

**A-Level Ancient History – Essay Practice Template**

***Source Plan*** – What is the range of sources you can use to answer this question?

***Brief Plan*** – What 3-5 arguments or points will you consider?

**Spend 5 minutes in total on this section**

**30 or 36 marks?**

***Question Title*:**

**30 mark essay - 8 minutes. 36 mark essay - 11 minutes**

***One paragraph written in full*:**

**How to use this template**

Regular practice of past essay questions in timed conditions is one of the most important forms of consolidation and revision in Ancient History. Doing this helps you to go over content, practices applying knowledge to questions, rehearses how you will need to plan in the exam, and improves your time-management. Looking at as wide a range of past questions as possible also helps to familiarise yourself with the style they are written in and the topics they frequently cover.

Planning and writing essay answers in full is essential. An additional technique is to practice writing individual paragraphs. This is much quicker, meaning you can cover more questions, and also allows you to focus on how you combine own knowledge, evidence from and evaluation of the sources, and evaluation together in timed conditions. To do this:

1. Use the banks of old and new specification questions, along with the past exam papers on Godalming Online to select a question you want to revise. Make sure you cover a range of questions that allow you to revise both sides of the course, first year and second.
2. Spend time revising the topic if you need to. As your revision increases this stage should take less time and eventually you should be able to pick any question and jump straight to the next step.
3. Write the question title at the top of the template and indicate whether it is 30 or 36 marks
4. Spend 5 minutes planning the question. This involves summarising the arguments/points you want your essay to make (3-5 points) and summarising the range of sources you will use. This step replicates what you will need to do at the start of each essay in the exam.
5. Select one paragraph from your plan that want to write up in full. For a 36 mark essay spend approximately 11 minutes doing this and for a 30 mark essay approximately 8. See below for some guidance about what to concentrate on in the paragraph.
6. Once you have finished, assess what you have done. Either: (A) self-assess your paragraph by using the markshemes at the back of each set of lesson materials, or the feedback sheets you are given. Don’t worry about giving your paragraph a mark but try to place it in a level (1-6 for 36 marks, 1-5 for 30 marks) where you think it best fits. From this you should be able to work out what you need to improve to move up further. (B) Bring your paragraph to the Friday lunchtime drop-in session to get it looked at by one of your teachers.

***Things to focus on when you write your paragraphs:***

* Does it start with a clear signpost sentence that introduce the point of the paragraph and links it to the question?
* Have you included specific own knowledge to develop your argument and could this be improved with better use of dates, terminology, examples etc.? (AO1)
* Have you used specific evidence from the sources and said where this information comes from? Are you references specific or have you referred to the source too generally? (AO3)
* Have you included source evaluation that actually links to the point you are making and avoids generalised comments about the author? Does your evaluation of the sources support or contradict your argument? (AO3)
* Do you have clear evaluation in the paragraph where you argue your view and don’t just state it? Have you considered any counter-arguments? (AO2)