**CLST1201 – Written Assignment 2**

**PART 1:**

The primary objective of the study is to understand the timing of the payment of the *laographia* in Roman Egypt. Second, I aim to understand if there is a pattern in the timing of payment or if it is arbitrary. Third, I will assess whether tax payment timing different between farmers and urban residents.

Hypothesis:

* The poll tax was paid shortly after harvest season, due to farmers having liquidity.
  + Harvest season: fall -> but double check
  + Island of delos -> John Kent, back in 40s; more recently; garry riga; leases syngrahaphe.
* Building on the hypothesis above, there is a pattern in when the poll tax was paid.
* There is a difference in the timing of the poll tax between farmers and urbanites.
* Did they really care about what the people did or was it more about getting the money: Jermereny thinks the latetr -> doesn’t really matter

Questions:

1. Do I need background information to back up my hypothesis so that it does not seems like I pull it out of thin air?
   1. From own ideas; i.e. when the farmers had the most liquidity => 1-2 sentences.

**PART 2:**

1. Limited data availability. Few tax receipts with precise data.
   1. Solution: Use less precise dating, relying on monthly or quarterly dating.
2. May be difficult to identify when harvesting season was to check if this was when the farmers paid their taxes.

Questions

1. In Roman-Egypt, when was the harvesting season? => prob. Fall => look into this

**PART \_**

*Below is a detailed description of how I performed the search in Papyri.*

*A screenshot of a computer

AI-generated content may be incorrect.*

The search was performed on Mon Mar 31, 2025 and resulted in 636 hits.

Question:

1. Given all these hits, how do you recommend I proceed? I was thinking of copying over core data into Excel.
   1. Should I exclude the result if not precise data?
   2. What data would be important to have?
      1. Doc.id: OK
      2. Date: OK
         1. Be able to sort out the ones with not month.
         2. Might be reason for not specified: look into this!
      3. Content: later; but get the amount; places; OK
      4. Amount: OK
      5. Person paying (farmer or urbanite): OK
      6. Language: OK

Have range of date, this allows you to go over the data and use conditions to check i.e have:

NB! If there is no range, then the date is put into start.

Query:

Words: “poll tax receipt” OR “poll tax” OR “leographi\*”

Date: 101 – 200 (second century AD, “common era”)

IF TWO SMALL:

1 AD -> 200 AD (2 centuries), keep clear of 3rd century: => no earlier than 30 BC; before this rome does not control Egypt; differet admin

i.e. 157- 158 example, mid-summer to mid-summer so really just one year.

Question:

* What other search words should I use for my search?

**PART 3:**

Results and critique of first analysis.

**PART 4:**

Contextual or background information.

1. Should I filter on English translation only?
   1. No. Talked with Mark. Just use AI, but make this clear in your methodology.
2. Should I go to 297 AD, since this was when the tax was taken down?
   1. No. Start woth 200 and potentially increase later if needed. There was a lot of political instability after 200, so this was advised against.

**FORMAL SEARCH QUERY**

Applied Tue April 1.

|  |
| --- |
| “poll tax” OR “poll tax receipt” OR “laographi\*”  Date on or after: 50 BCE  Date before 200 CE |

The search resulted in 353 hits.

A screenshot of a computer

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Just start at the top and go over each, and fill out

Considered making a scraper to more efficiently fetch the data, but I believe this will take more time to properly set up, than to manually go over. Also, there are many edge cases, and the results will be so-so.

This takes a lot of time, should I maybe pivot to consider only the dates?

Starting now, I will only consider the dates, otherwise this takes too much time. Yes this is better, our core question is about the dating of the poll taxes, so this makes more sense. It could be smart to get more data, spend 1 hour on this and see how much progress you made.