

CLASSICAL STUDIES GLO2003Y1

INTERNAL ASSESSMENT ACTIVITY

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 91202 (VERSION 3) CLASSICAL STUDIES 2.3

Demonstrate understanding of a significant event in the classical world

Level 2, Internal assessment

4 credits

STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

Overview:

In this activity:

- You are going to research **one** of the following topics and produce work that demonstrates understanding of a significant event in the classical world.
 - the Persian Wars
 - the rebuilding of the Acropolis under Pericles
 - the Peloponnesian War
 - the fall of the Republic
 - the eruption of Vesuvius
 - Masada
 - the death of Caesar
- Students must support their explanations with primary source evidence that relates specifically to the context.
- While not a requirement of the standard students are strongly encouraged to use secondary source material to support the arguments made within the assessment activity. This may allow students to examine with perception, a significant event in the classical world.

Conditions:

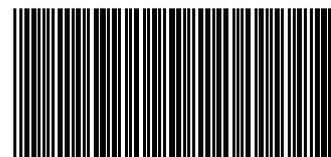
- This activity must be entirely your own work.
- There is no time limit for this activity
- There is **no word limit on answers to questions**.
- Plagiarism detection software may be used to check this is your own work.

You will need:

- A range of primary source materials to support your answer.

Supervisor requirements:

- Supervision is not required for this assessment.
- Upload your assessment to the GLO2003Y1 OTLE assessment dropbox when you have completed it.



ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 91202 (VERSION 3) CLASSICAL STUDIES 2.3

Demonstrate understanding of a significant event in the classical world

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Develop understanding of a significant event in the classical world.	Demonstrate in-depth understanding of a significant event in the classical world.	Demonstrate perceptive understanding of a significant event in the classical world.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. *Demonstrate understanding* involves: (Achievement)

- using primary source evidence
- placing the event in context to explain why the event was important.

Demonstrate in-depth understanding involves: (Achievement with Merit)

- placing the event in context to give an informed explanation of why the event was important.

Features of an informed explanation include:

- using primary source evidence of specific relevance to the context
- explaining a range of aspects and/or factors.

Demonstrate perceptive understanding involves: (Achievement with Excellence)

- giving an explanation that shows insight into why the event was important.

Features of a perceptive explanation may include but are not limited to:

- reasons for similarities and differences
- cultural expectations and codes of behaviour
- recognition of limitations of sources of evidence.
- Select the resources to suit your chosen context.

2. *Significant event* may refer to events in the classical world such as:

- the Persian Wars
- the rebuilding of the Acropolis under Pericles
- the Peloponnesian War
- the fall of the Republic
- the eruption of Vesuvius
- Masada.

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITY

CLASSICAL STUDIES

INSTRUCTIONS

- Read all the tasks carefully.
- To select a wide range of relevant evidence you should also use any other books or website evidence you can find. This applies particularly to the sources.
- Produce a **bibliography** of materials you have used for authentication purposes.
- Before answering the questions outlined in the tasks for each element, ensure that you have revised the relevant sections of the online material that relates to the topic you have chosen.
- Remember to refer to sources in your answers.
- Consult your teacher regarding the topic you wish to do.

TASK 1

Examine a range of primary sources and put the primary source material that is specifically relevant to the context of this significant event you have chosen (The death of Caesar or the Persian Wars).

TASK 2

Explain the events that led up to the significant event you have chosen. Make sure that you support your information with primary source material. If there are limitations of evidence for this significant event, outline them here.

TASK 3

Explain what happened during this significant event and support your explanation with primary source material. You must write **two developed conclusions** outlining the range of factors that contributed to this event being significant for the classical world.

You should note any:

- similarities and differences – if this applies to your topic
- cultural expectations and codes of behaviour – if this applies to your topic
- insightful aspects that inform the explanation for the significance of this event.

You should **use a range of primary source materials** in your answer.



Reminder: Upload your completed assessment to the GLO2003Y1 OTLE assessment dropbox.

ASSESSMENT RESOURCES

Consult your teacher regarding the topic you would like to use.

