**Ancient History Greek and Roman Period Studies**

**Old Specification Questions**

*Please note these are questions taken from the old Ancient History A-level which was structured and assessed differently from the AS or A-Level you are taking. You should use these questions to test your knowledge of the courses and the ancient sources but should not treat them as predictions for the exams*

**Old Specification Greek Period Study Questions:**

* ‘Relations between the Persians and the Greeks changed completely during this period.’ How far do you agree with his view?
* ‘From the beginning the Delian League was run solely for the benefit of the Athenians.’ To what extent do you agree with this view?
* ‘The Athenian Empire proved to be a disaster for all Greek states.’ How far do you agree with this statement?
* To what extent do the sources help us to understand the changing relationship between Athens and her allies?
* ‘The Spartans’ inability to control their allies prolonged the conflict with the Athenians.’ To what extent is this a fair assessment?
* ‘The true cause of the conflict between the Athenians and the Spartans was growing fear of Athenian domination.’ To what extent is this an accurate assessment?
* To what extent was the battle of Salamis a turning point in Xerxes’ campaign against the Greeks?
* ‘The Athenians controlled their allies, but the Spartans were controlled by theirs.’ To what extent do the sources support this view?
* ‘Both Sparta and Athens were led by their allies into conflicts which they did not want.’ TO what extent do the sources support this view?
* 'Treaties stood no hope of succeeding in keeping the peace in the fifth century'. How far do you agree with this view? To what extent did the outcome of conflicts during this period depend on the strengths and weaknesses of the leaders of each side?
* How significant were the actions of individuals to the outcome of the conflicts between the Greeks and the Persians?
* To what extent did the outcome of conflicts during this period depend on the strengths and weaknesses of the leaders of each side?
* To what extent did the behaviour of leaders in Athens make conflict with Sparta inevitable throughout this period?
* How significant were the effects of changes of leadership in Athens on conflict in the Greek world?

**Old Specification Roman Period Study Questions:**

* How important were Agrippa and Tiberius to Augustus’ success?
* How effective an emperor was Augustus?
* How far do the sources support the view that the emperors extended their power and control over Rome and its people during this period?
* To what extent do the sources provide us with reliable portrayals of the emperors and their actions during this period?
* ‘Succession was a major issue for every emperor; no emperor found a successful solution to this problem.’ How far do you agree with this view?
* How important were family and friends for emperors gaining and maintaining their power and position during this period?
* ‘Bread and Circuses – this is all the emperors contributed towards the well-being of the people of the city of Rome.’ How far do you agree with this view?
* How far were the building projects of this period intended more to benefit the interests of the emperors than those of the people of Rome?
* ‘None of the emperors of this period managed to achieve a good working relationship with the Senate and senators.’ How far do you agree with this assessment?
* To what extent do the sources suggest that the Senate was too subservient to be an effective force under the principate during this period?
* ‘Some emperors succeeded in creating good relations with the different groups within the city of Rome; others failed completely.’ How far do the sources support this view of the relations between the emperors and the people of Rome?
* ‘The emperors of this period deliberately promoted equestrians in order to reduce the role and power and of the Senate.’ To what extent would you agree with this assessment?
* How effectively did the emperors deal with opposition from senators and equestrians during this period?
* ‘Augustus had such a tight grip on the government of Rome that no opposition was possible.’ How far do you agree with this view?
* To what extent was their discontent with the emperors during this period?
* ‘Despite the best efforts of the emperors of this period, they failed to establish the imperial cult in the city of Rome.’ How far does the evidence support this view of the development of the imperial cult during this period?

**Old Specification Greek Depth Study Questions:**

* ‘What made the Athenian democracy extraordinary was the participation of all sections of society.’ How far do you agree with his view?
* ‘Only those skilled in public speaking were able to control the decisions of the Athenian democracy.’ How far do you agree with this view?
* To what extent are the sources you have studied hostile to Athenian democracy?
* How important were the magistrates and generals in the Athenian democratic system?
* To what extent did the Athenians consider their democratic system superior to other types of government?
* To what extent can we rely on what Aristophanes tells us about the Athenian democracy in his plays?
* To what extent do the sources allow us to assess the role and significance of Cleon in Athens?
* ‘The Athenians used art and architecture to express their political and social values.’ To what extent do the sources support this view?
* To what extent does Athenian art help us to understand the lives of women in Athens?
* ‘Athenian buildings of this period only reflect Athenian political values.’ To what extent is this a fair assessment?
* To what extent do the sources enable us to understand how the Sophists affected the intellectual climate in Athens?
* To what extent do the sources enable us to assess how, if at all, Socrates differed from the other Sophists?
* To what extent did the teaching of rhetoric by Sophists affect Athenian society?
* ‘The dramatic festivals in Athens were primarily concerned with religion.’ To what extent do the sources support this view?
* To what extent did dramatic festivals offer the population of Athens opportunities to celebrate their values and identity?
* How far do the sources help us to understand the impact of religious festivals on the lives of the people of Attica?
* How far do the sources help us to understand the significance of religion on the lives of Athenians?

**Old Specification Roman Depth Study Questions:**

* ‘The motives for Claudius’ invasion of Britain was personal rather than political.’ How far do the sources support this view?
* According to the sources, how effectively did the Romans deal with the Boudiccan rebellion after it had started?
* ‘Boudicca’s rebellion was a direct result of widespread mistreatment of the Britons by the Romans since the invasion of AD 43.’ How far do you agree with this view?
* How far would you agree that Hadrian’s Wall was built solely to keep the barbarians out?
* How useful is the evidence for our understanding of Roman policy towards a permanent norther frontier in Britain?
* ‘Between Boudicca’s Rebellion and the arrival of Agricola as governor, Roman Policy towards Britain changed entirely.’ How far do the sources support this view?
* How significant were the achievements of Agricola as governor of Britain?
* How useful are the sources in understanding the causes of the Boudiccan rebellion?
* How effective a frontier was Hadrian’s Wall?
* How useful is the evidence for our understanding of the economic benefits of Britain to the Romans?
* How far should we accept Tacitus’ portrayal of Agricola’s military achievements as accurate and impartial?
* To what extent did Roman governors rely on the cooperation of local people for the smooth running of their provinces during this period?
* ‘For the provincials, the advantages of Roman rule far outweighed the disadvantages during this period.’ How far do the sources support this view?
* How useful are the sources for our understanding of the views of provincials towards the Empire during this period?
* ‘Once the Romans took over, provincials soon lost their local and regional identities.’ To what extent do the sources support this view?
* ‘The provincials’ lives were transformed economically and socially by the Empire during this period.’ How far do the sources support this view?