

External assessment 2021

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Stimulus book

# Ancient History

## General instruction

- Work in this book will not be marked.



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## Source 1

### Excerpt from Galinsky (2012)

Midway through his eleventh consulate in 23 [BCE], Augustus resigned from that office and instead was granted, by the senate, the power of a tribune of the people (*tribunicia potestas*).

This position enabled him, among other things, to convoke<sup>1</sup> the only truly legislative assembly of Rome and initiate legislation. And whereas the tribunes previously had been empowered to convoke the senate (normally the prerogative of the consuls) only on special occasions, Augustus was expressly given the right to do so anytime. The key point, however, was this: Augustus did not actually have to be tribune. Rather, the tribunician power was construed as existing independently of the actual office. Similarly, Augustus did not have to be consul to retain the supreme command position (*imperium proconsulare maius*; tellingly, the codification of that term occurred only after his reign) that gave him power ... over the armies in all provinces. Neither the tribunician nor the proconsular power was unconstitutional. They were simply used in a new way and exemplified Augustus' mastery of stretching constitutional boundaries ... In the process, the offices of tribune and consul were not abolished but consuls and tribunes continued to be elected as before.

**Source:** Galinsky, K 2012, *Augustus: Introduction to the life of an emperor*.

### Context statement

Karl Galinsky is an emeritus professor in the Department of Classics at an American university. He has published extensively on Roman history.

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<sup>1</sup> call the Senate to meet

## Source 2

### Excerpt from Cassius Dio's *Roman History*

Not alone for these reasons did the Romans greatly miss [Augustus after his death in 14 CE], but also because by combining monarchy with democracy he preserved their freedom for them and at the same time established order and security, so that they were free alike from the license of a democracy and from the insolence<sup>2</sup> of a tyranny<sup>3</sup>, living at once in a liberty of moderation and in a monarchy without terrors; they were subjects of royalty, yet not slaves, and citizens of a democracy, yet without discord. If any of them remembered his former deeds in the course of the civil wars, they attributed them to the pressure of circumstances, and they thought it fair to seek for his real disposition in what he did after he was in undisputed possession of the supreme power ... I may state that he put an end to all the factional discord, transformed the government in a way to give it the greatest power ...

Now not the least factor in his glory was the length of his reign. For the majority as well as the more powerful of those who had lived under the republic were now dead, and the later generation, knowing naught of that form of government and having been reared entirely or largely under existing conditions, were not only not displeased with them, familiar as they now were, but actually took delight in them, since they saw that their present state was better and more free from terror than that of which they knew by tradition.

**Source:** Cassius Dio, *Dio's Roman History*, translated by E Cary, 1924.

### Context statement

Cassius Dio (c. 164 CE – after 229 CE) was a Greek-born Roman senator. He wrote an 80-book history of Rome from mythical times to 229 CE.

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2 disrespect

3 an autocratic form of rule where one person (a tyrant) had complete power

## Source 3

### Excerpt from Tacitus's *Annals*

Opposition there was none [when Augustus came to power]: the boldest spirits had succumbed on stricken fields or by proscription-lists<sup>4</sup>; while the rest of the nobility found a cheerful acceptance of slavery the smoothest road to wealth and office, and, as they had thriven on revolution, stood now for the new order and safety in preference to the old order and adventure.

...

War at the time [in the latter years of Augustus's rule] was none, except an outstanding campaign against the Germans ... At home all was calm. The officials carried the old names; the younger men had been born after the victory of Actium<sup>5</sup>; most even of the elder generation, during the civil wars; few indeed were left who had seen the Republic.

It was thus an altered world, and of the old, unspoilt Roman character not a trace lingered. Equality was an outworn creed, and all eyes looked to the mandate<sup>6</sup> of the sovereign.

**Source:** Tacitus, *The Annals of Tacitus*, translated by J Jackson, 1937.

### Context statement

Tacitus (c. 56 CE – after 117 CE) was a Roman historian who wrote a number of biographical and historical works, including the *Annals*, which covered the reigns of Tiberius, Gaius, Claudius and Nero.

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4 list of people declared outlaws and able to be hunted and killed

5 naval battle in 31 BCE where Octavian (Augustus) defeated Mark Antony

6 command or authorisation

## Source 4

### Excerpt from Horace's 'Carmen Saeculare'

O kindly Sun, in your shining chariot, who  
Herald the day, then hide it, to be born again  
New yet the same, you will never know anything  
Mightier than Rome!

...

Goddess, nurture our offspring, bring to fruition  
The Senate's decrees concerning the wedlock<sup>7</sup>  
Of women who'll bear us more of our children,  
The laws of marriage,

...

