

**BENENDEN**  
**HISTORY**

**Sixth Form Entrance Examination 2023**

**Time: 1 hour 30 minutes**

**Full Name:**.....

**Current School:**.....

**Date:**.....

***Instructions to Candidates:***

- Use black pen for writing.
- Please write your name on each sheet of paper
- You must answer the question in Section A and you only need to answer **TWO** questions from the choice of five in Section B.
- Please write your answers to Section A and Section B on separate sheets of paper

Total marks for this paper = **100**

The marks for each question are shown

*It is advised to spend 30 minutes on **Section A** (including time to read the extract)  
It is advised to spend 30 minutes on each question you answer in **Section B***

## SECTION A

**You do not need to know anything about the author of the source or the context in which he was writing to answer the question.**

*This passage is an extract from *The Notable Men and Women of our Time*, written in the late 1520s by Paolo Giovio, an Italian man. It is written in the form of an imaginary conversation between real individuals: the general Alfonso d’Avalos, the statesman Antonio Muscettola, and Giovio himself. The setting is Ischia, an island near Naples, at the estate of the noblewoman **Vittoria Colonna**. Here they are discussing their hostess:*

D’AVALOS: What fine tools, like those of the highest kind of sculpture, will allow us to depict the true likeness, image, and character of our Vittoria Colonna? For this one woman prevails over all the others. And this description will be recognized as absolutely true by the universal consensus of all women and men. Right now we need to describe her beauty. In this way those who are absent or don’t know her may more fully admire her beauty from our brief description.

[GIOVIO] said: D’Avalos, these are indeed the rare endowments of a noble girl, and they entice young men rather than old ones. But there exist in her far more outstanding and splendid attributes which men advanced in age and her closest friends admire. Her house lies open not only to good and learned men but also to unknown people and immigrants whom various difficulties have brought to her. From the earliest age she has always been someone who rewards all servants, and is also a tireless helper of the deserving poor; to them, she has always provided support with a generous hand. But what need is there to produce instances of her good judgment from her household management, when she has provided much more illustrious examples when governing her territories and her father’s towns – all places she kept tranquil and loyal by enforcing the law with restraint and impartiality. And in providing peace and wealth she acted in such a way that, although she was more often lenient and showed clemency and mildness, sometimes she was perceived by the restless and criminal as too harsh, having exacted justice with manlike severity. You can see this strength and divine virtue in her: that is why the leaders of the Colonna family have wanted her participation in all their deliberations when undertaking the most serious matters. Distinguished and elegant scholarship shines forth in her to the admiration of men. From a tender age she cultivated an enormous desire for learning in nearly all fields, so that philosophers praise her writing; theologians are thrilled as they listen to her; and poets admire her without reservation, since they believe that she has not acquired her many great thoughts from attentive reading, but rather from divine inspiration.

