

External assessment 2022

Stimulus book

Ancient History

General instruction

- Work in this book will not be marked.

Source 1

Excerpt from the *Res Gestae Divi Augusti*

To the Roman plebs I paid out three hundred sesterces per man in accordance with the will of my father, and in my own name in my fifth consulship I gave four hundred sesterces apiece from the spoils of war; a second time, moreover, in my tenth consulship I paid out of my own patrimony¹ four hundred sesterces per man by way of bounty, and in my eleventh consulship I made twelve distributions of food from grain bought at my own expense, and in the twelfth year of my tribunician power I gave for the third time four hundred sesterces to each man. These largesses of mine reached a number of persons never less than two hundred and fifty thousand.

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

Context statement

The *Res Gestae Divi Augusti* is Augustus's record of his career and achievements.

Source 2

Excerpt from Cassius Dio's *Roman History*

Yet how can one refrain from mentioning his senators? Without giving offence he removed from their number the scum that had come to the surface from the factions, and by this very act exalted the remainder, magnified it by increasing the property requirement, and enriched it by grants of money; he voted on an equality with his colleagues and with them took part in a division of the house; he always communicated to them all the greatest and most important matters, either in the senate chamber or else at his house.

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

Context statement

Cassius Dio (c. 164 CE – after 229 CE) was a prominent Roman senator, consul and proconsul who wrote an 80-book history of Rome.

¹ property inherited from one's father or male ancestor

Source 3

Excerpt from Suetonius's *The Twelve Caesars*

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Source: Suetonius, *The Twelve Caesars*, translated by R Graves, 2007.

Context statement

Suetonius (c. 69 CE – after 122 CE) wrote *The Twelve Caesars*, a collection of biographies about the personal and public lives of Roman emperors, including Augustus (63 BCE – 14 CE). Suetonius held military and imperial administration posts, including military tribune, librarian and correspondence secretary. His work included anecdotes that highlighted the virtues and flaws of the emperors.

Source 4

Excerpt from Tacitus's *The Annals of Imperial Rome*

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Source: Tacitus, *The Annals of Imperial Rome*, translated by M Grant, 1971.

Context statement

Roman historian Tacitus (c. 56 CE – after 117 CE) wrote *The Annals of Imperial Rome*, which is a history of the reigns of the emperors Tiberius, Gaius, Claudius and Nero. Tacitus held important government roles and drew on official Roman sources. Tacitus stated: 'It seems to me a historian's foremost duty [is] to ensure that merit is recorded, and to confront evil words and deeds ...'.

Source 5

Excerpt from Velleius Paterculus's *The Roman History*

There is nothing that man can desire from the gods, nothing that the gods can grant to a man, nothing that wish can conceive or good fortune bring to pass, which Augustus on his return to the city did not bestow upon the republic, the Roman people, and the world. The civil wars were ended after twenty years, foreign wars suppressed, peace restored, the frenzy of arms everywhere lulled to rest; validity was restored to the laws, authority to the courts, and dignity to the senate; the power of the magistrates was reduced to its former limits ...

The old traditional form of the republic was restored. Agriculture returned to the fields, respect to religion, to mankind freedom from anxiety, and to each citizen his property rights were now assured; old laws were usefully [amended] and new laws passed for the general good ...

Source: Paterculus, *The Roman History*, translated by FW Shipley, 1924.

Context statement

Velleius Paterculus (c.19 BCE – after 30 CE) was a high-ranking military officer who held the role of quaestor (magistrate in charge of finances) and was nominated to be praetor (magistrate in charge of the legal system) prior to the death of Augustus. A major part of *The Roman History* deals with the career of Augustus.

Source 6

Excerpt from Fagan's *Augustus: From Revolutionary to Emperor*

Redacted extracts are taken from the following sections of the source text:
'From Octavian to Augustus: A New Order Established' — last para
'The Augustan Age' — both paragraphs

Source: Fagan, G 1999, *Augustus: From Revolutionary to Emperor*.

