

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH
PROCESSING LABEL HERE

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Write your **student number** in the boxes above.

Letter

History: Ancient History

Question and Answer Book

VCE Examination – Wednesday 12 November 2025

- Reading time is **15 minutes**: 2.00 pm to 2.15 pm
- Writing time is **2 hours**: 2.15 pm to 4.15 pm

Materials supplied

- Question and Answer Book of 24 pages
- Sources Book

Instructions

- Use the additional space at the end of this book if you need extra space to complete an answer.

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

Contents	pages
Section A (2 of 3 questions, 50 marks)	3–15
Section B (1 of 3 questions, 20 marks)	16–20
Assessment criteria for Section B	23

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Do not write in this area.

Section A

Instructions

- Answer **two** of the following questions in the spaces provided.
 - Write your responses in English.
-

Ancient society	pages
Question 1 – Egypt _____	4–7
Question 2 – Greece _____	8–11
Question 3 – Rome _____	12–15

Question 1 (25 marks)

Egypt

Refer to pages 2–3 in the Sources Book when responding to this question.

- a. Using Source 1, outline the economic benefits of military activity for the Amen-Ra cult. 3 marks

- b. Using Source 2 and your own knowledge, describe how New Kingdom kings expressed their power as warriors. 4 marks

Do not write in this area.

Question 3 (25 marks)

Rome

Refer to pages 6–7 in the Sources Book when responding to this question.

- a. Using Source 9, outline how Romulus became the founder of Rome in 753 BCE. 3 marks

- b. Using Source 10 and your own knowledge, describe the cultural expressions that defined Roman life during the early Roman Republic. 4 marks

Do not write in this area.

Section B

Instructions

- Write an essay on **one** of the following questions in the space provided.
 - Your response will be assessed according to the assessment criteria set out on page 23.
 - Write your response in English.
-

Question 1 (20 marks)

Egypt

‘Despite his unconventional reign, Akhenaten fulfilled the Egyptian role of the god-king.’

To what extent do you agree? Justify your response.

OR

Question 2 (20 marks)

Greece

‘Although Sparta blamed Athens, actually Sparta played a key role in causing the outbreak of the Archidamian War.’

To what extent do you agree? Justify your response.

OR

Question 3 (20 marks)

Rome

‘The erosion of Roman morals and values led to the demise of the Roman Republic.’

To what extent do you agree? Justify your response.

Assessment criteria for Section B

The essay in Section B 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
 - application of historical thinking concepts such as cause and consequence, continuity and change, and/or historical significance
 - use of sources as evidence to support a historical argument, including a range of primary sources, perspectives and historical interpretations
-

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History: Ancient History

Sources Book

VCE Examination – Wednesday 12 November 2025

Contents	pages
Egypt _____	2–3
Greece _____	4–5
Rome _____	6–7

You may keep this Sources Book.

Egypt

Sources 1–4 relate to Question 1.

Source 1

This is a historical interpretation, published in 2013, which describes the military campaigns of Thutmose III. Details of the campaigns were carved in the Temple of Karnak and dedicated to Amun (Amen-Ra).

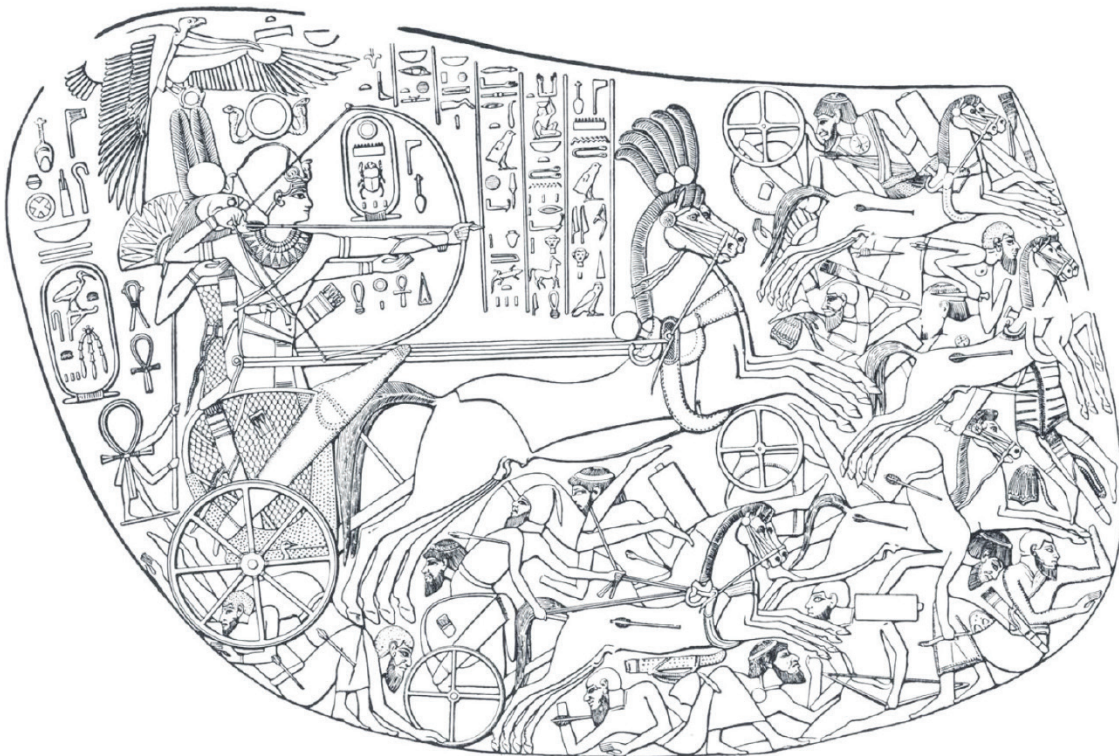
The most extensive presentation of the Karnak temple as receiver of income from military campaigns abroad is found in the annals of Thutmose III¹ ... in a concluding text it is stated ... that all prisoners made on the king's first campaign (including over 1,500 "Syrians") were given to Amun, in order to serve him as temple weavers and cultivators ... that cows from Egyptian, Levantine and Nubian herds were donated to Amun for his milk offerings ... that three Canaanite towns were assigned to Amun, and were charged with a yearly tax that contributed to the divine offering ... The donations appear as a natural consequence of the king's victories, which are explicitly said to have been made possible by his father Amun.

