



B O A R D O F S T U D I E S
NEW SOUTH WALES

2012 HSC Ancient History '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:

Sources *A* and *B* reveal that people died differently at Pompeii and Herculaneum in AD 79 due to the type of conditions that they experienced during the eruption. Source *A* shows bodies were buried under the pyroclastic flow. At Pompeii people could have died as a result of asphyxiation, falling debris, or the heat. At Herculaneum death was quicker due to the pyroclastic surge and intense heat, which caused people's brains to blow out, resulting in a violent death.

Question 7

Answers could include:

- Occupations – prostitutes, gladiators, domestic slaves, public slaves – and what these slaves did
- How slaves contributed to the running of households – wet nursing, cooking, teaching, etc
- Slaves' roles in commerce and industry
- Duties and responsibilities of slaves

Section I — Cities of Vesuvius – Pompeii and Herculaneum

Part B

Question 8

Answers could include:

With reference to Source A:

- Fiorelli's dramatic plaster cast technique has had a profound impact on our understanding of how people died in Pompeii. The technique has also been used on plant remains and other perishable materials in more recent times.

With reference to Source B:

Discussion surrounding the discovery in the 1980s of the bodies at Herculaneum could include:

- the causes of death
- the anthropological study of the bodies (Sara Bisel)
- research of the skeletons – health, diet, age, gender, disease, occupation, status in society
- issues surrounding the difficulties and accuracy of reconstructing the past.

With reference to Source H:

- Discussion of new technologies, including digital reconstructions of Pompeii and Herculaneum, and developing computer science.

Own knowledge:

Answers could include discussion of:

- various archaeologists or archaeological techniques ranging from: Fiorelli, Spinazzola, Maiuri and Mau to more recent archaeologists such as P Allison, J Mackenzie-Clarke, E Lazer, S Bisel, A Wallace-Hadrill
- projects such as the Philodemus Project, Pompeian Forum Project, The House in Pompeii Project.

Areas of discussion could include:

- stratigraphic investigation, scientific developments (DNA, X-ray), analysis and reconstruction of buildings, gardens, flora and fauna, wall paintings, streetscapes
- experimental archaeology – the reproduction of food, glass and textiles.

Section II — Ancient Societies

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

Question 9 (a)

Answers could include:

A nomarch was an administrator/governor.

OR

A nomarch was in charge of a nome/province.

Question 9 (b)

Answers could include:

The *Instructions of Ptahhotep* indicate the behaviour expected in the Egyptian hierarchy. Family values are stressed. The *Instructions* emphasise good behaviour and justice, showing that Egyptian society had ethical and moral values. They reveal the emphasis the society placed on fathers instructing their sons in correct behaviour in all facets of life.

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

Question 10 (a)

Answers could include:

Malkata was a palace.

OR

Malkata was constructed by Amenhotep III.

Question 10 (b)

Answers could include:

The *Instruction of Ani* indicates the values taught to a literate middle-class, the text's audience. It indicates values associated with religious observance, marriage, family, and that social etiquette was seen as important.

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

Question 11 (a)

Answers could include:

Per-Ramesses was the capital city.

OR

Per-Ramesses was built by Ramesses II.

Question 11 (b)

Answers could include:

The *Report of Wenamun* indicates the extent and difficulties of trade in the late Ramesside Period. It also shows the rising power of the High priest of Amun and Smendes in the north, and the decline in the power of the pharaoh and the economy.

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

Question 12 (a)

Answers could include:

Nimrud was the Assyrian capital city.

OR

Nimrud was built by Ashurbanipal.

Question 12 (b)

Answers could include:

The royal annals are historical records written up according to years. There is material on campaigns against rebels. They stressed the role of the gods in Assyrian achievements.

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

Question 13 (a)

Answers could include:

Elijah was a prophet.

OR

Elijah sought the worship of Yahweh.

Question 13 (b)

Answers could include:

The Samarian Ostrakon indicates the importance of trade and agriculture, referring to regional shipments of agricultural goods. It shows that large estates were important to the Samarian court. It indicates belief in Yahweh.

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

Question 14 (a)

Answers could include:

Pasargadae was a royal capital.

OR

Pasargadae was used as one of the king's residences and courts.

Question 14 (b)

Answers could include:

The king was believed to be appointed by the god Ahura Mazda, who granted him the empire. Rebellions were ruthlessly crushed and their leaders destroyed. Everyone was subject to the king's authority. The king's power was absolute.

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

Question 15 (a)

Answers could include:

Agia Triada was a Minoan town.

OR

Agia Triada was where an important sarcophagus was discovered.

OR

Agia Triada was a small palace.

Question 15 (b)

Answers could include:

Gournia was a Minoan town with a small urban community. There are workshops indicating a craft function. Zakros was the site of a palace with several religious shrines. It functioned as a major trading centre with the Near East and processed purple dye.

Option H — Greece: The Bronze Age – Mycenaean society

Question 16 (a)

Answers could include:

The *lawagetas* was a land-owner.

OR

The *lawagetas* was a leader of the people.

Question 16 (b)

Answers could include:

The Linear B tablets tell us that the Mycenaeans were an early Greek, literate society. The tablets from numerous Mycenaean sites shed light on bureaucratic, economic and military activity. Information is provided about social classes and religious practices.

Option I — Greece: Spartan society to the Battle of Leuctra 371 BC

Question 17 (a)

Answers could include:

A body of five Spartan officials.

OR

A body elected annually

OR

A political group in Sparta

OR

A group of ephors

Question 17 (b)

Answers could include:

The writings – poetry – of Tyrtaeus indicate the importance of warfare and being a hoplite in Spartan society. He encouraged Spartans to die in battle for their country. Total commitment to the state was required. The agricultural obligations of the helots are mentioned.

Option J — Greece: Athenian society in the time of Pericles

Question 18 (a)

Answers could include:

Members of the highest Athenian property class.

OR

Their land yielded 500 measures of produce.

Question 18 (b)

Answers could include:

Boys went to school in small groups while girls usually did not. More emphasis was placed on educating boys than girls, because boys would play an important role in politics and business, while girls wouldn't. Boys were taught writing, reading, music and athletics.