

## Candidate 1

**To what extent were the women of Athens restricted within their lives?**

To answer the question of to what extent were women of Athens restricted within their lives, three key areas, including childhood, marriage and societal status have been researched and a factual report and conclusion had been produced.

During childhood, women were immediately restricted within their rights as they faced a larger risk of exposure than newborn boys as they were seen as a weight on their families. This was due to the fact that women and girls could not inherit business or lands, nor make any source of income for her family, causing the likelihood of exposure to be greater.

Further on in life, girls were not permitted an education as Athenian boys were. They could not attend school nor have any further education. However, mothers were expected to teach her daughter domestic skills for her to be a good wife, as well as basic reading and writing. As previously mentioned, women could not inherit nor work in ancient Athens. This is different from today as women are able to have a stable source of income and inherit from their families.

Girls were usually married by the age of 14, typically to a man much older after being betrothed as early as five years old. This meant the father handing her over to a man who was most likely a stranger. Women were expected to be obedient and loyal to her husband, doing everything he asks of her without a second thought. The duties of a married woman

typically included weaving cloth to make clothing, caring for the children and managing household domestic duties like cleaning or managing the enslaved people. The ideas of marriage are proven in *Oeconomicus* by Xenophon in which he states: “surely a husband should be pleased if he marries a wife who knows how to take wool and make clothes and how to share out the spinning among the female enslaved people.” This gives a first-hand view of the duties of women. As it was written in the 4th century BC, it would have aligned with the views of the time. This was also written by what would have been a married man. A lot of women would have disliked their work and husbands. However, some women would have enjoyed their work. In ancient Athens, men had complete control over their wives and could even hit them. This is different from today as it would be seen as domestic abuse in the eyes of the law.

In Athenian society, women were seen as lesser than men as men had more rights and could do as they pleased. Women were not kept on the same pedestal and were expected to be completely obedient to the men and would be expected to obey the choices the male citizens had made for them. This led to women being unable to vote in the Assembly, on city and political matters, as no woman's voice was to be heard in such a standing. The idea that women were to be obedient towards men is further proven in the Funeral Speech from Pericles during the 5th century BC where he states: “just a few words of advice perhaps: people will think most highly of you if you behave in the best way you can, and if men say as little about you as possible.” This proves the view of women that they were expected to be obedient and listen to men as they were seen as lesser. It was also a speech, so therefore it

had to be truthful as he held an audience. Women needed to stay indoors as to take care of domestic duties and to keep their status within society. However, some women worked in the agora if they were poor and they were shunned as they lost their status from being outside without a husband, which went against the view that women were submissive and obedient. In Athens, women had no voice in society and could not be outside without her husband for too long as they were treated as lesser. This is similar to today in places like Afghanistan where women are not to speak and aren't to show their faces in public.

Therefore, the conclusion that has been reached is that women were in fact very restricted within their lifetimes, as they had little to no freedoms during their lives. I think the main reason why women's lives were restricted was their lack of political power, which meant they could not bring about legal changes and improvements to their position.

## Candidate 2

**What does the archaeological evidence found in Pompeii tell us about people living in Pompeii?**

As Pompeii has slowly been uncovered, archaeologists have been able to learn lots about the lives of the Pompeians. Their bodies and belongings give us a large insight into them as people and sometimes this is better information than can be found in texts. This includes their physical appearance, the items they took with them, and their reactions to the eruption.

We learn a lot about the Pompeians from their physical appearance. By using x-ray machines and 3D scanning, we can view the insides of human plaster casts. A ring with a gemstone sealed into it was found on a body. This suggests that he was wealthy, but also that his money did not affect his attempt in escaping. Furthermore, a teenager was found at the city walls. This tells us that age also had little effect on the escape from the eruption. Moreover, a man was found with severe osteoarthritis and his body was found with the teenager at the city walls. This tells us that the impact of disabilities was limited when attempting to escape, as a healthy teenager died beside a disabled older man.

Source one is a plaster cast of a child, made to record the death. This source is reliable as it is archaeological and therefore cannot be opinionated. However, metal poles may have been added in order to keep the body intact, meaning it could have moved body parts reducing reliability. In 2018, a

Guatemalan volcano, Mt. Fuego, erupted killing 200 people of many genders, ages, and abilities. This is similar to Pompeii as many died with different ages and abilities. Therefore, from archaeology, we learn that population of Pompeii was vast and many people were impacted by the eruption.

Archaeology also tells us what items were deemed valuable. Coins were the most common item to be taken when attempting to escape. This may have been in hopes of starting a new life in a nearby town, or simply as they were valuable. Amulets were also a popular choice, potentially with the idea that they would provide good luck or as a religious symbol, in desperation to receive help from the gods. Jewellery was also common. This may have been because of the fact that it was expensive, or as they saw it as sentimental. Source two was found in Region IX, and is jewellery and coins beside a woman. This is reliable as it is also archaeological but also it was found beside a body, we know it can't have been planted there. People still bring sentimental items when leaving their homes during disaster. When fleeing Syria, 7 year old Muhammad brought a toy robot that he was gifted from his grandfather. This is similar to Pompeii as a woman was found alongside toy animals. Therefore, we can learn about daily life from the items which Pompeiians saw as important.