Let Earth that is fruitful in crops, and in cattle,  
Adorn our Ceres<sup>8</sup> with garlands of wheat-ears:  
And may Jupiter's<sup>9</sup> life-giving rain and breezes  
Ripen the harvest.

**Source:** Horace, 'Carmen Saeculare' in *Horace: The Epodes and Carmen Saeculare*, translated by AS Kline, 2005.

### Context statement

'Carmen Saeculare' was a hymn commissioned by Augustus to be sung by a choir in 17 BCE at the Saecular Games, an ancient religious festival celebrating the beginning of a new age (*saeculum* or cycle). It had last been held in 146 BCE and was revived by Augustus. Horace (65 BCE – 8 BCE) was a celebrated poet of the Augustan period. His patron was Maecenas, a friend and adviser to Augustus.

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7 refers to Augustus's laws promoting marriage

8 Roman goddess of agriculture

9 chief Roman god; god of sky and thunder

## Source 5

### Excerpt from Pliny's *Natural History*

Rome is the only place in the whole world where there is a temple dedicated to a comet; it was thought by the late Emperor Augustus to be auspicious<sup>10</sup> to him, from its appearing during the games which he was celebrating in honour of Venus Genetrix<sup>11</sup>, not long after the death of his father [Julius] Caesar ... He expressed his joy in these terms: 'During the very time of these games of mine, a hairy star was seen during seven days, in the part of the heavens which is under the Great Bear ... The common people supposed the star to indicate, that the soul of [Julius] Caesar was admitted among the immortal Gods; under which designation it was that the star was placed on the bust which was lately consecrated in the forum.' This is what he proclaimed in public, but, in secret, he rejoiced at this auspicious omen, interpreting it as produced for himself.

**Source:** Pliny the Elder, 'Chap. 23 — Their nature, situation, and species' in *The Natural History of Pliny*, translated by J Bostock & HT Riley, 1855.

### Context statement

Pliny the Elder (c. 23 CE – 79 CE) was a Roman military commander, administrator and writer. He was a member of advisory councils to both emperors Vespasian and Titus. *Natural History* is a 37-volume encyclopedia about the natural world.

## Source 6

### Silver denarius from 17 BCE commemorating the Saecular Games



**Source:** British Museum, 'Coin'.

### Context statement

The silver denarius was a standard coin in the Roman Republic and early Empire. The obverse side of this coin depicts Augustus with the *sidus Iulium* (*Caesar's star* — a comet that appeared in 44 BCE). The inscription M SANQVINIVS III VIR is the name of the moneyer, one of three Roman officials given responsibility for minting coins. On the reverse is a herald announcing the games dressed in traditional costume with a staff and shield. The inscription reads AVGVST DIVI F[ilius] LVDOS SAE[culares] and translates to *Augustus, son of a god, Saecular Games*.

10 favourable

11 representation of the goddess Venus as a mother; Julius Caesar claimed that his family was descended from Venus

## Source 7

### Excerpt from Goldsworthy (2015)

The legions were his, and the Senate had no real say in how they were run, nor did it any longer control the raising and disbanding of these and other army units ...

Military force had raised Augustus to his position of dominance, and in the end only military force had any real chance of breaking his hold on power, making the legions both essential to him and a potential threat ... The legions and their officers needed to be kept content and loyal.

After Actium ... all of the sixty or so legions in existence came under Augustus' control ... Most of those old enough had at some point taken an oath to Julius Caesar, and this was a powerful emotional tie linking them to his heir; but in itself that was not enough, as the mutinies<sup>12</sup> of men impatient for discharge quickly showed.

**Source:** Goldsworthy, A 2015, *Augustus: From revolutionary to emperor*.

### Context statement

Dr Adrian Goldsworthy is a scholar of Roman history. He has taught Greek and Roman history at a number of British universities and has published extensively on Roman history.

## Source 8

### Excerpt from Suetonius's 'The deified Augustus'

[Augustus] made many changes and innovations in the army, besides reviving some usages of former times. He exacted the strictest discipline ... He dismissed the entire tenth legion in disgrace, because they were insubordinate, and others, too, that demanded their discharge in an insolent fashion, he disbanded without the rewards which would have been due for faithful service. If any cohorts gave way in battle, he decimated<sup>13</sup> them, and fed the rest on barley. When centurions left their posts, he punished them with death, just as he did the rank and file.

**Source:** Suetonius, 'The deified Augustus' in *Suetonius*, translated by JC Rolfe, 1913.

### Context statement

Suetonius (c. 69 CE – after 122 CE) wrote *Lives of the Caesars*, a series of biographies describing the public and private lives of Roman emperors, including Augustus. He worked in the imperial archives and was secretary to Emperor Hadrian until being dismissed in 122 CE.