Source: B Haring, 'The Rising Power of the House of Amun in the New Kingdom', in JCM Garcia (ed.), *Ancient Egyptian Administration*, Brill, Leiden, 2013, pp. 618 and 619

¹Thutmose III – Thutmose III

Source 2

This is a line drawing of the decoration on the right side of a ceremonial chariot found in the tomb of Thutmose IV. It depicts the king riding his chariot into battle, accompanied by the Theban war god Montu.



Source: H Carter and PE Newberry, *The Tomb of Thutmōsis IV*, Gerald Duckworth & Co. Ltd., London, 2002, plate X

Source 3

This is part of an inscription from the base of an obelisk erected by Hatshepsut in the Temple of Karnak.

It is the King himself¹ who says:
 I declare before the folk who shall be in the future,
 Who shall observe the monument I made for my father²,
 Who shall speak in discussion,
 Who shall look to posterity³—
 It was when I sat in the palace,
 And thought of my maker,
 That my heart led me to make for him
 Two obelisks of electrum⁴,
 Whose summits would reach the heavens,
 In the august⁵ hall of columns,
 Between the two great portals⁶ of the King,
 The Strong Bull, King Aakheperkare⁷, the Horus triumphant.

Source: M Lichtheim (ed.), *Ancient Egyptian Literature*, University of California Press, Oakland, 2019, p. 338

¹**the King himself** – Hatshepsut

²**my father** – Hatshepsut's divine father Amun

³**posterity** – future generations

⁴**electrum** – a precious metal, an alloy of gold and silver

⁵**august** – respected, impressive

⁶**portals** – temple pylons, monumental gateways

⁷**Aakheperkare** – another name for Hatshepsut's mortal father, Thutmose I

Source 4

This is an extract from the 'Earlier Proclamation', inscribed on the boundary stelae at Akhetaten in Year 5 of Akhenaten's reign. It records the founding of Akhetaten by the king.

Then said his Person¹ to them: "Behold Aten! The Aten wishes to have [*something*] made for him as a monument with an eternal and everlasting name. Now it is the Aten, my father, who advised me concerning it, (namely) Akhet-Aten². No official had ever advised me concerning it, nor had any people in the entire land ever advised me concerning it, to tell me [a plan] for making Akhet-Aten in this distant place ... It is the Aten, my [father], who advised me concerning it, (saying), 'Behold, [fill] Akhet-Aten with provisions—a storehouse for everything!' while my father, HOR-ATEN³, proclaimed to me, 'It is to belong to my Person, to be Akhet-Aten continually forever.'"

Source: WJ Murnane, *Texts from the Amarna Period in Egypt*, Scholars Press, Atlanta, 1995, p. 75

¹**Person** – the king, Akhenaten

²**Akhet-Aten** – the city of Akhetaten, also called Amarna

³**HOR-ATEN** – the Aten

Greece

Sources 5–8 relate to Question 2.

Source 5

This is a historical interpretation, first published in 1935, which describes the status and conditions placed on metics in Ancient Athens.

The importance of the resident aliens, the metics, varied greatly from state to state ... [In Athens] they seem to have been most numerous and most highly favoured ... They were ... debarred¹ from the exercise of active political rights and from the possession of real property ... Yet they enjoyed personal freedom ... [and] remained contented and often prosperous, and the Athenians had no occasion ... to suspect them of disaffection or treachery.