Your teacher may have a list of primary sources that could be used for part one of this assessment, and also reinforce the importance of using these primary sources throughout your essay to support any important points you are making.

For example, if you are writing your essay on the **death of Julius Caesar and the fall of the Republic** you could use the following primary source material:

PRIMARY SOURCE MATERIAL ON JULIUS CAESAR

- Cicero (a politician and contemporary of Caesar whose speeches and letters are a valuable source of evidence for the period).
- Caesar (wrote a commentary of his wars in Gaul and also of the civil war for propaganda purposes).
- Plutarch (a Greek philosopher and biographer).
- Suetonius (secretary for the Emperor Hadrian in the second century CE and one of Caesar's biographers).
- Appian (an Egyptian who gained Roman citizenship and worked in finance for the emperors. He wrote a history of Rome's wars).
- A collection of primary source material provided in GLO2030A.

SECONDARY SOURCE MATERIAL ON JULIUS CAESAR

- *Julius Caesar* (Life and Times Series), Haus Publishing (2005)
- *Caesar*, Allan Massie, Sceptre, (1994)
- *A History of the Roman People*, Ward, Heichelheim and Yeo, Prentice Hall (2003)
- *From the Gracchi to Nero: A History of Rome from 133 BC to AD 68*, H.H Scullard, Methuen & Co Ltd (1971)

THERE ARE MANY WEBSITES THAT INCLUDE:

- www.bestessay.com/essays/life-of-julius-caesar-and-his-impact-in-rome.php
- www.unrv.com/fall-republic/gaius-julius-caesar.php
- <https://nz.answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20090308221805AAWTsQG>
- www.123helpme.com/view.asp?id=22691
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assassination_of_Julius_Caesar
- <http://jackjackkiwi.hubpages.com/hub/Julius-Caesar-A-Revolution-of-Leadership>
- www.ask.com/question/how-did-julius-caesar-affect-the-roman-empire
- www.ancientmilitary.com/roman-military.htm

Please note that if these websites are not available there are also many links to be found on OTLE.

PRIMARY SOURCE EXTRACTS

The following extracts are primary source material to help you complete Achievement Standard 91202 (2.3): **Demonstrate understanding of a significant event in the classical world.**

Read only the extracts that you think will be useful for your answer. You can quote from the extracts, but keep your quotations brief; or you can simply refer to a passage or paraphrase it.

A: FAMILY CLAIMS

As quaestor, probably in 69 BCE, Caesar delivered an impressive funeral oration on his aunt. She was the widow of Sulla's chief enemy, Marius, who had been consul seven times and had saved Rome from the German invaders (104–100 BCE). In this oration Caesar made dramatic claims for his family.

During his quaestorship he made the customary funeral speeches from the Rostra in honour of his aunt Julia and his wife Cornelia; and while eulogising Julia's maternal and paternal ancestry, did the same for the Caesars too: Her mother, he said, was a descendant of kings, namely the Royal Marcians, a family founded by the Roman king Ancus Marcius; and her father, of gods – since the Julians (of which we Caesars are a branch) reckon descent from the Goddess Venus ...

(Suetonius, *Julius Caesar* 6)

B: AMBITION

Caesar showed keen ambition early on and Alexander the Great was a great inspiration to him:

As quaestor Caesar was appointed to Western Spain, where the governor-general, who held praetorian rank, sent him off on an assize-circuit. At Cadiz he saw a statue of Alexander the Great in the Temple of Hercules, and was overheard to sigh impatiently: vexed, it seems that at an age when Alexander had already conquered the whole world, he himself had done nothing in the least epoch-making.

(Suetonius, *Julius Caesar* 7)

C: CAESAR'S CAREER PATH

After serving as quaestor in Spain, Caesar returned to Rome, and was elected aedile for 65 BCE. Aediles usually provided entertainment for the people, but Caesar outdid all expectations.

As aedile he put up temporary colonnades to grace the comitium and the forum, the public halls called basilicas too, and even the Capitol itself, so that he could display some part of the lavish supplies he had collected for the people's entertainment. He gave wild beast hunts and shows, both with Bibulus his colleague and also on his own, with the result that he got the whole credit for their joint outlays. Bibulus commented: The same has happened to me as to Pollux; the temple in the forum dedicated to the twins is called 'the temple of Castor', so the shows that I have given jointly with Caesar are called 'Caesar's shows'.

