SAMPLE ESSAY A

Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus had a bit of an impact on ancient Rome during the years 133–121 BCE, but it wasn't anything too significant. Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus were two brothers who were around during ancient Rome, and they did some stuff that people remember. This essay will talk about a few things Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus did and why some people think it mattered a little bit.

Tiberius Gracchus tried to help poor people by making a law about land distribution. He thought it wasn't fair that rich people had so much land, so he made a rule that they couldn't have too much. But then some rich people got upset and killed him. So, Tiberius Gracchus did something, but it didn't really change much in the end.

Gaius Gracchus also tried to do something to help poor people, but it didn't go so well either. He made laws to give free grain to poor people and wanted to make more people Roman citizens. But then some people didn't like that, and he got into trouble too. So, like his brother, Gaius Gracchus

Some people think Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus made a little bit of a difference, but others don't think so. Some historians say they brought attention to problems like unfair land distribution and poverty. But others say they just caused more problems and didn't really change much. So, whether Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus really shaped ancient Rome or not is still up for debate.

In conclusion, Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus did some things during the period of 133–121 BCE, but it's hard to say if they really made a big difference. They tried to help poor people and change things, but in the end, they didn't really succeed. Some people think they were important, but others don't. So, overall, they were just a small part of ancient Roman history.

SAMPLE ESSAY B

Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus played pivotal roles in shaping the socio-political landscape of ancient Rome during the transformative period of 133–121 BCE, introducing groundbreaking reforms and challenging entrenched power structures. Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus emerged as influential figures during a time of socio-economic upheaval in the Roman Republic. Born into a prestigious patrician family, they were driven by a sense of duty and a fervent desire to address the widening gap between the wealthy elite and the disenfranchised masses. This essay will explore the multifaceted contributions of Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus to ancient Rome's socio-political landscape, focusing on their innovative reforms, the opposition they faced, and the lasting impact of their endeavors.

Tiberius Gracchus initiated a series of revolutionary land reforms aimed at addressing the widespread inequality in land distribution. He proposed the Lex Sempronia Agraria, which sought to redistribute land from wealthy landowners to the landless poor. This legislation aimed to alleviate poverty and foster a more equitable society by ensuring that every Roman citizen had access to land. Despite facing fierce opposition from the senatorial elite, Tiberius Gracchus's land reforms laid the groundwork for future agrarian policies and brought issues of social justice to the forefront of Roman discourse.

Building upon his brother's efforts, Gaius Gracchus introduced a range of progressive measures aimed at empowering the plebeian class and expanding their political rights. He proposed legislation to provide subsidized grain for the urban poor, advocated for the extension of Roman citizenship to allied communities, and sought to curb the influence of the senatorial aristocracy through electoral reforms. Gaius Gracchus's bold initiatives challenged the entrenched privileges of the elite and inspired a new wave of populist politics in ancient Rome, setting the stage for future socio-political movements.

While the reforms of Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus were met with opposition and ultimately ended in tragedy, their legacy endured, shaping the trajectory of Roman politics for generations to come. Despite facing violent opposition from conservative factions within the Senate, the Gracchi brothers sparked a renewed sense of social consciousness and political activism among the Roman populace. Their efforts paved the way for future reform movements and revolutions, highlighting the enduring struggle for social justice and equality in the history of ancient Rome.

The contributions of Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus to the socio-political landscape of ancient Rome during the period of 133–121 BCE were profound and far-reaching. Through their innovative reforms, unwavering advocacy for social justice, and enduring legacy, the Gracchi brothers left an indelible mark on Roman history, challenging entrenched power structures and inspiring future generations to fight for a more equitable society. Their courageous actions serve as a testament to the enduring struggle for justice and equality in the annals of human history.

MARKING KEYS

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| **Guide to marking responses** | **Marks** | |
| **Introduction** | |  |
| Provides an introductory paragraph clearly related to the area/topic of the question, demonstrating an understanding of the focus and key terms of the question, and gives a clear sense of the proposition and direction of the essay. | | 3 |
| Provides an introductory paragraph containing a few sentences outlining the theme of the essay and includes a simple proposition. | | 2 |
| Provides an opening paragraph that gives a general indication that the topic is understood and includes a simple proposition OR  has a sentence or two outlining the ‘who’ or ‘what; to be discussed in the essay. | | 1 |
| **Subtotal** | | **/3** |
| **Understanding of historical narrative** | |  |
| Demonstrates an understanding of the inter-relationship between events, people and ideas, continuity and change. | | 4 |
| Demonstrates an understanding of the narrative, for example that there are relationships between events, people and ideas, and/or continuity and change. | | 3 |
| Provides a mainly chronological narrative with some content about, for example, events, people and ideas, and/or continuity and change. | | 2 |
| Provides a simple narrative, not always showing an understanding of the correct chronology and with minimal reference to events, people and ideas. | | 1 |
| **Subtotal** | | **/4** |
| **Argument** | |  |
| Develops a sustained and sophisticated argument which shows a depth of analysis throughout the essay which is analytical, logical and coherent. | | 5–6 |
| Develops an argument which is analytical, logical and coherent and shows an understanding of the inter-connectedness of the narrative. | | 4 |
| Demonstrates a sense of argument. | | 3 |
| Provides a number of generalisations and some relevant statements. | | 2 |
| Provides a disjointed discussion/argument that suggests little understanding of the topic and/or historic analysis of changing circumstance or continuity and change. | | 1 |
| **Subtotal** | | **/6** |
| **Supporting evidence** | |  |
| Provides detailed, accurate and relevant evidence used in a manner that assists analysis and evaluation. In responding to an essay instruction to debate or evaluate the proposition, historical evidence is used to argue for and against a view/proposition. Uses and cites accurately modern sources to develop or strengthen arguments. | | 7–9 |
| Provides mainly accurate and relevant evidence throughout the essay. If quotations, sources, statistics are used as supporting evidence, they are cited in some coherent fashion. | | 5–6 |
| Provides some accurate and relevant evidence. | | 3–4 |
| Provides limited evidence that is sometimes inaccurate or irrelevant. | | 1−2 |
| **Subtotal** | | **/9** |
| **Conclusion** | |  |
| Draws the essay’s argument or point of view together. | | 3 |
| Summarises the essay’s point of view. | | 2 |
| Is based on the essay’s general focus OR  is very superficial, or vaguely summarises with the use of clichés, or merely repeats the proposition stated in the conclusion. | | 1 |
| **Subtotal** | | **/3** |
| **Total** | | **25** |

SAMPLE ESSAY A MARK/FEEDBACK:

SAMPLE ESSAY B MARK/FEEDBACK: