



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

**Tuesday 20 October 2020 – Afternoon**

**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 **either** question 1 **or** question 2 **and** then question 3.

Answer **either** question 1 **or** question 2.

- 1\* 'The sources consistently underestimate the significance of the contribution of other individuals to the reigns of the Julio-Claudian emperors.' 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\* How effectively did the Julio-Claudian emperors deal with challenges to their rule?

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.

The Roman people, ecstatic that their favourite had at last come into his own, gave themselves over to wild celebration. ...

Not that Caligula (Gaius) was naïve enough to take this mood of optimism for granted. ... His presence at Tiberius' side had given him an instinctive and pitiless understanding of the workings of power. Unlike his grimly austere predecessor, who scorned to lavish bribes on the people, Caligula was more than happy to buy popularity. ... Donatives were splashed out on the citizens of the capital, on the legions and – most generously of all – on the Praetorians. Nor was the Senate neglected. Caligula showed himself alert to its sensitivities. The serving consuls were permitted to serve out their term of office; and when the Princeps did finally lay claim to the consulship ... his choice of colleague signalled a pointed rejection of his predecessor. Claudius ... was elevated simultaneously into the Senate and to the consulship. ... Caligula explicitly repudiated all the most detested features of Tiberius' reign: the informers, the treason trials, the executions. To the listening Senate, it sounded almost too good to be true. **5**

Which perhaps it was. ... There was no one in the Senate ... who could believe any longer in the silken hypocrisies that had once served to veil what Rome had become. ... Few senators had been put at ease by the new master's smooth assurances. ... No matter how convincing his performance, everyone suspected that it was just that: a performance. **10**

T. Holland, *Dynasty: The Rise and Fall of the House of Caesar* (adapted) **15**

How convincing do you find Holland's interpretation of Gaius' (Caligula's) actions and behaviour?

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

**SECTION B: Ruling Roman Britain, AD 43–c.128**

Answer question 4 **and** then **either** question 5 **or** question 6.

Answer question 4.

4 Read the passages below.

At first the legionaries did not move, keeping to the protection of the narrow defile, and they threw their javelins with unerring accuracy at the enemy who were advancing to attack. Then they burst forward in a wedge formation. At the same moment the auxiliary infantry attacked; and the cavalry, with their lances extended, broke through any strong opposition. The rest of the Britons fled, but their escape was made more difficult by the carts which they had placed around the battlefield, and which now blocked their paths. The soldiers did not refrain from killing women too, and even baggage animals were transfixed with spears...

5

Tacitus, *Annals* 14.37

Gaius Mannius Secundus, son of Gaius, of the Pollian voting tribe, from Pollentia, a soldier of the Twentieth Legion, aged 52 years, served for 31 years, *beneficiarius* on the staff of the governor, lies here.

10

*A beneficiarius* at Wroxeter, ?Before AD 61

(*In honour of*) the Emperor Caesar Trajan Hadrian Augustus, the Second Legion Augusta (*built this*) under Aulus Platorius Nepos, governor.

Milecastle 38 building inscription, c.AD 122–125

How useful are these passages for our understanding of how effectively the Roman army was used in Britain? **[12]**

Answer **either** question 5 **or** question 6.

5\* How reliable are the portrayals of the British leaders in the sources?

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

6\* 'The benefits of Roman rule far outweighed any negatives.' 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. **[36]**

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**

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