(Suetonius, *Julius Caesar* 10)

PONTIFEX MAXIMUS

Caesar's extravagance as aedile paid off; in 63 he was elected both to the praetorship for 62, and to the office of pontifex maximus, that is, head of the Roman state's official priesthood, in a heated election.

Caesar stood for the office of pontifex maximus, accompanying his bid with bribes on an immense scale; as he reflected on the total of his debts, when he kissed his mother as he set off on the morning of the election, he is said to have commented: If I don't come back as pontifex maximus, I won't come back at all. He got the better of his two most influential opponents so comprehensively, though they were both much older than he and much more distinguished, that he got more votes in the tribes that they belonged to than they did in total.

(Suetonius, *Julius Caesar* 13)

D: CAESAR ACCUSED

When Catiline's revolutionary schemes were exposed, Caesar was accused of having been implicated. But Cicero refused to incriminate him unjustly; his enemies, however, stirred up a great deal of hostility against him.

At this same period Quintus Catulus and C. Piso tried by every means in their power to induce Cicero to get Caesar incriminated ... Both of them were harbouring deep resentment against him ... The moment seemed right for an attack, for Caesar was deeply in debt through his exceptional generosity in private life and his lavish displays in public.

But when they could not induce the consul [Cicero] to do such a dastardly deed, they went around themselves fabricating tales about what they said they had heard from an informer or the Allobroges, and fanned the resentment against Caesar to such a point that some equites Romani, who were on guard outside the Temple of Concord to protect it, threatened Caesar with their swords as he left the Senate house.

(Sallust, *Catiline* 49)

CAESAR'S PRAETORSHIP

Caesar returned to Spain where he had been quaestor and immediately set out to gain a military reputation and recoup the money he spent being elected aedile, pontifex maximus and praetor.

Directly after his praetorship Caesar received Spain as his province ... As soon as he reached Spain he set to work immediately. In a few days he raised ten cohorts in addition to the force of twenty cohorts which was there already ... subduing the tribes which before then had been independent of Rome. These military successes of his were followed up by equally good work in civilian administration. He established good relations between the various cities ... By these measures he had acquired a great reputation by the time he left his province. He had become rich himself and he had made his soldiers rich as a result of his campaigns and he had been saluted by them as Imperator.

(Plutarch, *Caesar* 11, 12)

CAESAR AS CONSUL

When a consul was determined enough and unscrupulous enough, he could force things through. Caesar did so with his land law.

Caesar so presented his first land bill about the land, which he intended to distribute ... the whole population that no fault was found with it at all ... Nevertheless practically all the optimates who were outside the partnership were very disgruntled, especially as the law had been so framed as to be impossible to fault, even though it was to the disadvantage of them all. They suspected – quite justifiably – that the bill was designed to attach the people to him and to give him a reputation and influence above anyone else. So even though no one spoke against it, they did not express their approval either ...

However as he still wished to have the support of the leading senators ... he began by asking his colleague Bibulus whether he disapproved of the provisions of the law ... and prevailed on the people to join him in the request, saying to them: You will have the law if Bibulus is willing. To this Bibulus replied loudly: You won't have the law this year even if you all want it ...

Bibulus ... continued to obstruct the passage of the bill with the help of three sympathetic tribunes. Finally when no other pretext for delay remained, he proclaimed a sacred period for all the remaining days of the year, which made it legally impossible for the people even to convene an assembly. Caesar paid little attention and fixed a day for the passage of the law. The people had occupied the forum during the night, when Bibulus came up with his supporters and forced his way into the Temple of Castor from which Caesar was speaking. The audience made way for him, partly out of respect, partly because they did not expect any opposition from him; but when he got up and tried to speak, he was pushed down the steps ...

(Dio Cassius 38.1,6)

CAESAR AS CONSUL

Cicero, who had left Rome early in the year, returned in July and wrote a stream of letters to his friend Atticus. The following was written towards the end of the month.