Source: MN Tod, 'The Economic Background of the Fifth Century', in JB Bury, SA Cooke and FE Adcock (eds), *The Cambridge Ancient History: Vol 5, Athens 478–401 B.C.*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1983, p. 6

¹debarred – excluded

Source 6

This extract from the Athenian historian Thucydides recounts part of the speech of the Spartan king Archidamus discussing preparations for war against Athens.

'Peloponnesians and allies, our fathers have engaged in many campaigns both in and outside the Peloponnese, and the elder men in this army of ours are not inexperienced in war. Yet we have never marched out in greater strength than now ... the whole of Hellas¹ is eagerly watching this action of ours, and, because of the general hatred against Athens, wishing us success in our undertakings ...
... The best and safest thing of all is when a large force is so well disciplined that it seems to be acting like one man.'

Source: Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*, R Warner (trans.) with introduction and notes by MI Finley, Penguin Books, London, 1972, pp. 130 and 131

¹Hellas – Greece

Source 7

This map of Ancient Greece shows the location of key city-states and the Athenian and Spartan spheres of influence on the eve of the Peloponnesian War (431–404 BCE).



Source: Adapted from World History Edu, <worldhistoryedu.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Greece-at-the-beginning-of-the-Peloponnesian-War.png>

Source 8

This extract from the Greek historian and biographer Plutarch describes Lysander's actions leading up to the end of the Decelean (Ionian) War.

... Lysander sailed to the various cities in the neighbourhood and ordered all the Athenians he found to return to Athens, and he proclaimed that anybody caught outside the city would be put to death without exception. This step, which drove all the Athenians into the capital at once, was deliberately taken so as to produce intense scarcity and famine in Athens as soon as possible, and to forestall the necessity for a siege, against which the Athenians might otherwise have been well provided.

...

... [Lysander] learned that the people of Athens were suffering terribly from famine, and so he sailed into the Piraeus and reduced the city, which was forced to accept the terms he laid down.

Source: Plutarch, *The Rise and Fall of Athens: Nine Greek Lives*, translation and introduction by I Scott-Kilvert, Penguin Books, Harmondsworth, 1975, pp. 298–300

Rome

Sources 9–12 relate to Question 3.

Source 9

This extract from the Roman historian Livy describes the rivalry between Romulus and Remus over the foundation of Rome.

Remus is said to have been the first to receive an omen: six vultures appeared to him. The augury¹ had just been announced to Romulus when double the number appeared to him. Each was saluted as king by his own party. The one side based their claim on the priority of the appearance, the other on the number of the birds. Then followed an angry altercation; heated passions led to bloodshed; in the tumult² Remus was killed. The more common report is that Remus contemptuously³ jumped over the newly raised walls and was forthwith killed by the enraged Romulus, who exclaimed, “So shall it be henceforth with every one who leaps over my walls.” Romulus thus became sole ruler, and the city was called after him, its founder.

Source: T Livius, *The History of Rome by Titus Livius: Vol 1*, Rev. Canon Roberts (trans.), JM Dent & Sons Ltd, London, 1926, p. 9

¹**augury** – omen or prediction

²**tumult** – violence

³**contemptuously** – with disgust

Source 10

This 19th-century painting, titled *Coriolanus*, depicts the Roman aristocrat Gnaeus Marcius Coriolanus being confronted by Roman diplomats and priests, as well as his mother, wife and children. They are begging him to end his siege of Rome in 488 BCE.



Source: Soma Orlai Petrich, *Coriolanus*, oil on canvas, 48 × 71 cm, 1869, Keresztény Museum, Hungary

Source 11

This extract from the Greek political historian Polybius describes the role of the people in the Roman constitution.

[W]hat part is left for the people in the constitution, when the senate has these various functions, especially the control of the receipts and expenditure of the exchequer¹; and when the consuls, again, have absolute power over the details of military preparation, and an absolute authority in the field? There is, however, a part left [to] the people, and it is a most important one. For the people is the sole fountain of honor and of punishment; and it is by these two things and these alone that dynasties and constitutions and, in a word, human society are held together ...

Source: AHM Jones (ed.), *A History of Rome Through the Fifth Century, Vol 1: The Republic*, Harper & Row, New York, 1968, p. 178

¹**exchequer** – the public treasury of Rome

Source 12

This is a historical interpretation, published in 1978, which examines Pompey's unconventional rise to political prominence in Ancient Rome.

On 12 March 81 [BCE] ... Pompey held his triumph. It was officially for his victory over Hiarbas¹, since his other victories had been over Roman citizens ...

...

More important from the historical point of view is the effect his triumph must have had on the other political leaders of the time. Centuries of tradition decreed that the aspiring politician should ... slowly work his way up the ladder of promotion ...

...

And yet here was a young soldier ... winning a dangerous amount of personal popularity with the people.

Source: J Leach, *Pompey the Great*, Croom Helm Ltd, London, 1978, pp. 32 and 33

¹**Hiarbas** – King of Numidia (North Africa)

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