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12 rebellions against military authority

13 executed every tenth soldier



## Source 9

### Excerpt from Cassius Dio's *Roman History*

The soldiers were sorely displeased at the paltry character of the rewards given them for the wars which had been waged ... and none of them consented to bear arms for longer than the regular period of his service. It was therefore voted that twenty thousand sesterces should be given to members of the pretorian guard<sup>14</sup> when they had served sixteen years, and twelve thousand to the other soldiers when they had served twenty years. Twenty-three, or, as others say, twenty-five, legions of citizen soldiers were being supported at this time.

...

Now Augustus lacked funds for all these troops, and therefore he introduced a proposal in the senate that revenues in sufficient amount and continuing from year to year should be set aside ... When no revenues for the military fund were being discovered that suited anybody, but absolutely everybody was vexed because such an attempt was even being made, Augustus in the name of himself and of Tiberius placed money in the treasury which he called the military treasury ... [Later, Augustus] established the tax of five per cent on the inheritances and bequests which should be left by people at their death.

**Source:** Cassius Dio, *Dio's Roman History*, translated by E Cary, 1917.

### Context statement

Cassius Dio (c. 164 CE – after 229 CE) was a Greek-born Roman senator. He wrote an 80-book history of Rome from mythical times to 229 CE.

## Source 10

### Excerpt from the *Res Gestae Divi Augusti*

Wars, both civil and foreign, I undertook throughout the world, on sea and land, and when victorious I spared all citizens who sued for pardon ... The number of Roman citizens who bound themselves to me by military oath was about 500 000. Of these I settled in colonies or sent back into their own towns, after their term of service, something more than 300 000, and to all I assigned lands, or gave money as a reward for military service.

**Source:** Augustus, *Res Gestae Divi Augusti (The Acts of Augustus)*, translated by FW Shipley, 1924.

### Context statement

The *Res Gestae* is Augustus's account of his achievements. He left instructions for this to be inscribed on bronze pillars at the entrance to his mausoleum. Copies were also set up throughout the Roman Empire.

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<sup>14</sup> also spelt *praetorian guard*; a permanent force of nine cohorts that formed Augustus's bodyguard

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## References

### Stimulus 1

Galinsky, K 2012, *Augustus: Introduction to the life of an emperor*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, p. 73. Reproduced with permission of The Licensor through PLSclear.

### Stimulus 2

Cassius Dio, *Dio's Roman History*, Vol. 7, Book 56, E Cary (trans.), Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA, USA, 1924, pp. 101 & 103, <https://archive.org/details/diocassiusroman5660cass>

### Stimulus 3

Tacitus, *The Annals of Tacitus*, Book 1, Chapter 1, J Jackson (trans.), Loeb Classical Library, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA, USA, 1937, pp. 245–249, [www.loebclassics.com/view/tacitus-annals/1931/pb\\_LCL249.245.xml](http://www.loebclassics.com/view/tacitus-annals/1931/pb_LCL249.245.xml).

### Stimulus 4

Horace, 'Carmen Saeculare' in *Horace: The Epodes and Carmen Saeculare*, AS Kline (trans.), Poetry in Translation, 2005, [www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Latin/HoraceEpodesAndCarmenSaeculare.php](http://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Latin/HoraceEpodesAndCarmenSaeculare.php). Used in accordance with the website copyright notice.

### Stimulus 5

Pliny the Elder, 'Chap. 23 — Their nature, situation, and effects' in *The natural history of Pliny*, Vol. 1, Book 2, J Bostock & HT Riley (trans.), Bohn's Classical Library, George Bell & Sons, London, 1855, p. 58, <https://archive.org/details/naturalhistoryp00bostgoog>

### Stimulus 6

British museum 'Silver coin' (online item number 1860,0330.23)  
[https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/C\\_1860-0330-23](https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/C_1860-0330-23)  
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### Stimulus 7

Excerpted from Goldsworthy, A 2015, *Augustus: From revolutionary to Emperor*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London, pp. 245–246. Reproduced with permission of the Licensor through PLSclear

### Stimulus 8

Suetonius, 'The deified Augustus' in *Suetonius*, Vol. 1, JC Rolfe (trans.), Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA, USA, 1913, pp. 155 & 157, <https://archive.org/details/suetonius01suet>.

### Stimulus 9

Cassius Dio, *Dio's Roman History*, Vol. 6, Book 55, E Cary (trans.), Loeb Classical Library, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA, USA, 1917, pp. 453, 459 & 461, <https://archive.org/details/romanhistoryvibo00cass>.

### Stimulus 10

Augustus, *Res Gestae Divi Augusti (The Acts of Augustus)* in *Velleius Paterculus: Compendium of Roman History; Res Gestae Divi Augusti*, FW Shipley (trans.), Loeb Classical Library, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA, USA, 1924, p. 349, <https://archive.org/details/compendiumofroma00velluoft>.



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