Surprisingly, we can learn about the emotional side of the eruption from archaeology. During the first stage of the eruption, some people were too frightened to leave home and chose to stay behind. They were later crushed by pumice rocks. We know this as many bodies were found buried underneath the rocks. On the contrary, a group of 13 nicknamed, 'the fugitives' were found at the city walls.

However, one is found with an upper arm break thanks to x-rays. What this tells us is that even in the face of an eruption, people still stick together, as the arm break slowed them down, they didn't leave the suffering man behind. Moreover, we learn some people go into danger to save others. Pliny the Elder went into Pompeii to save people, however died in the fumes. However, we learn lots from written evidence also. For example, Pliny's letter to Tacitus is a written account of the emotions people felt as well as physical signs. In spite of this, it is still arguable that archaeology plays an important role in our understanding of the events of the eruption.

Reactions to disasters like these still exist. In the recent hurricane Milton, many Floridians refused to leave their homes as they were too attached to their homes, their pets, or did not want to leave behind family who couldn't leave. Therefore, the locations of bodies helps us understand how the Pompeians felt about the eruption.

In conclusion, we learn a lot about the lives of people living in Pompeii from archaeology. Graffiti in Pompeii allows us to understand the humour. The preserved food lets us learn the contents of their diets: bread, fruits, eggs, nuts.

## Candidate 3

### How important were the baths to the people of Pompeii?

I am going to be investigating the importance of the baths to the people of Pompeii. There were lots of baths found in Pompeii telling us that they were popular and that the people enjoyed visiting them. I am going to write about exercising in the baths, socialising in the baths, beauty treatments and using the baths to get clean.

Firstly, attending the baths was an opportunity for people to exercise by taking part in sports such as wrestling, weightlifting and gymnastics. This is important as the people of Pompeii could come to the baths to help keep themselves fit and healthy while exercising in the courtyard.

Secondly, “beauty procedures” took place at the baths such as the extraction of hair by individually plucking each strand of hair. Also, massages were given to the guests who wished to have them done. This is important because many Romans cared deeply about the way they looked and so took great care of their appearance. This was a service the baths could offer. Seneca tells us: ‘imagine the armpit plucker whose cries are shrill as to draw people’s attention’. This source is very useful as it shows the pain and terror that those who had their hair removed bath house faced. This source was a written letter by Seneca, in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, this is useful as he would have likely used the baths and experienced them first hand. This is similar to today because at spas many beauty treatments can take place such as waxing and massaging.

Thirdly, attending the baths was a social event that both men and women could enjoy. This is important as women were limited to leaving the house very rarely, but both rich and poor could go. Women would be allowed to leave their husbands and socialise with friends by catching up on the latest gossip. However, both men and woman were kept separate at the bath house and the facilities for women could be smaller or limited. This is both similar and different to leisure centres today as men and woman are usually kept separated while in the changing rooms but, while exercising the centre they are mixed with both genders.

Fourthly, attending the baths was a crucial part of hygiene, most Romans did not have baths or showers in their house, so if they wanted to upkeep their personal hygiene then the baths would be the best place for them. This is important as many Romans thought being clean was a healthy way to live their life. However, not everyone agreed with this. Marcus Aurelius tells us “Such as bathing appears to be oil, dirt, sweat, filthy and all thing’s disgusting”. This tells us that many people knew that the baths were full of filth and dirt and perhaps even considered unhygienic. If someone had an open wound, going to the baths might cause an infection and make them feel sick. Marcus Aurelius was a Roman emperor and was probably used to nice private bathhouses, therefore he may have never experienced what normal bathhouses were like such as those in Pompeii.

Fifthly, attending the baths could be a chance to conduct business with clients or friends. Many Romans used the relaxing atmosphere in the baths to help conduct their business negotiations. We know that some businesses also

operated out of bathhouses such as food stalls. This is important because Romans could have a chance to eat after working out and be able to talk to friends or clients while enjoying some food. Today, many leisure centres have café facilities like the bathhouses in Pompeii, but it would be quite unusual to conduct business in a public leisure centre. This is usual done in an office.

Sixthly, attending the baths was relaxing and enjoyable, guest could enter the hot room or the cold plunge pool to spend time relaxing and helping their muscles. This is important to Romans as it was nice to relax and recover from the pressures of daily life. The many of the baths were also architecturally beautiful and many Pompeians were proud to have these facilities in their city, and this also helped them to relax.

In conclusion, I believe that the baths were an important part of Roman life because they were a way for the people of Pompeii to have a bit of respite from daily life. I think the most important aspect was being able to have a wash regularly as this made people feel fresher and cleaner for continuing their day.