

International History Olympiad
Sample Questions – Ancient History Bee

Varsity / Junior Varsity Samples

This man was the first Roman soldier to vault the wall during Scipio Aemilianus's siege of Carthage. This man moved to impeach the tribune Marcus Octavius, further angering the Senate after he broke tradition by proposing new legislation directly to the populace. Shortly thereafter, he proposed ignoring Senatorial privilege by directly seizing Asian provincial revenues. He sought to increase army recruitment by setting up more small Italian farmers with his distribution of state-held land. That led to his death at the hands of a mob led by his cousin Scipio Nasica. For the point, name this Roman reformer of the 130s BC, the older brother of Gaius.

ANSWER: Tiberius Sempronius Gracchus [prompt on Gracchus]

This speech notes that "Our constitution does not copy the laws of neighboring states; we are rather a pattern to others than imitators ourselves" and claims that it is impossible to strike a balance between appropriately honoring its subjects and avoiding a feeling of jealousy in others. This speech is notable for eschewing lengthy mythological comparisons and instead praising the ideals of Athens. It is one of the most difficult-to-translate passages in Thucydides. For the point, identify this speech given by a leader of Athens on the dead during the Peloponnesian War.

ANSWER: Pericles's funeral oration

One king with this name was told by Gaius Popillius Laenas to give his answer on leaving Egypt before stepping out of a "line in the sand." An important Christian center in Syria is named after the line of kings with this name, which also included a man whose title of Epiphanes, or "God manifest," helped spark the revolt of the Maccabees. For the point, give this name of a line of Hellenistic kings, including the one whose anti-Jewish laws are the basis for the Hannukah story, who ruled the Seleucid Empire.

ANSWER: Antiochus

This empire displaced Rhadamistus in Armenia with their own prince, Tiridates, leading to Domitius Corbulo being dispatched to fight a war with this empire during the reign of Nero. At this empire's court, the actor Jason of Tralles performed a section from the Bacchae while displaying to its king Orodes the head of a captured enemy. This empire's cataphracts, under Surena, defeated Crassus at the Battle of Carrhae and captured the Roman standards. For the point, name this empire which fought Rome from its base in Iran.

ANSWER: Parthian Empire [or Arsacid Empire; prompt on Persian Empire; prompt on Iranian Empire]

This man's son was the navigator who led the troops of Darius to the Battle of Marathon, following the overthrow of this man's family with the help of a Spartan contingent led by Cleomenes. Another son of this man was killed after slighting a woman at the Panathenaic Festival by Harmodius and Aristogeiton. This man led the Hyperakrioi or "hill party" against the "plains" and "coast" parties, and hired the tall women Phye (FAI-ey) to impersonate Athena. For the point, name this three-time tyrant who dominated late sixth century BC politics in Athens.

ANSWER: **Peisistratos**

Middle School / Junior Varsity Samples

An important leader of this body seduced Livilla and conspired with her to poison Drusus, prior to being strangled and thrown down the Gemmonian Stairs. This body held an auction between Claudius Sulpicianus and Didius Julianus for the Imperial throne after killing Pertinax. This body was led by Sejanus, who took effective control of the Empire midway through the reign of Tiberius. For the point, name this group of influential soldiers who were nominally the bodyguards of the Roman emperor.

ANSWER: **Praetorian Guard**

The Spartan leader Lysander died in battle against this city-state at Haliartus. Alexander the Great spared only the house of Pindar when razing this city. This state lost its prominence following the Battle of Mantinea, at which the Boetian League it controlled was weakened. Earlier, this city-state, led by Epaminondas and Pelopidas, established hegemony over Greece in 371 BC at Leuctra. For the point, name this city whose elite army was three hundred pairs of lovers known as the Sacred Band, and which was mythically led by Cadmus and Oedipus.

ANSWER: **Thebes**

This poet aimed to bring to Latin the Greek iambic distichs created by Archilochus, in a series of poems which includes a message to an ex-lover addressed as "you who have rotted away with the long passage of time." This poet invoked the victory at Actium in his hymn to Apollo and Diana composed for the games which ended a 110-year cycle of the Roman calendar, the "Carmen Secularae." He explained that epics must begin "in medias res" in his *Ars Poetica*. This man also coined the mottoes "dulce et decorum est" and "carpe diem." For the point, name this Roman poet of the *Epodes* and *Odes*.

ANSWER: **Horace** [or Quintus **Horatius** Flaccus]