



SAMPLE ASSESSMENT TASKS

ANCIENT HISTORY
ATAR YEAR 11
(SAMPLE 2)

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Sample assessment task

Ancient History – ATAR Year 11

Task 10 – Unit 2 (Egypt elective)

Assessment type: Historical inquiry

Conditions

Period allowed for completion of the task: 3 weeks

One week of class time and homework

The validation essay (Task 11) will be written in class at the end of the research period.

Task weighting

10% of the school mark for this pair of units

Investigate a significant feature of Egyptian society

Select **one (1)** of the following significant features of Egyptian society to investigate

- art in Old Kingdom Egypt
- role, status and importance of Royal women in Old Kingdom Egypt
- the family in Old Kingdom Egypt
- the military in Old Kingdom Egypt
- beliefs, rituals, and festivals in Old Kingdom Egypt.

1. Devise a proposition. (2 marks)
2. Devise a set of focus questions to test your proposition. Use the Historical Knowledge and Understanding content dot points for significant features listed in the syllabus to guide your research. (3 marks)
3. Select a range of sources which provide different perspectives, including **at least three (3)** ancient sources. (6 marks)
4. Use an appropriate note-making framework to record your findings.
The inquiry notes must:
 - support the proposition (or present an alternate view)
 - address the focus questions
 - be clear, ordered and succinct (headings can be used)
 - cover all aspects of your inquiry.The source of the information for your research notes must be recorded according to school protocols. (10 marks)
5. Construct a bibliography according to the school protocols. (4 marks)

Notes and bibliography are to be submitted for assessment at the same time as the validation essay.

Total = 25 marks

Marking key for sample assessment task 10 – Unit 2 (Egypt elective)

Historical inquiry process

Description	Marks
Proposition	
Devises a clear proposition to be tested	2
Devises a simple proposition to be tested	1
Subtotal	2
Focus questions	
Devises a set of questions which clearly identifies the key areas of the topic and relates directly to the proposition or a part of it	3
Devises a set of questions which identify some areas of the topic and link to the proposition or part of it	2
Uses simple questions that may or may not link to the proposition or part of it	1
Subtotal	3
Selection of sources	
Selects a range of sources that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide accurate information and evidence appropriate to the inquiry provide different perspectives include at least three ancient sources appropriate to the inquiry 	5–6
Selects some sources that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide some information and evidence appropriate to the inquiry provide some different perspectives include one or two ancient sources that may be appropriate to the inquiry 	3–4
Selects a few sources that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide limited information show one perspective include only modern sources that may or may not be appropriate to the inquiry 	1–2
Subtotal	6
Inquiry notes	
Presents notes in a clear, ordered, succinct fashion, using an appropriate note-making framework	2
Presents notes in some order	1
Subtotal	2
Makes notes that support the proposition (or present an alternate view)	2
Makes notes that provide some support for the proposition	1
Subtotal	2
Makes notes that address the focus questions	2
Makes notes that contain some links to the focus questions	1
Subtotal	2
Makes notes that are relevant to key areas of the inquiry	2
Makes notes that relate to some areas of the inquiry	1
Subtotal	2
Evidence is cited correctly in notes	2
Evidence is cited but not always correctly	1
Subtotal	2
Bibliography	
Follows correct format according to school protocols	3–4
Follows a simple format, listing sources used	1–2
Subtotal	4
Total	25

Sample assessment task

Ancient History

Task 7 – Unit 2 (Egypt elective)

Assessment type: Short answer

Conditions

Time for the task: 45 minutes under standard test conditions

The task is based on: Institutions and structures of Egyptian society (including social structure, religious organisation, political institutions, and economic activities).

