VICTORIAN CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY

Victorian Certificate of Education
Year

HISTORY: ANCIENT HISTORY

Written examination

Day Date

Reading time: *. to *.** (15 minutes)**
Writing time: *. to *.** (2 hours)**

SAMPLE

SOURCES BOOK

Instructions

A question and answer book is provided with this sources book.

Refer to the sources in this book for each question in Section A, as indicated in the question and answer book.

Students are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any other unauthorised electronic devices into the examination room.

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Egypt

Sources 1–4 relate to Question 1.

Source 1

An extract from a historical interpretation of female power through the office of God's Wife of Amun[1]

> The more likely explanation [of the attack on Hatshepsut's monuments] may simply be this: the recently invented phenomenon of a female king had created such conceptual and practical complications that the evidence of it was best erased. It is interesting to note that the principal title Hatshepsut employed during her regency was God's Wife of Amun, a powerful economic and political office that may initially have given her special leverage to act in the name of Thutmose III during the years of his minority[2] … [After] his reign ended, the title fell into disuse … and the great queens of the late Eighteenth Dynasty, such as Tiye and Nefertiti, never adopted it. The obliteration of Hatshepsut's kingship may thus be linked with a determination to eradicate the possibility of another powerful female's ever inserting herself, as the personification[3] of Horus on earth, into the long line of Egyptian male kings.

Source: PF Dorman, 'The Proscription of Hatshepsut', in *Hatshepsut: From Queen to Pharaoh*, CH Roehrig (ed., with R Dreyfus and CA Keller), The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 2005, p. 269

[1]**Amun** – Amen or Amen-Ra

[2]**minority** – childhood

[3]**personification** – representation as a human

Source 2

The relief below shows a river scene with two royal boats. The part of the relief marked by the white box depicts Nefertiti attacking a female enemy.



Source: *Talatat: River scene with royal barges and tow boats*; Egyptian, New Kingdom, Eighteenth Dynasty, reign of Akhenaten, 1349–1336 BCE; object place: Egypt, Akhetaten (el-Amarna); findspot: Egypt, Hermopolis; painted limestone, 23.9 × 54.0 × 3.5 cm (upper block) and 23.4 × 53.1 × 3.6 cm (lower block); Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Helen and Alice Colburn Fund; 64.521 and 63.260; photograph © Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, <www.mfa.org>

Source 3

An extract from a letter from Rib-Hadda to Akhenaten

May my lord heed the words of his servant. Send me a garrison t[o] guard the city of the king un[til] the archers [co]me out. [I]f there are no ar[chers], then al[l la]nds will be joined to the [ʿApi]ru[1]. Listen! [Si]nce Bit-Ar[ha][2] was seized [at] their urging of ʿAbdi-Aširta[3], they have as a result been striving to [ta]ke over Gubla and Batruna[4], and thus all lands would be joi[ned] to the ʿApiru. There are two towns that remain to [me], and they want to take th[em] from the king. May my lord sen[d] a garrison to his two towns until the archers come out, and may something be given to me for their food … [*I*]*f* [*the kin*]*g* is unable to save me fr[om] his enemies, [then al]l lands will be [j]oined [to ʿAbd]i-Aširta.

Source: WL Moran (ed. and trans.), *The Amarna Letters*, The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 1992, p. 149

[1]**ʿApiru** – foreigners in Egypt who were considered to be enemies of the Pharaoh

[2]**Bit-Arha** – a city in modern-day Lebanon

[3]**ʿAbdi-Aširta** – the king of Amurru, a kingdom located in western and north-western modern-day Syria and northern modern-day Lebanon

[4]**Gubla and Batruna** – two cities in modern-day Lebanon

Source 4

An extract of a poetic inscription found on various temple walls, describing Ramesses II's campaign in the Battle of Kadesh

Your servant speaks to let it be known that you are the Son of Re who came from his body. He has given you all the lands together. As for the land of Egypt and the land of Khatti[1], they are your servants, under your feet … Lo[2], your might is great, your strength is heavy upon the land of Khatti. Is it good that you slay your servants, your face savage toward them and without pity? Look, you spent yesterday killing a hundred thousand, and today you came back and left no heirs. Be not hard in your dealings, victorious king! Peace is better than fighting. Give us breath!