Why beat about the bush on the respublica? It is utterly done for, and the situation is worse than when you left because then we seemed to have arbitrary government based on popular support, disgusting to our sort of course but not ruinous, but now it is universally hated that we dread the scene of its eruption ...

(Cicero, *Letters to Atticus* 2.21.1)

E: THE CONFERENCE AT LUCA 56 BCE

The alliance between Pompey, Crassus and Caesar came under pressure while Caesar was in Gaul. He returned to his province of Cisalpine Gaul to a town close to Rome in an attempt to rebuild the alliance.

When Caesar came south from Gaul to the city of Luca a great many Romans went there to meet him. Among these were Pompey and Crassus. At a private conference which the three men held together they decided to tighten their grip on public affairs and take over the entire control of the state. Caesar was to retain his army and Pompey and Crassus were to hold other armies. The only way to carry out this plan was to stand for a second consulship. Pompey and Crassus were to put themselves forward as candidates and Caesar was to cooperate by writing to his friends and sending back large numbers of his soldiers to support them at the elections.

(Plutarch, Crassus 14)

F: CICERO SUPPORTS CAESAR

In defending Caesar's wish to stay in Gaul for a further term, Cicero argued that services to the state were more important than personal quarrels. He reminds the Senate of the honours paid to Caesar.

Now on the present occasion a great war has been going on in Gaul; great tribes have been subdued by Caesar, but not yet brought finally under the control of law; justice and a sufficiently abiding peace are not as yet established. As we can see, the war is well in hand; indeed, to tell the truth, it is well nigh over, but the situation is that the task will soon be done provided that the same man who initiated it puts the finishing touches to the job. But there is also the risk that, if someone takes over, we shall find the dying embers of this vast war re-kindled and renewed. In my capacity as a senator, therefore, for all that I may be a personal enemy of Caesar's, it is my duty to be the friend, as I have always been, of the respublica, I lay aside my personal ill-will, has any man the right to blame me for it? ...

I must confess, gentlemen, that in politics my views have coincided with yours rather than with those of Gaius Caesar – and no less so now than hitherto. For you are the men who greeted Gabinius' dispatches with such a devastating and unprecedented mark of censure and disgrace by denying him a public thanksgiving, you are the men who decreed in unprecedented terms a longer public thanksgiving in honour of Gaius Caesar than has ever before been given to one individual in any one war. Why then should I wait for someone to reconcile us? The highest order in the land [the Senate] has already done so, the very order which has been the supreme authority and guide in informing public policy as well as my own.

(Cicero, On the Consular Provinces 19, 25)

G: CAESAR'S ENEMIES' FIRST MOVES

Caesar's opponents began their campaign to get him recalled as early as 51 BCE. Marcellus' attempt came to an end when Pompey refused to support it.

There were also some remarks of Pompey's which gave considerable grounds for hope; he said that he could not reasonably decide about Caesar's provinces before March 1st [50 BCE], but would not hesitate to do so after that date. When asked what would happen if anyone imposed a veto on that day, he said it made no difference whether Caesar intended to disobey the Senate's decree, or to put someone else to prevent the Senate passing a decree: What then if he wants to be consul and retain his army? said another. Pompey very mildly replied: What if my son wanted to lay into me with a cudgel? By remarks like these he has led people to believe that there is something between him and Caesar. So now it looks to me as if Caesar means to plump for one of these two alternatives: either he will stay in his province and forfeit his candidature this year, or he will leave it if he can be designated consul first.

(Caelius in Cicero, *Letters to His Friends* 8.8.9)

H: CROSSING THE RUBICON

On the 10th of January 49 BCE, Caesar crossed the river Rubicon, the boundary between his province and Italy, with a small number of troops in the first military act of the civil war.

As he stood in two minds, an apparition of superhuman size and beauty was seen sitting on the river-bank playing a reed pipe. A party of shepherds gathered around to listen, and, when some of Caesar's men left their posts to do the same, the apparition snatched a trumpet from one of them, ran down to the river, and blew a thunderous blast, and crossed over. Caesar exclaimed: Let us accept this as a sign from the gods, and follow where they beckon, in vengeance on our double-dealing enemies. The die is cast.