Task weighting

5% of the school mark for this pair of units

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1. Briefly explain the influence of Ancient Egyptian creation myths on tomb architecture and decoration in the Old Kingdom. (3 marks)

2. Explain the god-king's divine power and the importance of his major roles. (6 marks)

3. With reference to the evidence, describe the growing influence of the Heliopolitan Priesthood in the Fifth Dynasty. (4 marks)

4. *The unification of Egypt around 3100 BC was carried out over a prolonged period of time and was most likely marked by increased war-like activity and conflict.*

Discuss the material evidence that supports the statement above. (6 marks)

Marking key for sample assessment task 7 – Unit 2 (Egypt elective)

1. Briefly explain the influence of Ancient Egyptian creation myths on tomb architecture and decoration in the Old Kingdom.

Description	Marks
Provides a clear, detailed explanation of the influence of Ancient Egyptian creation myths on tomb architecture in the Old Kingdom Uses evidence to support main points	3
Attempts to provide an explanation of the influence of Ancient Egyptian creation myths on tomb architecture in the Old Kingdom Uses but does not expand upon supporting evidence	2
Response makes some reference to the influence of Ancient Egyptian creation myths on tomb architecture in the Old Kingdom Provides limited supporting evidence	1
Total	3
Answer could include, but is not limited to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A discussion of the mound-like shape that was contained within the Old Kingdom mastabas and its connection to the concept of the primeval mound which was believed to have emerged from the waters of chaos at creation • Reference might also be made to the development of royal tombs from mastabas into a pyramid shape 	

2. Explain the god-king's divine power and the importance of his major roles.

Description	Marks
Provides a clear, detailed explanation of the powers and roles of the god-king in Old Kingdom Egypt Uses evidence to support the main argument that the king took on divine powers and responsibilities and became the intercessor between the people and gods	5–6
Attempts to provide an explanation of most of the powers and roles of the god-king in Old Kingdom Egypt Uses but does not expand upon supporting evidence	3–4
Provides a brief explanation of the powers and roles of the god-king in Old Kingdom Egypt Provides limited supporting evidence	1–2
Total	6
Answer could include, but is not limited to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egyptian society was hierarchical with the god-king presiding at the top of this social pyramid. The god-king was believed to be divine in nature, an earthly representation of Horus, the Son of Re and linked to Osiris also through his eventual death • Responsibilities of the god-king may include: role of High Priest (acts as intermediary between the people and the gods), supreme law maker, military commander and administrator of the 'two lands' 	

3. With reference to the evidence, describe the growing influence of the Heliopolitan Priesthood in the Fifth Dynasty.

Description	Marks
Provides a detailed and accurate description of the influence of the Heliopolitan Priesthood in the Fifth Dynasty Description includes discussion of the Heliopolitan doctrine (Heliopolitan version of Ancient Egyptian creation myth) and emphasises the growing influence of the cult of the sun during the Fifth Dynasty Uses evidence to support this argument	3–4
Provides a limited description of the Heliopolitan Priesthood Response may be brief with detail lacking and may contain errors of fact Provides minimal evidence	1–2
Total	4
Answer could include, but is not limited to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The priests at Heliopolis were an educated elite • Westcar Papyrus – links this prophecy to cult at Heliopolis • Literary evidence – the combining of <i>re</i> with the king's name (started in the Fourth Dynasty yet became more common in the Fifth) for example, <i>Sahure</i>, <i>Nuiserre</i> • Royal titulary also changed to reflect dominance of sun cult – Son of Re added • Material evidence – the construction of elaborate sun temples for six of the Fifth Dynasty rulers • The Pyramid Texts' focus on Re-Atum and the family of gods associated with the Heliopolis view of creation • There appears to be a lack of evidence for any of the other major gods, such as Ptah to rival the ascendancy of the sun god and his priests at the time 	

4. *The unification of Egypt around 3100 BC was carried out over a prolonged period of time and was most likely marked by increased war-like activity and conflict.*

Discuss the material evidence that supports the statement above.

