

For the test (1) there are always choices, except for the question about the holy man/woman journal article, (2) the general topics are these:

Shamans, powerful people, holy men and women (and how does the article you have read from the list given under "Holy men and women II" relate to this)

Belief systems and how they operate: dreams, oracles, healing rites, miracles, magic, cult practices

Society and religion within the Roman empire

Notions (with or without specific identity) of a great god

Lucian

The understanding (or lack) of Christianity by non-participants: diachronic, as reactions to Christianity changed over time

Christian apologetics

Persecutions (again, diachronic)

Format (still in flux):

Short essays (or narrative paragraphs), short answers or ID's, gobbets

A short essay would include the question noted above on the journal article; other possibilities include but are not limited to description of particular events, practices, or arguments with reference to both ancient evidence (e.g., Lucian, Apuleius, Philostratus, document or inscription in sourcebook) and modern commentary (e.g., MacMullen, Wilken, Hopkins, Jones, Kofsky, Lyman)

A short answer can be very short indeed, but can offer scope for an answer of one or two sentences rather than merely one or two words; e.g.:

To what emperor did Pliny write about the Christians?

or

Name two things that Apollonius of Tyana had in common with Alexander of Abonoteichus (not counting that their names begin with A).

A gobbet is a passage taken from an ancient source and one deals with it by identifying it in context as well as possible and saying why it is interesting, in other words, answering as many as possible of these questions: who? what? when? where? why? how? and so what?

An ID can ask about a person, deity, event, belief system, and expects as answer the same kind of detail as the answer to a gobbet.