether Cleopatra influenced Antony's behaviour in Alexandria?

You must use and evaluate details from Passage 1B.

[14]

- (b) To what extent do the ancient sources portray Antony and Cleopatra as more interested in their own 'amusement' than in war and politics?

You must use and evaluate details from **both** Passage 1B and 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 for the quality of written communication in your answer.

- 4 ‘Both Caesar and Antony used Cleopatra only to gain influence in Egypt and the East.’ Using the ancient sources, explain how far you agree with this opinion.

In your answer you should:

- give a brief account of Caesar and Antony’s relationships with Cleopatra;
- explain whether you think gaining influence in Egypt and the East was their only reason for these relationships;
- show knowledge of the relevant literary and archaeological sources;
- consider how reliable you think these sources are. **[30]**

 Spelling, punctuation and grammar **[6]**

- 5 ‘The battle of Actium destroyed everything Cleopatra achieved.’ How far do you agree with this statement?

In your answer you should:

- give a brief account of Cleopatra’s achievements;
- explain whether you think all Cleopatra’s achievements were destroyed as a result of the battle of Actium;
- show knowledge of the relevant literary and archaeological sources;
- consider how reliable you think these sources are. **[30]**

 Spelling, punctuation and grammar **[6]**

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 involved herself in Nero's relationships with women. [5]
- 7 Study Image 2A (the Aureus Coin dating AD 54) in the separate Insert, and answer the questions below.
- (a) What does the Aureus coin in Image 2A tell us about Nero? [4]
- (b) Using details from the Aureus coin in Image 2A, explain the importance of Agrippina in the early years of Nero's reign. [4]
- (c) Using details from Image 2A, how reliable do you think this coin is as evidence for Agrippina's importance? [5]

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

At the same time the centurions and tribunes who sympathised with Britannicus' situation were removed, some for false reasons, others with the pretence of giving honours to them. Any freedman who was loyal and could not be bribed was got rid of with the following excuse: when meeting, Nero greeted Britannicus by that name but they greeted him as Domitius. Agrippina complained to Claudius about this, suggesting it was the start of some trouble between them; she claimed that the adoption was being treated with contempt; that it was what the senators had decided; the people had ordered it. She said that if the malicious teachers who were so hostile were not stopped, there would be disaster for the state. Claudius, angered by these claims as if they were crimes, had all the best of Britannicus' tutors either exiled or executed and placed him under the guardianship of others provided by his stepmother.

Even so Agrippina did not dare to make a play for supreme power, if Lusius Geta and Rufius Crispinus were not removed from the command of the praetorian cohorts; she believed that they still remembered Messalina and were loyal to her children's cause. ... so Burrus Afranius was given the command.

Tacitus, *Annals* 12.41–2

- (a) In what ways does Passage 2B show that Agrippina influenced Claudius to favour Nero over Britannicus?

You must use and evaluate details from Passage 2B.

[14]

- (b) To what extent do the ancient sources help us to understand whether Britannicus was the only obstacle to Agrippina's plans for power?

You must use and evaluate details from **both** Passage 2B **and** 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 for the quality of written communication in your answer.

- 9** 'Everything was subject to the control of a woman.' How far do you agree with Tacitus' description of Claudius' reign?

In your answer you should:

- give a brief account of Claudius' reign after his marriage to Agrippina;
- explain to what extent you think that Agrippina controlled everything during Claudius' reign;
- show knowledge of relevant sections of Tacitus and Suetonius;
- consider how reliable you think these sources are. **[30]**

 Spelling, punctuation and grammar **[6]**

- 10** To what extent did Agrippina affect Nero's ability to rule as he wanted? Explain your answer using the ancient sources.

In your answer you should:

- give a brief account of Agrippina's actions and behaviour after Nero became emperor;
- explain how far Agrippina made it difficult for Nero to rule as he wanted;
- show knowledge of the relevant ancient sources;
- consider how reliable you think these sources are. **[30]**

 Spelling, punctuation and grammar **[6]**

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