Description	Marks
Provides a detailed and accurate discussion of the events surrounding the unification of Egypt c. 3100 BC, and a detailed analysis of the evidence for increased war-like activity at this time Uses relevant material evidence to support this argument and shows awareness of controversies over the interpretation of the evidence	5–6
Provides a detailed and accurate discussion of the events surrounding the unification of Egypt c. 3100 BC Uses some relevant material evidence to support this argument; however, analysis lacks depth and/or contains some generalisation	3–4
Provides limited discussion of the events surrounding the unification of Egypt c. 3100 BC Attempts to use some material evidence, typically unsuccessfully, to support the argument for increased war-like activity at this time	2
Response is too limited Answer may contain errors of fact and minimal evidence is provided	1
Total	6
Answer could include, but is not limited to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narmer Palette and the various features on this decorative palette need to be elaborated on. These could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the smiting pose of the king, beheaded captives, bound captives, fleeing enemies ▪ there is also a representation of Pharaoh Narmer wearing the crown of Upper Egypt on one side and the crown of Lower Egypt on the other (this may indicate both confrontation and resolution in an Egypt united under one ruler) 	

- Battlefield Palette – the king is possibly represented as a lion which would indicate some sort of confrontation
- Scorpion macehead – King of Upper Egypt shown supporting an irrigation project while above him are the standards of conquered towns of Lower Egypt (this would indicate some sort of confrontation had taken place)
- Some awareness of the controversies over the extent to which this evidence actually does relate to the unification of Egypt should be shown

5. Discuss the evidence that supports the theory that there was a decline in economic conditions towards the end of the Old Kingdom.

Description	Marks
Provides a detailed and accurate discussion of the events surrounding the collapse of the Old Kingdom, which is focused on the economic factors that may have contributed to the collapse Provides a detailed discussion of the relevant material evidence to support this argument and links this back to the topic	5–6
Provides a detailed and accurate discussion of the events surrounding the collapse of the Old Kingdom, particularly economic factors contributing to this Uses some relevant material evidence to support this argument; however, discussion of the evidence may lack some depth and/or contain some generalisation	3–4
Discussion of the events surrounding the collapse of the Old Kingdom is limited Attempts to use some evidence, typically unsuccessfully, to support the argument for the decline in economic conditions Answer may contain errors of fact	1–2
Total	6
Answer could include, but is not limited to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease in royal revenues – evidence from perpetual tax exemption decrees to large swathes of temple and pyramid owned land • Pyramids were smaller in size and of inferior workmanship • International trade was disrupted by rebellions in Nubia and problems in Byblos which meant fewer resources were coming in – evidence from the historical record and the example of Harkhuf and other caravan leaders of trading/military expeditions at this time • Climate change in Ethiopia and in East Africa led to agricultural production problems – modern scientific survey evidence 	

Sample assessment task

Ancient History – ATAR Year 11

Task 9 – Unit 2 (Egypt elective)

Assessment type: Source analysis

Conditions

Time for the task: 45 minutes under standard test conditions

The task is based on **two (2)** sources presenting different perspectives of the economic, political and religious conditions of the Fifth Dynasty. **At least one (1)** source is ancient.

Task weighting

10% of the school mark for this pair of units

Source 1

Verses 364, 365 and 368 of *Utterance 267* of the *South Wall Hieroglyphs*.

These verses can be accessed at the link below:

<http://www.pyramidtextsonline.com/antesouth.html>

Source 2

During the Fifth Dynasty Egypt seems to have been opened up to the outside world, both northwards and southwards. The reliefs in the mortuary temple built at Abusir by Userkaf's successor, Sahure, include the usual representations of conquered countries (belonging more to rhetoric than to historical evidence), but they also show the return of a maritime trading expedition probably from Byblos, as well as forays into the Syrian hinterland, if the references to bears in these regions are to be believed. A campaign against the Libyans has also been dated to Sahure's reign, although there is some doubt surrounding this. It seems that relations with foreign countries during Sahure's time, just as in Userkaf's, were primarily economic: the exploitation of mines in the Sinai, diorite quarrying to the west of Aswan and an expedition to Punt, which is mentioned on the Palermo Stone and perhaps also depicted on the reliefs in Sahure's mortuary temple.

