

Ancient History

Students of Ancient History need to ensure that they are familiar with the format of the Ancient History examination paper. The specimen paper and the 2006 HSC paper are the best guide... Students can find these papers by going to NSW HSC Online. (<http://hsc.csu.edu.au/>) and selecting the *Syllabus* and *Exam* link buttons at the top of the Ancient History page. This link also provides access to the outcomes and content of the syllabus, examiners' comments and marking guidelines.

The syllabus requires students to study from at least TWO of the following areas:

- Egypt
- Near East
- Greece
- Rome

It is essential that you organise your study using the relevant outcomes and content from the syllabus for each topic. You should clearly understand which topic you have studied in class for each section. The examination is divided into four sections.

Section 1

Core study – Cities of Vesuvius – Pompeii and Herculaneum. (25 marks)

Students will be required to answer three questions on the core. You will answer these questions in the examination booklet. Plan your time carefully using the number of marks for each section as a guide, so the sections worth the most marks should be allocated the most time. You may be asked to assess or evaluate the sources and also to use your own knowledge. Be sure to understand the meaning of these key words by visiting NSW HSC Online and clicking on the *Glossary* button in the Ancient History section. As part of your revision, use the pages from the syllabus to help you develop your study notes. Archeological and written sources should be used carefully to support views you express. Compare and contrast the views from various sources, including ancient and modern writers, including recent scholarship.

Section II

Ancient Societies (25 marks)

In this section, students are required to answer a question in four or five parts on one society. The questions will include short answers and extended responses and may include a source-based question. It is essential that you plan your time and answers carefully. When revising for this section, ensure your familiarity with the relevant outcomes, learn to and learn about statements in the syllabus.

It is important to remember that ancient societies were fluid, that the society's values and attitudes were not static; they were influenced by various political, social, economic and religious events. It is essential that you understand the whole society as outlined in the syllabus. The NSW HSC Online site provides

an excellent section on using archaeological sources when studying an ancient society.

Section III

Personalities in Their Times (25 marks)

Students will be required to answer a two or three part, structured essay question on the personality studied in class. Plan your time carefully using the number of marks for each section as the basis, so the sections worth the most marks are allocated the most time. For example the last part of the question will be worth 15 marks. It may ask you to assess or evaluate the personality and their impact on their times. Be sure to understand the meaning of these key words. Go to NSW HSC Online and click on the *Glossary* link button. As part of your revision, reflect on the issues surrounding the personality – the impact that family, society and events, had on their life. If you studied Julius Caesar consider the revision questions on the NSW HSC Online Ancient History page.

It is important to develop your own assessment of the personality. Ask questions of the various written and archaeological sources. Compare and contrast the views from various sources, including ancient and modern writers. For example how have the interpretations of Hatshepsut changed? The NSW HSC Online site will help you to answer this question and also refer you to other useful links for sources.

Section IV Historical Periods

Students will be required to answer one question as an extended response on one of the historical periods listed in the syllabus. Students are required to understand the whole period. Do not limit yourself to one key event as the question may ask you to assess a number of key events. Check the principal focus, relevant outcomes and the student learn to and learn abouts for each topic. Your study notes should include ancient sources (including archaeological) and modern scholarship.

History Extension

Question 1 (25 marks)

The syllabus is an excellent resource to help students organise their study notes. Question 1 will use an unseen passage as a stimulus to explore the key questions from *Part 1: What is History?* It is important that you develop study notes, ideas and responses to each of the key questions. You should also include examples from the source book of historical readings or other readings in your study notes. You need to continually reflect and define your understanding of the five key questions. It is also helpful to read widely from various sources to gain a deeper understanding of current historiographical issues.

Question 2 (25 marks)

Question 2 will ask you to analyse an historiographical issue with specific reference to your case study.

As part of your revision of your case study, ensure you clearly understand the principal focus and the areas of historical debate. It is important that you understand the historiographical issues and how these have changed over time. In the exam, plan your answer to the question carefully and ensure that you demonstrate your understanding of relevant issues and historical debates. Remember you must be able to evaluate and analyse key interpretations of the issues.

The examiners' comments from the previous HSC are a valuable source of information, including the examiners general comments and specific comments for both questions. You will also find a copy of marking guidelines with these notes through NSW HSC Online.

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