Source: M Lichtheim, *Ancient Egyptian Literature: A Book of Readings, Volume II: The New Kingdom*, University of California Press, Berkeley, 2006, p. 71

[1]**land of Khatti** – Hittite kingdom

[2]**Lo** – Look

Greece

Sources 5–7 relate to Question 2.

Source 5

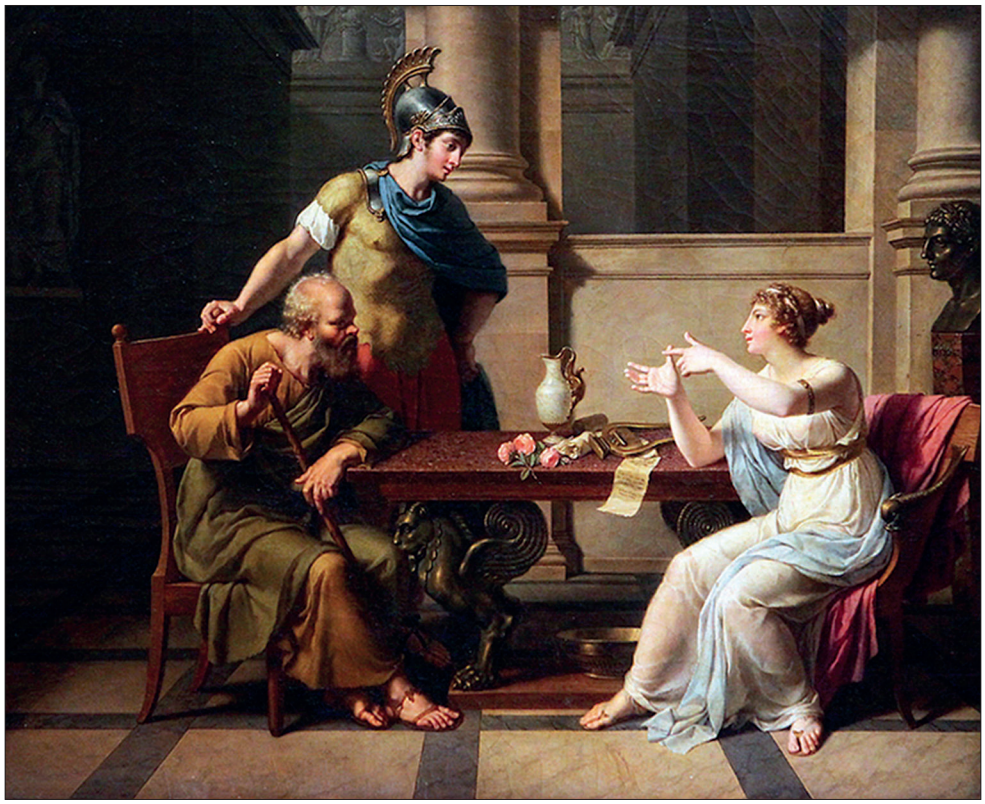
A historical interpretation of the early history of Sparta

> In the second half of the 8th century … the Spartans … chose to invade the fertile region of Messenia … Here they waged a war of conquest, known as the First Messenian War … After a hard-won victory, the Spartans enslaved the vast majority of the Messenian population as helots. The amount of land now controlled by Sparta … was far larger than that of any other Greek city. Furthermore, the helot population ruled by Sparta now greatly outnumbered the citizen population.
>
> Sparta was now the wealthiest city in the Greek world, an outward-looking state with trade contacts all over the Mediterranean …
>
> …
>
> [After the Second Messenian War], a radically new method of living seems to have been emerging in Sparta … At the heart of this new system was the idea that every Spartan citizen … should be a highly trained, professional soldier.

Source: J Renshaw, *In Search of the Greeks*, 2nd edition, Bloomsbury Academic, London, 2015, pp. 357 and 359

Source 6

The painting *The Debate of Socrates and Aspasia* was produced by Nicolas-André Monsiau in 1801. It depicts an interpretation of Aspasia of Miletus, seated on the right, discussing philosophy with Socrates and, most likely, Pericles the Younger. According to Plutarch, Aspasia attracted the most prominent writers and thinkers of her time to her house.



