



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Monday 5 June 2023 – Morning

A Level Ancient History

H407/22 The Eleven Caesars

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Answer **four** questions in total:
Section A: Answer Question 1 **or** Question 2 **and** answer Question 3.
Section B: Answer Question 4 **and** answer Question 5 **or** Question 6.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **98**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document has **4** pages.

ADVICE

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

SECTION A: The Julio-Claudian Emperors, 31 BC–AD 68

Answer Question 1 **or** Question 2 **and** answer Question 3.

Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.

- 1* 'The sources fail to provide an adequate assessment of the reigns of the emperors Gaius and Nero.'

How far do you agree with this view?

You must use and analyse the ancient sources you have studied as well as your own knowledge to support your answer. **[30]**

- 2* To what extent do you agree that the Senate and senators had only themselves to blame for the decline in their status and power under the principate?

You must use and analyse the ancient sources you have studied as well as your own knowledge to support your answer. **[30]**

Answer Question 3.

- 3 Read the interpretation below.

<p>Claudius wanted to rule well, and in many respects he achieved his desire. Yet the main trend of the surviving literary tradition about his rule is contemptuous when it is not hostile, and depicts him as the victim of unscrupulous exploitation by his ambitious freedmen and scheming wives, ... But luckily sufficient imperial enactments survive in inscriptions and papyri to reveal the thought of Claudius himself and these...show that he possessed great administrative common sense. He not only showed skill in his choice of efficient freedmen-servants and outstanding generals (as Corbulo, Vespasian, Hosidius Geta and Suetonius Paulinus), but he also impressed his own mind and policy upon public affairs. In the last few years of his reign, however, his powers began to fail and the traditional view of him as a pawn in the hands of more determined men and women approximates more closely to the truth.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10</p>
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H.H. Scullard, *From the Gracchi to Nero* (adapted)

How convincing do you find Scullard's interpretation of Claudius' character and abilities?

You must use your knowledge of the historical period and the ancient sources you have studied to analyse and evaluate Scullard's interpretation. **[20]**

SECTION B: The Flavians, AD 68–96

Answer Question 4 **and** answer Question 5 **or** Question 6.

Answer Question 4.

4 Read the passage below.

... While he (Vespasian) was still away in Egypt, Mucianus carried on the whole administration of government with the help of Domitian. Mucianus was inclined to give himself airs, boasting loudly that he had personally bestowed the emperorship on Vespasian. He was particularly proud of the fact that Vespasian called him his “brother,” and had given him authority to take whatever decisions he wished without reference back to himself, and simply to issue written instructions under the emperor’s name. ... Indeed, Mucianus and Domitian handed out offices in all directions, appointing a succession of governors, procurators, praetors and even consuls... . 5

Mucianus was also all too eager to rake in untold sums of cash from all possible sources, which he piled up in the public treasury. In this way he spared Vespasian the inevitable unpopularity by diverting it to himself. His constant motto was that cash formed the sinews of government, and for this reason he would urge Vespasian to acquire it from every possible source. He himself had never ceased to do so from the beginning, and had as a result provided massive reserves for the empire – and significant quantities for himself as well. 10 15

Dio Cassius 66.2.1–2, 5

How useful is this passage for our understanding of the significance of Mucianus for the success of the Flavians? [12]

Answer **either** Question 5 **or** Question 6.

5* How essential was the Flavians’ use of propaganda in maintaining their power and popularity?

You must use and analyse the ancient sources you have studied as well as your own knowledge to support your answer. [36]

6* How far do you agree that Domitian’s policies and actions were disastrous for Rome and the Empire?

You must use and analyse the ancient sources you have studied as well as your own knowledge to support your answer. [36]

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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