Grimal, N., *A history of Ancient Egypt* (2003), p.76

1. Explain the historical context of Source 1. (4 marks)

2. Explain the key message/s of Source 2. Provide evidence in your response. (4 marks)

Marking key for sample assessment task 9 – Unit 2 (Egypt elective)

1. Explain the historical context of Source 1.

Description	Marks
Identifies the focus of the source and provides specific details of dates, events and/or people	4
Identifies the focus of the source and outlines the dates, events and/or people	3
Identifies the focus of the source and outlines some of the dates, events and/or people	2
Identifies the focus of the source	1
Total	4
Answer could include, but is not limited to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pharaoh Unas, the last king of the Fifth Dynasty in the Old Kingdom (regnal dates c. 2375–2325 BC) has died and is going on to join the gods in the heavens These are the earliest written examples of the Pyramid Texts which seem to have been a combination of the actual funeral service of the pharaoh and the prayers/incantations which would enable him to be both an Osiris figure and to be at one with Re in the solar boat in the heavens during his afterlife 	

2. Explain the key message/s of Source 2. Provide evidence in your response.

Description	Marks
Accurately identifies and clearly explains the message/s of Source 2 Provides clear evidence to support the answer	4
Identifies and briefly explains the message/s of Source 2 Provides limited evidence to support the answer	3
Identifies and describes a message of Source 2 with little explanation and/or evidence provided	2
Answer reflects little understanding of Source 2, with a simple recount of the contents of the source	1
Total	4
Answer could include, but is not limited to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key message in this source relates to evidence in Sahure's mortuary temple at Abusir which seems to show an actual trading expedition The author, Grimal, is saying that there is evidence for ongoing trade with areas to the west, north and east of the Nile Valley. The reliefs cover the standard representations of conquered countries, but the author contends that the evidence goes further and that the reliefs and other sources show actual places Grimal makes the point that Sahure (second king in the Fifth Dynasty) is carrying on the activities that were taking place in Userkaf's reign (first king of Fifth Dynasty) Evidence to support the existence of trade is outlined in the extract and the author makes the assertion that the primary focus of international relations was economic rather than military. The evidence supporting trade and exploitation of resources that can be found at this site, elsewhere in Egypt and outside Egypt would support this assertion 	

3. Identify and account for the perspectives of Sources 1 and 2.
Your answer should include specific reference to the sources and may include discussion of purpose, motive, place, time and/or contestability.

Description	Marks
Accurately identifies the perspective of Source 1	1
Accurately identifies the perspective of Source 2	1
Subtotal	2
Account for the perspectives of Source 1 and Source 2	
Provides a clear and detailed account for the perspectives of Source 1 and Source 2 Account includes a discussion of the following factors as appropriate to each source: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • purpose and/or motive and/or • place and/or time and/or • contestability 	4
Provides a clear and detailed account for the perspective of one source Account includes a discussion of the following factors as appropriate to the source: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • purpose and/or motive and/or • place and/or time and/or • contestability AND Provides a limited account for the perspective of the other source Account includes a limited discussion of the some of the following factors as appropriate to the source: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • purpose and/or motive and/or • place and/or time and/or • contestability 	3
Provides a limited account for the perspectives of Source 1 and Source 2 Account includes a limited discussion of some of the following factors as appropriate to each source: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • purpose and/or motive and/or • place and/or time and/or • contestability OR Makes statements about the perspectives of each source	2
Makes statements about the perspectives of one source	1
Subtotal	4
Total	6
Answer could include, but is not limited to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source 1 is an ancient source and is a direct translation from the walls of the tomb chamber of the pharaoh Unas. We are not told the date of the translation and this could be important because there is still debate over the actual meaning of these Utterances • The purpose is to provide a suitable funeral and transition to the appropriate afterlife for the pharaoh and the motive in writing these down for the first time ever on the walls of a tomb chamber (at least as far as we know this is the case) was possibly to provide ongoing support for the deceased pharaoh • These texts are definitely genuine and date to the relevant time period for the king. The assumption that is made from these is that all that can be done has been done and that it has been done successfully. He is now at one with the gods • Source 2 is an extract from a book by the reputable French Egyptologist Nicolas Grimal, which gives a very straightforward account of trade in the Fifth Dynasty, particularly under Sahure. It is clear and accurate with precise evidence that supports his point of view • The purpose is to educate and to inform – this is a text book and perhaps his motive could be to correct what he considers to be misinterpretations of this period. He presents a valid, up to date account and a reasonable hypothesis based on evidence 	

