

**Methodist Ladies' College
Semester 2 Examination, 2017**

**ANCIENT HISTORY
ATAR Year 12**

DOCUMENT BOOKLET

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Document Set 1: Thebes – East and West, New Kingdom Egypt**Source 1(a)**

Retrieved from Egypt | Britannica.com .
Temple of Hatshepsut at Dayr al-Bahrī, Thebes, Egypt.
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Source 1(b)



HATSHEPSUT'S ROSE GRANITE OBELISK AT WADJET HALL

Retrieved from: DIGITAL KARNAK

Source 2

“At Karnak Temple, dancers and musicians playing horns and drums welcomed the arrival of the obelisks -- we know this in part from the very ruined remains of the right hand/northern end of these obelisk reliefs. Also bits and pieces of relief remain at this northern end of the southern colonnade showing Hatshepsut offering the obelisks to Amun and the various rituals associated with their dedication.

(Perhaps they)..... they would have had to have waited until the lowest point of the Nile and with the boat resting on the bottom, the unloading could have begun.

Others would say that sand was used as ballast to lower the boat in the water until it was at the optimum height to load the obelisk, and that then the ballast was removed to allow the boat to rise in the water and take the weight of the obelisk. See Pliny.

Others say there is evidence for the barge being brought as close as possible to the obelisk as possible and then an embankment being built up to, around and over it. The obelisk manhandled into place and then lowered into the barge by the fill being removed from around it.

However it was done it was all very risky. Once off the boat the obelisks were manhandled to their site, dragged up a ramp and lowered into a sand filled hole at the top. The sand was removed until the obelisks were safely settled on their stone pedestals.

And that is an amazing feat in itself. They quite literally stand on stone plinths or pedestals.

The surviving obelisks are vertical to within one or two millimetres of being parallel with the sides of their bases. Incredible.

Why is this such an important event? After all the Egyptians had been cutting and transporting monumental pieces of stones since time immemorial.

Obelisks..... were incredibly special and the fact that Hatshepsut was able to quarry, transport and erect 4 of these gigantic objects is testament to her political power, her religious power and her economic power.

No weak pharaoh leading a divided state which questioned her rule would have been able to complete such immense undertakings. It is worth noting that of the 12 ancient Egyptian obelisks still standing in various places around the world, Hatshepsut's obelisk at Karnak is the second tallest at 59.56 metres/97 feet. “

Extract from a lecture about the importance of obelisks in the building program of Hatshepsut by a prominent Egyptologist; 2016. WA Museum.

Document Set 2: Athens, Sparta and the Peloponnesian War, 440-404 BC

Source 1

Then Pericles, aflame with ire¹ on his Olympian height, let loose the lightning, caused the thunder to roll, upset Greece and passed an edict², which ran like the song, 'That the Megarians be banished both from our land and from our markets and from the sea and from the continent.'

Meanwhile the Megarians, who were beginning to die of hunger, begged the Lacedaemonians to bring about the abolition of the decree, of which those harlots were the cause; several times we refused their demand; and from that time there was horrible clatter of arms everywhere.

Aristophanes, *Acharnians* II. 530–7, c.425 BC.

(Aristophanes, who lived from c. 450 to c. 388 BC an Athenian playwright of Old Comedy. Eleven of his thirty plays survive as almost complete works.)

¹ ire – anger

² edict – decree

Source 2

To the question why they broke the treaty, I answer by placing first an account of their grounds of complaint and points of difference, that no one may ever have to ask the immediate cause which plunged the Hellenes into a war of such magnitude. The real cause, however, I consider to be one which was formally most kept out of sight. The growth of the power of Athens, and the alarm which this inspired in Sparta, made war inevitable.

Thucydides, *The History of the Peloponnesian War* I.23, c. 424–404 BC.

(Thucydides was an Athenian general and historian who lived from c.460 to c. 395 BC.)

Document Set 3: Rome 63 BC-AD 14**Source 1**

Coin commissioned in c.43–42 BC, depicting Marcus Brutus as Brutus Imperator.

Source 2

However, the Romans gave way before the good fortune of the man and accepted the bit, and regarding the monarchy as a respite from the evils of the civil wars, they appointed him dictator for life. This was confessedly a tyranny, since the monarchy, besides the element of irresponsibility, now took on that of permanence.

It was Cicero who proposed the first honours for him in the senate, and their magnitude was, after all, not too great for a man; but others added excessive honours and vied with one another in proposing them, thus rendering Caesar odious and obnoxious¹ even to the mildest citizens because of the pretension² and extravagance of what was decreed for him. It is thought, too, in order that they might have as many pretexts as possible against him and might be thought to have the best reasons for attempting his life.

Plutarch, *Caesar*: 57 c. 1st century AD.

(Plutarch was a Greek biographer who lived from the mid–1st to mid–2nd centuries AD.)

¹ obnoxious – offensive

² pretension – self importance