Context statement

Garrett Fagan was a professor of Ancient History at an American university with expertise in Roman history.

Source 7

Photo of the Tellus Panel on the *Ara Pacis Augustae* (Altar of Augustan Peace)



Source: Zucker, S 2012, *Ara Pacis Tellus Panel* (photo).

Context statement

The *Ara Pacis*, dedicated to the Roman goddess of peace, Pax, was commissioned by the Roman Senate during 13 BCE to commemorate the return of Augustus to Rome after three years supervising administration in the provinces of Gaul.

The Tellus panel (east) is a well-preserved marble relief approximately 1.6 metres tall. It depicts a mythological scene of a woman who has been variously identified by historians as Tellus (Mother Earth), Pax or Venus (the goddess associated with fertility, prosperity and victory). On her lap are two babies and below her a sheep and cow.

Source 8

Excerpt from Suetonius's *The Twelve Caesars*

Augustus gave all possible encouragement to intellectuals: he would politely and patiently attend readings not only of their poems and historical works, but of their speeches and dialogues. Yet he objected to being made the theme of any work unless the author were known as a serious and reputable writer, and often warned the praetors not to let his name be vulgarised by its constant occurrence in prize orations.

Source: Suetonius, *The Twelve Caesars*, translated by R Graves, 2007.

Context statement

Suetonius (c. 69 CE – after 122 CE) wrote *The Twelve Caesars*, a collection of biographies about the personal and public lives of Roman emperors, including Augustus (63 BCE – 14 CE). Suetonius held military and imperial administration posts, including military tribune, librarian and correspondence secretary. His work included anecdotes that highlighted the virtues and flaws of the emperors.

Source 9

Excerpt from Zanker's *The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus*

At the same time as his 'restoration of the Republic' and the creation of his new political style, Augustus also set in motion a program to 'heal' Roman society. The principal themes were renewal of religion and custom, *virtus*⁸, and the honor of the Roman people. Never before had a new ruler implemented such a far-reaching cultural program, so effectively embodied in visual imagery; and it has seldom happened since.

...

Augustus did not need to formulate a new program himself; it had already been done for him. For generations the ills of state and society has been proclaimed, described and lamented as incurable evils. The surprising thing, for many people virtually a miracle, was that the new ruler actually took the lament seriously and decided to do something about it.

Source: Zanker, P 1990, *The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus*.

Context statement

Professor Paul Zanker is a historian who specialises in imagery and architecture in Ancient Greece and Rome.

8 a virtue in ancient Rome associated with courage, character, excellence and masculinity

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References

Source 1

Augustus c. 44 BCE – 13 CE, *Res Gestae Divi Augusti*, Loeb Classical Library edition, 1924, https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Augustus/Res_Gestae/3*.html.

Source 2

Cassius Dio c. 211–223 CE, *Roman History*, Loeb Classical Library edition, 1924, https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Cassius_Dio/56*.html.

Source 3

Suetonius c. 121 CE, *The Twelve Caesars*, translated by Robert Graves, 1957, Penguin Group, London.

Source 4

Tacitus c. 115 CE, *The Annals of Imperial Rome*, translated by Michael Grant, 1996, Penguin Group, London.

Source 5

Velleius Paterculus c. 15–30 CE, *Compendium of Roman History*, Loeb Classical Library edition, 1924, https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/e/roman/texts/velleius_paterculus/2c*.html.

Source 6

Fagan, G 1999, *Augustus: From Revolutionary to Emperor*, Pennsylvania State University, www.luc.edu/roman-emperors/auggie.htm.

Source 7

Zucker, S 2012, *Ara Pacis Tellus Panel*, www.flickr.com/photos/profzucker/7996688696. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 2.0 (CC BY-NC-SA 2.0).

Source 8

Suetonius c. 121 CE, *The Twelve Caesars*, translated by Robert Graves, 1957, Penguin Group, London.

Source 9

Zanker, P 1990, *The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus*, The University of Michigan Press, Michigan, p. 101.



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