

‘The temples in Italy were built on a much grander scale and were more lavishly decorated than the temples in other parts of the Roman world.’

How far do the temples you have studied support this opinion? Explain your answer with reference to at least two temples from Italy and at least two temples in other parts of the Roman world.

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 temples including:

Temples in Italy:

- Pantheon, Rome
- Temple of Ceres, Ostia
- Mithraeum, Ostia
- Temple of Jupiter, Pompeii
- Temple of Isis, Pompeii.

Temples in the rest of the Roman world:

- Maison Carrée, Nîmes
- Temple of Bacchus, Baalbek
- Allow other temples candidates may have studied if they are relevant.

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:

Grand scale:

- Some of the temples are built on a grand scale – Pantheon and Temple of Bacchus at Baalbek
- Other temples are more modest in size – Maison Carrée, Mithraeum and Temple of Isis
- Partly to do with space available
- Partly to do with money available
- Partly to do with the pattern of worship, e.g. Mithraea tend to be small, dark and underground

Lavish decoration:

- Certainly, the Pantheon has lavish decoration – dome, oculus, gilding, the patterned marbled floor
- The other temples in Italy have some decoration but not to the same extent as the Pantheon
- Temple of Bacchus at Baalbek has much lavish decoration – elaborate capitals, elaborate sculptural patterns combining geometric and figural motifs, niches for statues, carved vines of ivy and/or grapes, ears of wheat.

This is intended to be an open question so that candidates are free to choose their own temples to address the question.
The points made should be backed up with close reference to specific temples.