(Suetonius, *Julius* 32)

I: SUETONIUS' DISCUSSION

Suetonius quotes a number of opinions about Caesar's motives.

Pompey used often to say that Caesar wanted everything reduced to confusion as his private means were inadequate for completing the projects he had undertaken or for fulfilling the expectations that the people had been given of his return. Others say that he had been frightened at the thoughts of having to render account for all he had done in his first consulship in the face of auspices, laws, and vetoes; Marcus Cato had in fact been declaring repeatedly that he would prosecute Caesar as soon as he had disbanded his army. It was common talk that if he had to come back without office, he would plead his case in front of judges surrounded by an armed bodyguard like Milo. This is made more likely by the remark reported by Asinius Pollio; he says that when Caesar surveyed the enemy dead after the flight at the battle of Pharsalus, these were his actual words: This is what they wanted. For all my achievements, I, Gaius Caesar, would have been condemned, had I not sought help from my army.

ASSESSMENT RESOURCES

*Some think that his familiarity with power became an obsession and that, after weighing his own resources against those of his opponents, he took this opportunity of seizing the supremacy he had longed for all his life. Cicero seems to have been of this opinion; in his work *On Duties* he says that Caesar always had on his lips these lines (of which he offered a translation of his own): For if right is to be violated, let it be violated for the sake of becoming king. In other things let piety be observed.*

(Suetonius, *Julius* 3)

J: CAESAR THE DICTATOR

The following extracts suggest that Caesar was not interested in maintaining the traditional government of the republic.

And do you really think that there will be fewer decrees of the senate if I am in Naples? Why, when I'm in Rome, and pounding away in the forum, decrees are drafted in Balbus' house – that admirer of yours, my close friend. And as often as it occurs to him to do so, my name is added to the list of sponsors, and I hear that a decree has reached Armenia or Syria, said to have been passed on a motion proposed by me, before I have heard one word about the question at all.

(Cicero, *Letters to His Friends* 9.15.4)

Shortly after noon, Caesar appointed as consul a man to hold office until 1 January 44 – the following morning! So you will see that while Caninus was consul no one even had lunch. But at least there were no serious disasters during his consulship. In fact he was an astonishingly watchful consul, since he didn't have a wink of sleep in his whole consulship. This will seem like a great joke to you. But you're not here – if you were you'd weep.

(Cicero, *Letters to His Friends* 7.30)

Titus Ampius has recorded some of Caesar's public statements which reveal a similar presumption: that the republic was nothing. A mere name without form or substance, that Sulla had proved himself a fool by resigning his dictatorship, and that now his own word was law people ought to be more careful how they approached him.

(Suetonius, *Julius* 77)

But it was the following action ... which roused deadly hatred against him. When the Senate, armed with an imposing list of honours that they had just voted him, came to where he sat in front of the temple of Venus Genetrix, he did not rise to greet them.

(Suetonius, *Julius* 78)

K: CAESAR'S REFORMS

For the short periods during the civil war that Caesar was back in Rome, he initiated many reforms.

(Caesar) replenished many cities again with inhabitants, which had previously been destroyed, and sent there men without homes; the two noblest cities were Carthage and Corinth, which had been destroyed at the same time and were rebuilt and filled with people at the same time.

(Plutarch, Caesar 57)

(Caesar) began building a new forum with the spoils taken in Gaul, and paid more than a million gold pieces for the site alone.

(Suetonius, Julius 26)

He distributed 80,000 citizens to colonies overseas ... He granted citizenship to all doctors and professors of liberal arts to encourage them to reside in Rome and others to come to Rome. On the question of debt, he disappointed the general expectation of a cancellation, and eventually decreed that debtors should satisfy their creditors by surrendering their estates at the prices at which they had bought them before the civil war, less the original debt and any interest that had been paid: by this ruling about one quarter of debt was cancelled. He abolished the guilds except those of ancient foundation. He increased the penalties of crime, and removed from the Senate those convicted of extortion ... He imposed an import duty on foreign goods and enforced a sumptuary law, employing inspectors for this purpose.