4. Using your own knowledge of your period of study, evaluate the contribution of **both** sources to our understanding of the historical trends and movements evident throughout the Fifth Dynasty.

Description	Marks
Evaluates the contribution of Source 1 and Source 2 to an understanding of the significant events, rulers, religious beliefs, sun temple and pyramid complexes of the Fifth Dynasty Draws on own knowledge of the period of study and other sources to make the evaluation of the contributions of Source 1 and Source 2	5–6
Compares the contribution of Source 1 and Source 2 to an understanding of the significant events, rulers, religious beliefs, sun temple and pyramid complexes of the Fifth Dynasty Draws on own knowledge of the period of study and makes limited use of other sources in the comparison of the contributions of Source 1 and Source 2	3–4
States the contribution of Source 1 and Source 2 to an understanding of the significant events, rulers, religious beliefs, sun temple and pyramid complexes of the Fifth Dynasty Makes limited use of own knowledge of the period of study or other sources in the comparison of the contributions of Source 1 and Source 2	1–2
Total	6
Answer could include, but is not limited to:	
<p>Source 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is interesting to note that this is the first example of the pyramid texts being written in stone on the burial chamber walls of a pharaoh. We do not know whether or not papyrus versions were interred with the pharaoh in earlier periods, or indeed at this time as well, but they may have been It can be asked why this tiny, substandard pyramid belonging to the last king of the Fifth Dynasty was so honoured with having stone texts. Is there something to be gleaned here about the diminution in size and quality of the tomb and at the same time the addition of these texts? It may be to do with the inability to ensure the security of royal burials From a religious and ritualistic point of view we learn about the evolution of the beliefs and practices that surrounded the king on his death and about his place with the gods. Underscored here as well is the continued predominance of the two great cults/religions of Osiris and of the solar god Re <p>Source 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is about the relationships between Egypt and her neighbours. Egypt controlled Nubia, she controlled the Eastern Desert and the Sinai, she had considerable influence in the Near East and she had a line of oases running parallel to the Nile down through the Western Desert Egypt was undoubtedly wealthy and powerful throughout most of the Old Kingdom. The Nile Valley was a natural conduit for trade and Egypt had abundant agricultural supplies and also abundant gold from the areas she controlled in Nubia Looking at the size of the Fourth Dynasty pyramids gives you an idea of how incredibly dominant she was in her corner of the world Grimal gives us a very sound understanding of Egypt's dominance in trade, even in this short extract. The produce of the world flowed over her borders and she was able to exploit her power and her position 	

Sample assessment task

Ancient History – ATAR Year 11

Task 8 – Unit 2 (Egypt elective)

Assessment type: Essay/Extended answer

Conditions

Time for the task: 45 minutes

An unseen essay topic written under standard test conditions

Task weighting

5% of the school mark for this pair of units

Outline the major developments in tomb construction in Ancient Egypt, from the mastaba or pit grave in Dynasty 1 to the ‘true’ pyramid of Dynasty 4.

To what extent did these developments reflect major changes in Ancient Egyptian society?

