

## GCSE Ancient History

### The Persians

- The reigns of Cyrus and Cambyses II and the expansion of the Persian Empire into Lydia, Babylonia and Egypt.
- Darius' coming to power and the preparations for an expedition against Greece in 492 BC and 490 BC.
- The Marathon campaign and the reasons for the Persian defeat.
- Study of the principal written and archaeological sources dealing with the Persian kings.
- Xerxes' reign and expedition against the Greeks.
- The Hellenic League and battles at Artemisium, Thermopylae, Salamis, Plataea and Mycale.
- The military tactics, armour and weaponry used by the Persians and Greeks and the reasons for the failure of Xerxes' expeditions.

### Alexander the Great

- The expansion of Macedonian power and reasons for Alexander's expedition.
- Alexander's campaign and battles at the Granicus, Issus and at Guagamela.
- The roles of Alexander and his commanders in defeating the Persians.
- The military tactics, armour and weaponry used by the Persians and Greeks. Alexander's skills as a general and the reasons for the success of his campaigns.
- The expansion of Alexander's empire into Bactria and India and the reasons for his return to Babylon.
- The government of his empire, the deaths of Cleitus and Hephaestion.
- The accounts of Alexander's death and division of his empire among his commanders.

### Hannibal

- The rivalry of Rome and Carthage over Sicily and first Punic war.
- The outbreak of the Second Punic War.
- Hannibal's crossing of the Alps and invasion of Italy.
- The battles at Trebia, and Trasimene.
- The Fabian Strategy.

**Cleopatra and Rome**

- Cleopatra's coming to power in Egypt.
- Her relationship with Julius Caesar.
- Caesar's assassination and the Roman Civil War.
- Cleopatra's relationship with Mark Antony.
- The primary sources' reliability and value, particularly the archaeological evidence for Cleopatra.
- Mark Antony's conflicts with Octavian and Sextus Pompey.
- His failure in the Parthian War.
- The Donations of Alexandria and outbreak of war with Octavian.
- The Battle of Actium.
- The deaths of Mark Antony and Cleopatra.

**Advice to students  
for independent  
study**

- Do at least one hour each week to consolidate learning from lessons. It may be learning new events, practising an exam style answer or reviewing work that should be improved.
- Use your own copy of the revision guides (provided by school) to support study at home:
  - use the Ancient History Revision Plan in the Cleopatra Revision Guide.
  - study the 3 Revision Guides and make revision notes, mind maps and essay plans.