



2011 Ancient History HSC Examination 'Sample Answers'

When examination committees develop questions for the examination, they may write 'sample answers' or, in the case of some questions, 'answers could include'. The committees do this to ensure that the questions will effectively assess students' knowledge and skills.

This material is also provided to the Supervisor of Marking, to give some guidance about the nature and scope of the responses the committee expected students would produce. How sample answers are used at marking centres varies. Sample answers may be used extensively and even modified at the marking centre OR they may be considered only briefly at the beginning of marking. In a few cases, the sample answers may not be used at all at marking.

The Board publishes this information to assist in understanding how the marking guidelines were implemented.

The 'sample answers' or similar advice contained in this document are not intended to be exemplary or even complete answers or responses. As they are part of the examination committee's 'working document', they may contain typographical errors, omissions, or only some of the possible correct answers.

Section I — Cities of Vesuvius – Pompeii and Herculaneum

Part A

Question 4

Answers could include:

- *Lararia*, *penates*, household hearths, Vesta, altars, the *genius* and ancestor worship

Sample answer:

The *lararium*, as seen in Source C, was used for household worship. It sometimes contained statuettes of the *lares*, and offerings of food were made to these. Other features of household religion included the worship of the *penates* and family ancestors.

Question 8

Answers could include:

- Jokes, gossip, threats and vulgarities
- People's personal thoughts, feelings and expressions of love
- Quotations from poetry and philosophical statements
- Political views, daily record keeping and comments on commercial life
- Comments on popular pastimes such as gambling, drinking, games and women

Sample answer:

Graffiti contribute to our understanding of life in Pompeii and Herculaneum by providing examples of people's thoughts and opinions. For example, Source F is a request from a woman to elect Cn. Helvius Sabinus to the office of aedile. This tells us that even though they could not vote, women played a part in political life. Source G praises the victories of a gladiator named Florus, who won several contests. This and other similar graffiti, often written by women, suggest the popularity of gladiatorial games in Pompeii and Herculaneum. Graffiti cover a wide range of topics, such as love, quotations, jokes, gossip and threats. Some graffiti found in and around taverns, inns and businesses expresses people's opinions on the goods and services provided.

Part B

Question 9

Answers could include:

- Inadequate restoration
- Modern graffiti, vandalism and mass tourism
- Problems of funding
- Exposure to elements over time: rainfall, dampness, water seepage, and problems of fauna, flora and mould
- Backlog of urgently needed maintenance
- Benefits of conservation projects, eg Herculaneum Conservation Project

Section II — Ancient Societies

Option A — Egypt: Society in Old Kingdom Egypt, Dynasties III to VI

Question 10 (a)

Sample answer:

The Pyramid Texts were inscribed on the walls of the burial chambers of pyramids to assist the dead to enter the afterlife.

Option B — Egypt: Society in New Kingdom Egypt to the death of Amenhotep III

Question 11 (a)

Sample answer:

The *Book of the Dead* contained spells and was placed in tombs to assist the dead to enter the afterlife.

Question 11 (b)

Sample answer:

Rock-cut tombs had a hidden door and usually an entrance corridor. They had false corridors and blocked passages to prevent the theft of burial goods.

Option C — Egypt: Society in New Kingdom Egypt during the Ramesside Period, Dynasties XIX and XX

Question 12 (a)

Sample answer:

Abu Simbel was in Nubia, where Ramesses II constructed two mortuary temples – one for himself and one for his wife.

Option D — The Near East: Assyrian society from Sargon II to Ashurbanipal

Question 13 (a)

Sample answer:

A vassal state was a region made subject to the king of Assyria that recognised his sovereignty and paid tribute to him.

Option E — The Near East: Society in Israel from Solomon to the fall of Samaria

Question 14 (a)

Sample answer:

The Davidic dynasty was the line of kings descended from King David who ruled in Israel and Judah.

Option F — The Near East: Persian society at the time of Darius and Xerxes

Question 15 (a)

Sample answer:

A satrapy was a geographical division of the empire that helped to facilitate its legal and military administration.

Question 15 (b)

Sample answer:

The Royal Road ran from Sardis to Susa and was used by royal messengers, who would change horses at one of a number of stations along the road.

Option G — Greece: The Bronze Age – Society in Minoan Crete

Question 16 (a)

Sample answer:

A *larnax* was a rectangular coffin for the remains of the deceased and was usually decorated.

Option H — Greece: The Bronze Age – Mycenaean society

Question 17 (a)

Sample answer:

Tiryns was a Mycenaean site with a megaron and massive stone fortifications.

Option I — Greece: Spartan society to the Battle of Leuctra 371 BC**Question 18 (a)***Sample answer:*

The Great Rhetra was an oracle from Delphi that laid down the foundations of the Spartan political structure.

Question 18 (b)*Sample answer:*

The *syssitia* were the messes where Spartiates ate communal meals daily. They each contained approximately 15 men of various ages who all contributed food towards the meal.

Option J — Greece: Athenian society in the time of Pericles**Question 19 (a)***Sample answer:*

The *Great Dionysia* was a festival in honour of Dionysius at which dramatic contests were held.