

‘The public buildings in Ostia were more practical than the public buildings in Rome.’

How far do the public buildings you have studied support this opinion? Explain your answer with reference to at least two public buildings from Ostia and at least two public buildings from Rome.

Use the 25 essay marking criteria.

AO1 – Knowledge and understanding – 12 marks.

Marks should be awarded using the marking criteria for AO1.

Candidates have studied a range of examples of public buildings including:

Rome:

- Trajan’s Forum and Trajan’s Market
- Basilica of Constantine and Maxentius
- Baths of Caracalla
- Theatre of Marcellus
- Aqua Claudia
- Colosseum
- Pantheon

Ostia:

- Piazza of the Corporations
- Great Warehouse
- Firefighters’ Barracks
- Baths of Mithras
- Mithraeum
- Temple of Ceres

Candidates should show what they understand by the term public building.

AO2 – Analysis and evaluation – 13 marks.

Marks should be awarded using the marking criteria for AO2.

Answers may demonstrate evaluation and analysis through the use of some of the following arguments:

- Buildings in Ostia were designed to showcase the importance of grain to the town
- Great Warehouse was used to house the grain before it was transported to Rome
- The Firefighters’ Barracks housed firefighters to protect the grain supply
- The temple of Ceres was dedicated to the god of agriculture
- The Piazza of the Corporations was to throw the spotlight on trade [particularly of grain]
- Buildings in Rome were also practical, e.g. theatre, amphitheatre, basilica, baths, etc.
- But the buildings were also about propaganda as they were built by emperors looking to enhance their reputation and reign.