



CLASSICAL HERITAGE

9786/02

Paper 2 Foundations of History and Culture (Roman)

May/June 2010

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This paper contains questions on six options.

Answer **two** questions, each one drawn from a different option.

Answers must use relevant evidence to support arguments being made.

Every essay is marked out of 25.



This document consists of **4** printed pages.



Augustus and the creation of the principate

1 Either

- (a) Discuss how effective and long-lasting the settlements of 27 and 23 BC were in solving the constitutional problems at the time.

[In answering this question you might consider, among other things, the precedent of Julius Caesar; various contemporary attitudes towards autocracy; Augustus' interest in the succession.]

or

- (b) Discuss the similarities and differences between the poetic representations of Augustus and his presentation of himself.

[In answering this question you might consider, among other things, the *Res Gestae*; Virgil and Horace; visual representations of Augustus.]

Ovid's *Metamorphoses*

2 Either

- (a) 'You'd never find a better or more right-minded man than Deucalion ...' (*Metamorphoses* 1. 323)

To what extent have you found, from your reading of *Metamorphoses*, that there are no male characters better or more right-minded than Deucalion?

[In answering this question you might consider, among other things, the attitudes and the actions of the male characters in the books you have studied.]

or

- (b) How important is the theme of love in the books of *Metamorphoses* which you have read?

[In answering this question you might consider, among other things, different aspects of love; the interaction of characters of either sex.]

Nero as seen through the eyes of Suetonius and Tacitus

3 Either

- (a) 'Tacitus presents Nero's reign as dominated by bloodshed, Suetonius as dominated by scandal.' How reasonable is this distinction?

[In answering this question you might consider, among other things, to what extent bloodshed and scandal feature in each author; the context in which such incidents are placed; the aim of each author in presenting his account.]

or

- (b) Is it reasonable to conclude from Tacitus and Suetonius that Nero only ever behaved well as an emperor because of the advice of others, and that his natural inclinations were vain and selfish?

[In answering this question you might consider, among other things, the influence of those around Nero during his reign; his own ambitions and extravagances; to what extent the authors are reliable sources.]

Roman architecture and building

4 Either

- (a) 'In their monumental architecture, the Romans were more interested in projecting their own glory than in aesthetic considerations.' Is this a fair judgement on monuments built by the Romans?

[In answering this question you might consider, among other things, specific examples of monuments; buildings constructed as reminders of victory and Roman greatness; the quality and features of their design.]

or

- (b) 'The greatest achievement of Roman architecture lay in its use of new building materials and techniques.' How far do you agree with this view?

[In answering this question you might consider, among other things, the materials and techniques introduced by the Romans; specific examples of buildings which make use of them; other achievements in Roman architecture.]

Cicero and the fall of the republic

5 Either

- (a) To what extent were politics in Cicero's day more a matter of personal friendships and hostility than conviction and principle?

[In answering this question you might consider, among other things, the *Concordia ordinum*; the *boni*; the relationships between some of the leading figures.]

or

- (b) 'The assassination of Julius Caesar and its aftermath gave Cicero an opportunity to re-establish his political influence, an opportunity which he singularly failed to take.' How far do you agree with this assessment of Cicero's actions in this period?

[In answering this question you might consider, among other things, the activities of Octavian and Mark Antony; Caesar's assassins; the reality of power within government.]

Urban archaeology of the Roman Near East

6 Either

- (a) To what extent did the Roman conquest and occupation of the Near East change the nature of town planning?

[In answering this question you might consider, among other things, the development of military architecture; public amenities; administrative and religious buildings.]

or

- (b) To what extent is the social organisation of Roman cities in the Near East reflected in the urban archaeology of the region?

[In answering this question you might consider, among other things, indicators of wealth and status in architecture; town planning; buildings; small finds.]

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