



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Monday 5 June 2023 – Morning

A Level Ancient History

H407/23 Emperors and Empire

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: Ruling Roman Britain, AD 43–c.128

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

Answer Question 4.

4 Read the passages below.

Caratacus himself, vulnerable as those who have failed always are, sought the support of the queen of the Brigantes, Cartimandua, but was thrown into chains and handed over. This was the ninth year of the British war, and Caratacus' reputation, which had spread from the islands through the neighbouring provinces, was also well known in Italy; men were eager to see this man who had mocked the power of Rome for so many years. At Rome too his name commanded respect, and even the Emperor, by making much of his own achievement, brought renown on his vanquished enemy. ...

5

Tacitus, *Annals*, 12.36

After the capture of Caratacus, the one who excelled in military skill was Venutius from the nation of the Brigantes, For a long time he was loyal and enjoyed the protection of Roman arms; but this was while he was married to the queen, Cartimandua, and after a rift between them the war that immediately ensued also threatened us. Initially, however, they only fought among themselves, and Cartimandua with some cunning ruses captured Venutius' brother and relations. The enemy were infuriated at this, and were further provoked by the disgrace of being subjected to female rule; a strong and well-armed force of fighting men invaded her kingdom. We had foreseen this and auxiliaries which were sent to help took part in a fierce fight which began with victory hanging in the balance but ended more happily. ...

5

10

Tacitus, *Annals*, 12.40

How useful are these passages for our understanding of Rome's relationship with the Brigantes? **[12]**

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

5* How effective were the Britons in resisting the Romans from Claudius' invasion in AD 43 to the capture of Caratacus AD 51?

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

6* How and why, in the period from the start of Agricola's governorship to the construction of Hadrian's Wall, did the Romans move the northern frontier of Britain so often?

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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