(Suetonius, Julius 42–43)

L: CAESAR'S MURDER

Some of the arguments for and against Caesar's assassins are summed up in a letter written by an old friend of Caesar's in August 44 BCE (five months after Caesar's murder).

I am well aware of the things said against me since the death of Caesar. People reproach me for my grief at the death of a close friend, and my resentment at the murder of one I loved. They claim that patriotism must come before friendship, as if they had already proved that his death was beneficial to the respublica. But I shall not be clever; I frankly admit that I cannot reach their heights of philosophy. To me, fighting for Caesar in the civil war meant fighting, not for a principle, but for a friend. I did not like his actions, but I could not desert him. I did not approve of the civil war, nor even of the cause of the quarrel, but I did my best to strangle it at birth. So, when my friend won, I was not enthralled by profits or promotion – I left those things for others who were less close to him than I, and who have abused them scandalously. Financially, in fact, I have become worse off by that law of Caesar's which allowed many of those who are rejoicing at Caesar's death to retain their standing in the state. I put as much effort into saving the lives of the defeated party as to saving myself. How can I, who wanted nobody to be killed, fail to feel resentful at the death of the man who had the same wish, especially when the same people were responsible for his unpopularity and his death? You will catch it, they say, for daring to condemn what we have done. Damned insolence for

some men to boast of a crime, while denying others the right even to criticise with impunity! Why, even slaves have the right to feelings: to fear, to rejoice, to sorrow when they want to, and not when they are told. And that is what these self-styled champions of liberty are trying to intimidate us out of doing.

(C. Matius in Cicero, *Letters to His Friends* 11.28.2–3)

M: THE GOVERNMENT OF ROME

POWER OF THE SENATE

Polybius was a Greek writing in the second century BCE. He lived in Rome and wrote a history in which he analysed the Roman constitution. This is what he said about the powers of the senate.

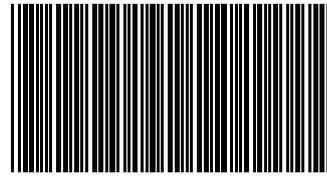
To pass to the senate. In the first place it has control of the treasury, all revenue and expenditure being regulated by it. For with the exception of payments made to the consuls, the quaestors are not allowed to disburse for any particular object without a decree of the senate. And even the item of expenditure which is far heavier and more important than any other – the outlay every five years by the censors on public works, whether construction or repairs – is under the control of the senate, which makes a grant to the censors for the purpose. Similarly, crimes committed in Italy which require a public investigation such as treason, conspiracy, poisoning and assassination, are under the jurisdiction of the senate.

(Polybius, 6.13)

THE AUTHORS

- **Polybius** – was a Greek writer who lived in Rome during the second century BCE. He wrote a universal history covering the period 220–144 BCE.
- **Cicero** – was a politician and a contemporary of Caesar. He wrote many works on philosophy and his letters and speeches are a valuable source for the period.
- **Caesar** – wrote a commentary of his wars in Gaul and also of the civil war for propaganda purposes. He was much admired for his simple prose.
- **Sallust** – was a politician and friend of Caesar. He wrote an account of the Catiline conspiracy.
- **Plutarch** – was a Greek philosopher and biographer. He wrote many works including a series of paired biographies of Greek and Roman soldiers and politicians.
- **Suetonius** – was a secretary for the Emperor Hadrian in the second century CE. He wrote a series of biographies of the first twelve emperors.
- **Appian** – was an Egyptian who managed to gain Roman citizenship and worked in finance for the emperors. He wrote a history of Rome's wars.
- **Aulus Gellius** – was a lawyer in Rome in the second century CE. His work, *Attic Nights*, covered a variety of topics.
- **Dio Cassius** – was a Roman politician and writer of the third century CE. He wrote a history of Rome from its beginnings up to his own time.

GLO2003Y1



STUDENTS – PLACE STUDENT ADDRESS LABEL BELOW OR WRITE IN YOUR DETAILS.

Full Name _____

ID No. _____

Address _____

(if changed)