Marking key for sample assessment task 8 – Unit 2 (Egypt elective)

Description	Marks
Introductory paragraph	
Clearly relates to the area/topic of the question Contains understanding of focus and key terms of the question, and includes a clear proposition	3
Contains a few sentences outlining the theme of the essay and includes a simple proposition	2
Provides a general indication that the topic is understood, including a simple proposition OR Consists of a sentence or two outlining the 'who' or 'what' to be discussed in the essay	1
Subtotal	3
Identification of major developments in tomb architecture and significant features	
Clearly identifies the major developments in tomb construction Uses examples to support the answer	3
Identifies the major developments in tomb construction Uses limited examples in an attempt to support the answer	2
Partially identifies the major developments in tomb construction Provides minimal or no examples	1
Subtotal	3
Identification and discussion of evidence that supports the argument	
Provides detailed, accurate and relevant evidence to support the argument that tomb construction evolved between the First Dynasty and the Fourth Dynasty Uses and cites accurately a range of ancient and modern sources to support the argument	5–6
Provides mainly accurate and relevant evidence, including ancient and modern sources Uses some relevant quotations and sources as supporting evidence which are cited in a coherent fashion	3–4
Provides limited evidence that is sometimes inaccurate or irrelevant	1–2
Subtotal	6
Development of argument	
Develops a sustained, logical and coherent argument which shows a depth of analysis Uses appropriate historical terminology and concepts	5
Develops an argument which is mostly analytical, logical and coherent Uses some appropriate historical terminology and concepts	4
Attempts to develop an argument Uses some appropriate historical terminology	3
Contains a number of generalisations and statements that lack supporting evidence Uses little, if any, historical terminology	2
Provides a disjointed discussion which suggests little understanding of the topic	1
Subtotal	5
Conclusion	
Draws the essay's argument or point of view together Links evidence raised with the original proposition	3
Summarises the essay's point of view	2
Provides a superficial conclusion which vaguely summarises the essay's theme or general focus OR Repeats the proposition stated in the introduction	1
Subtotal	3
Total	20

Answer could include, but is not limited to:

- The pit grave with its small mound was for ordinary people
- Those of means who could afford it built a mastaba which basically was a shaft with a burial chamber at the bottom, and the whole surrounded by a wall which was covered to make it look like a high, flat bench. Within the walls there were usually rooms for storage of the goods and chattels that the deceased might wish to take into the afterlife. The tomb shaft was normally blocked by massive stone blocks – portcullis blocks sometimes – and filled with rubble to dissuade tomb robbers
- Mastabas were usually of mud brick construction with stone burial chambers, stone lined chapels, stone false doors and offering tables
- The outside walls were often of a palace façade design and a platform around their base was sometimes decorated with bulls horns
- The walls became increasingly decorated as time progressed with scenes that are usually described as being from everyday life – although this is a debatable point
- They came in a variety of sizes from very small mini mastabas to enormous mastabas set on ridges and covered in white plaster
- The royals were initially buried in mastabas but with the move of Djoser of the Third Dynasty from Abydos to Saqqara we have the evolution from mastaba to step pyramid, built in stone, and the beginning of the whole pyramid complex contained within walls
- Other pharaohs began similar constructions in the Saqqara area, now covered in sand and initially made obvious in aerial photographs, but the next successful constructions were those of Senefru, the first king of Fourth Dynasty who completed, with various degrees of success, three pyramids. (One pyramid at Meidum which either partially fell down, was never finished, or was used as a quarry. One at Dahsur which is bent – they started going up at too steep an angle and had to modify the angle of ascent about half way up. This is known as the Bent Pyramid. The third one also at Dahsur is the first true pyramid and is known as the Northern or the Red Pyramid.)
- After Senefru comes Khufu’s great pyramid at Giza which is accompanied by the other two great Giza pyramids belonging to Khafre and Menkaure. Each of these is a true pyramid and each stands within a complete pyramid complex of exterior wall, mortuary temple, causeway, valley temple and boat pits. They contain interior passages and chambers as well as ingenious methods to keep the interiors secure. All of which failed in the face of determined assaults by plunderers
- The pyramids on the Giza plateau represent the apogee of pyramid building and design
- All of the above pyramids are built out of stone
- The actual construction of some of these pyramids may be discussed in detail