Information about the 2012 examination

The examination will be based on the Ancient History Senior External Syllabus 2008. It will consist of two papers. Each paper will have 10 minutes perusal/planning time and 2 hours 30 minutes working time.

**Paper One**

**Part A: Reflections on the research inquiry process**

The nominated theme for Paper One: Part A is Theme 1: Studies of political structures (excluding Greek options).

Candidates will select one inquiry topic from those listed on page 17 of the syllabus. The region of the chosen topic must be different from the region of the topic selected for Part B.

Candidates will formulate their own focus questions related to the five aspects of inquiry for their particular inquiry topic.

Candidates will respond to questions that assess their understandings of historical research procedures and aspects of the inquiry process as related to Theme 1. Responses must relate to the selected inquiry topic.

Responses will be judged against syllabus exit assessment criterion 1: Planning and using a historical research process.

**Part B: Extended written response to an unseen question**

The nominated theme for Paper One: Part B is Theme 5: Studies of conflict.

Candidates will select one region or period from the inquiry topics listed on page 21 of the syllabus. All four topics listed under the region or period selected must be studied. The region of the chosen topic must be different from the region of the topic selected for Part A.

Candidates will respond in 600–800 words to one of several questions provided.

Responses will be judged against syllabus exit assessment criterion 3: Communicating historical knowledge.

**Paper Two**

**Extended written response to historical evidence**

The nominated theme for Paper Two is Theme 3: Studies of power.

The inquiry topics are Greece: Sparta or Tyranny or Democracy. All three inquiry topics should be studied although only one topic will be assessed.

A selection of historical sources relating to the inquiry topic chosen for assessment will be sent to candidates and published on our website at least four weeks before the examination.
Candidates will respond in 600–800 words to one of several questions provided (all questions will relate to the chosen inquiry topic). Responses must refer to the historical sources (both seen and unseen) provided for Paper Two.

Responses will be judged against syllabus exit assessment criterion 2: Forming historical knowledge through critical enquiry and syllabus exit assessment criterion 3: Communicating historical knowledge.

**Level of achievement**

Each candidate’s level of achievement will be determined by applying the syllabus standards to an overall assessment of responses across both Paper One and Paper Two.

**Enquiries**

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