

Key

deletions **red-coloured text** and **strikethrough**

changes **blue-coloured text** and **highlight**

VCE History: Ancient History

~~2016–2020~~ **2020**

Written examination – End of year

Adjusted examination specifications

Overall conditions

The examination will be sat at a time and date to be set annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). VCAA examination rules will apply. Details of these rules are published annually in the *VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook*.

There will be 15 minutes reading time and 2 hours writing time.

The examination will be marked by a panel appointed by the VCAA.

The examination will contribute 50 per cent to the study score.

Content

The *VCE History Adjusted Study Design for 2020 only* ~~2016–2020~~ ('Units 3 and 4: Ancient History') is the document for the development of the examination. The **adjusted** study design includes a section on 'Characteristics of the study' (pages 10 and 11). All outcomes in 'Units 3 and 4: Ancient History' will be examined.

All of the key knowledge and skills that underpin the outcomes in Units 3 and 4 are examinable.

Format

The examination will be in the form of a question and answer book.

The examination will consist of three sections, one section for each of the three civilisations designated in the **adjusted** study design:

- Section A – Egypt
- Section B – Greece
- Section C – Rome

Students must respond to the two sections of the examination that correspond to the two civilisations studied.

Each section will be worth a total of 40 marks and will consist of two parts.

Part 1 will consist of one question with sub-parts. The question will be derived from Area of study 1 – Living in an ancient society. The number of sub-parts may vary from year to year. One sub-part will be an extended-answer question worth 10 marks. Students must respond to all parts of the question.

The question will involve analysis of one to three visual and/or written sources for each civilisation. The sources may be presented in colour. All sources for Part 1 of all sections of the examination will appear in one detachable insert. Part 1 of each section will be worth 20 marks.

Part 2 will consist of two essay questions derived from Area of study 2 – People in power, societies in crisis. Students must attempt **one** of these essay questions. Part 2 of each section will be worth 20 marks.

The total marks for the examination will be 80.

Criteria

The essay in Part 2 will be assessed against the following criteria:

- construction of a coherent and relevant historical argument that addresses the specific demands of the essay question
- demonstration of historical knowledge that is accurate and appropriate for the essay question
- use of historical thinking concepts
- use of primary sources and historical interpretations as evidence

Approved materials and equipment

Pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers

Relevant references

The following publications should be referred to in relation to the VCE History: Ancient History examination:

- *VCE History Adjusted Study Design for 2020 only 2016–2020* ('Units 3 and 4: Ancient History')
- *VCE History: Ancient History – Advice for teachers 2016–2020* (includes assessment advice)
- *VCAA Bulletin*

Advice

~~During the 2016–2020 accreditation period for~~ **In 2020 the** VCE History: Ancient History **examinations** will be prepared according to the examination specifications above. **Each** **The** examination will conform to these specifications and will test a representative sample of the key knowledge and skills from all outcomes in Units 3 and 4.

Teachers and students should be aware of the characteristics of the study, including historical thinking and historical interpretations in VCE History, as described on pages 10 and 11 of the **adjusted** study design. In VCE History, evidence may be drawn from primary and/or secondary sources, and include factual detail related to the key knowledge stated in the **adjusted** study design, historical perspectives and historical interpretations.

Further information about using sources as evidence is provided in the 'Historical thinking' section of the *VCE History: Ancient History – Advice for teachers 2016–2020* on pages 2–6.

ANCIENT HISTORY (SPECIFICATIONS)

Students should use command/task words, other instructional information within questions and corresponding mark allocations to guide their responses.

A separate document containing a sample examination has been published on the VCE History: Ancient History 'Examination specifications, past examinations and examination reports' page on the VCAA website.

The sample examination provides an indication of the format of the examination, and the types of questions teachers and students can expect ~~until the current accreditation period is over~~. It demonstrates a range of source configurations that could appear on the examination.

The VCAA does not provide answers to sample examinations.

Please note: The sample examination has not been amended to reflect the adjustments made to the study design in 2020.