Source: N Monsiau, *The Debate of Socrates and Aspasia*, 1801; Art Collection 2/Alamy Stock Photo

Source 7

An extract from Thucydides's *History of the Peloponnesian War*, outlining how Athens used the Delian League

First … [the Athenians] took by siege Eoin on the Strymon … and enslaved its inhabitants … After this they waged war upon the Naxians, who had revolted, and reduced them by siege. And this was the first allied city to be enslaved in violation of the established rule …

[The principal causes of revolts] were the failures in bringing in the tribute or their quota of ships and … refusal of military service; for the Athenians exacted the tribute strictly and gave offence by applying coercive measures to any who were unaccustomed or unwilling to bear the hardships of service …

…

… [All] these operations of the Hellenes, against one another …, took place in the interval of about fifty years between the retreat of Xerxes and the beginning of this war. It was in this period that the Athenians established their rule more firmly and themselves advanced to great power. And the Lacedaemonians, though aware of their growing power, made no attempt to check it … since they had never been quick to go to war except under compulsion … But at last the power of the Athenians began clearly to exalt itself and they were laying hands upon their allies. Then the Lacedaemonians could bear it no longer, but determined that they must attack the Athenian power with all zeal and overthrow it … by undertaking this war.

Source: Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*, vol. 1, books 1 and 2, revised edition, CF Smith (trans.), Harvard University Press, Cambridge (MA), 1928, pp. 165, 167, 195 and 197

Rome

Sources 8–11 relate to Question 3.

Source 8

An extract from *Plutarch's Lives*, describing how Romulus organised the Roman people

> Romulus divided all the multitude that were of age to bear arms into military companies, each company consisting of three thousand footmen and three hundred horsemen. Such a company was called a "legion" … [He] treated the remainder as a people, and this multitude was called "populus"; a hundred of them, who were the most eminent, he appointed to be councillors, calling the individuals themselves "patricians," and their body a "senate"… [In] other ways, too, he separated the nobles from the multitude, calling the one "patrons," that is to say, protectors, and the other "clients," that is to say, dependants. At the same time he inspired both classes with an astonishing goodwill towards each other, and one which became the basis of important rights and privileges.

Source: Plutarch, *Plutarch's Lives*, vol. I, B Perrin (trans.), The Macmillan Co., New York and William Heinemann Ltd, London, 1914, pp. 123, 125 and 127

Source 9

A historical interpretation of the relationship between Rome and the Latins

> [The] relationship between the Republic and its Latin allies was one of remarkable sophistication. The Latins dramatically increased the population base and military power that Rome commanded, and so enabled Rome to transcend the limitations of a city-state in a way that Greek *poleis*[1] like Athens and Sparta would never achieve. The privileges that Rome offered were attractive and so its superiority rested on consensus more than oppression, and in later centuries the Latin allies largely stayed loyal despite the pressures of expansion and Hannibal's invasion of Italy. As Rome did not require financial tribute from its allies, however, its superiority was only explicit in times of war when the allied contingents were summoned for the army. The need to assert this superiority, as well as to fulfil its promise to protect its allies, would help drive Roman aggression throughout Republican history.

Source: DM Gwynn, *The Roman Republic: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2012, p. 14

[1]***poleis*** – city-states

Source 10

An extract from 'For the Manilian Law', a speech from 66 BCE by Marcus Tullius Cicero, arguing that Gnaeus Pompey should be given command of the war against King Mithridates in Asia

> Asia is so rich and fertile that she easily excels all other countries … So if you wish to keep both your military advantage and peacetime comforts, not only must you protect this province from catastrophe, but from *fear* of catastrophe …
>
> …
>
> What speech could do justice to the abilities of Gnaeus Pompey? … [Every] region is my witness, as is every foreign nation and tribe, every sea, every shore, every bay and every harbour.
>
> …
>
> … [Everyone] from these regions sees Gnaeus Pompey not as a man sent from Rome, but as one fallen from heaven … Now they understand there was a reason why their ancestors preferred to serve the Roman people than to rule others …

Source: Cicero, *In Defence of the Republic*, S McElduff (trans.), Penguin Classics, London, 2011, pp. 28, 33, 34 and 37

Source 11

The image below shows a replica of the statue *Augustus of Prima Porta*. Augustus is shown carrying a consul's baton and wearing a cuirass (breastplate) and *paludamentum* (military cloak). The cuirass depicts Egyptian sphinxes, Roman gods, defeated peoples and the return of Roman standards.



Source: *Augustus of Prima Porta*; Pat Behnke/Alamy Stock Photo

END OF SOURCES BOOK