**What can we learn from this passage about the values of the society of the author’s time?**

**(30 marks)**

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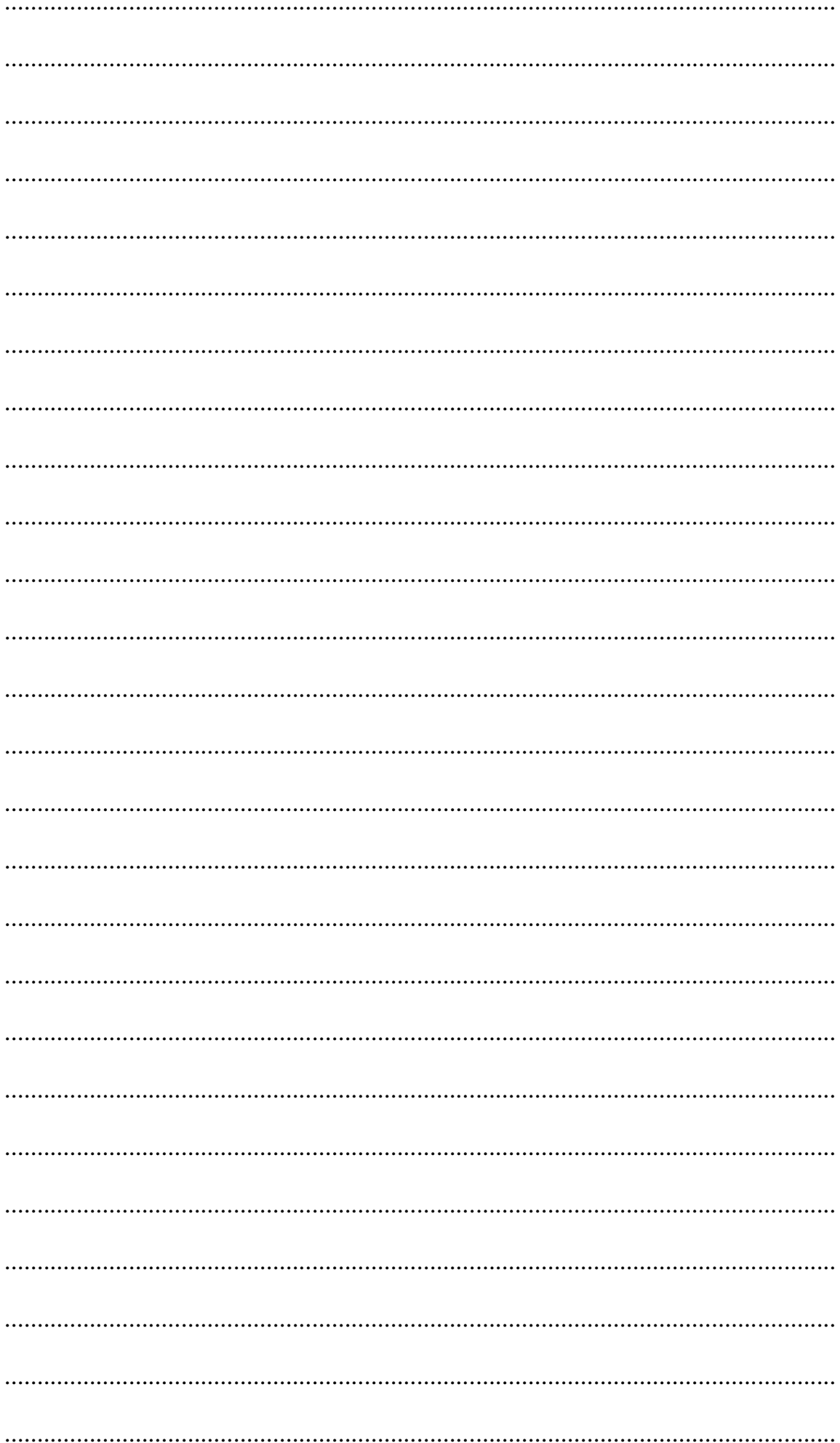
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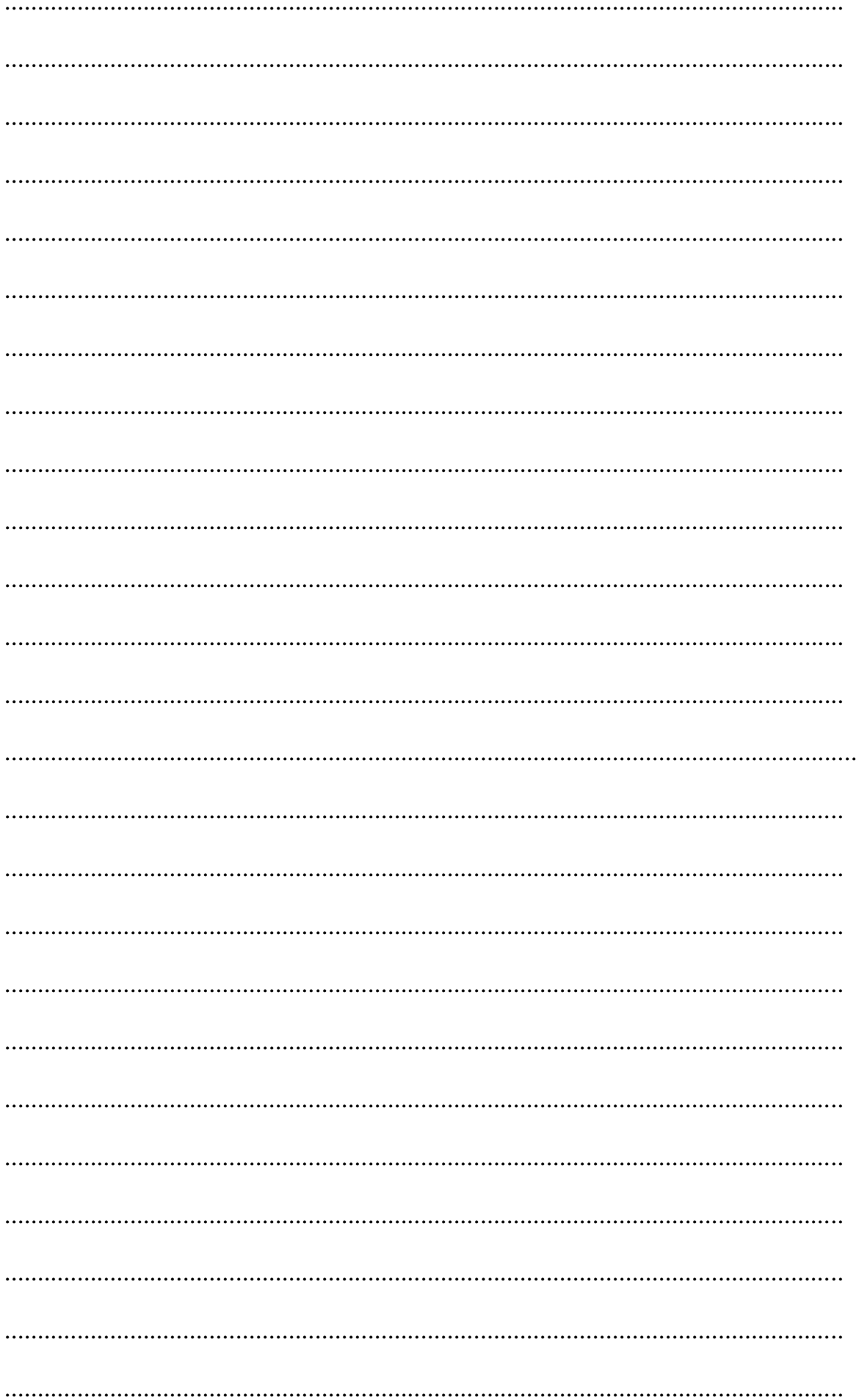
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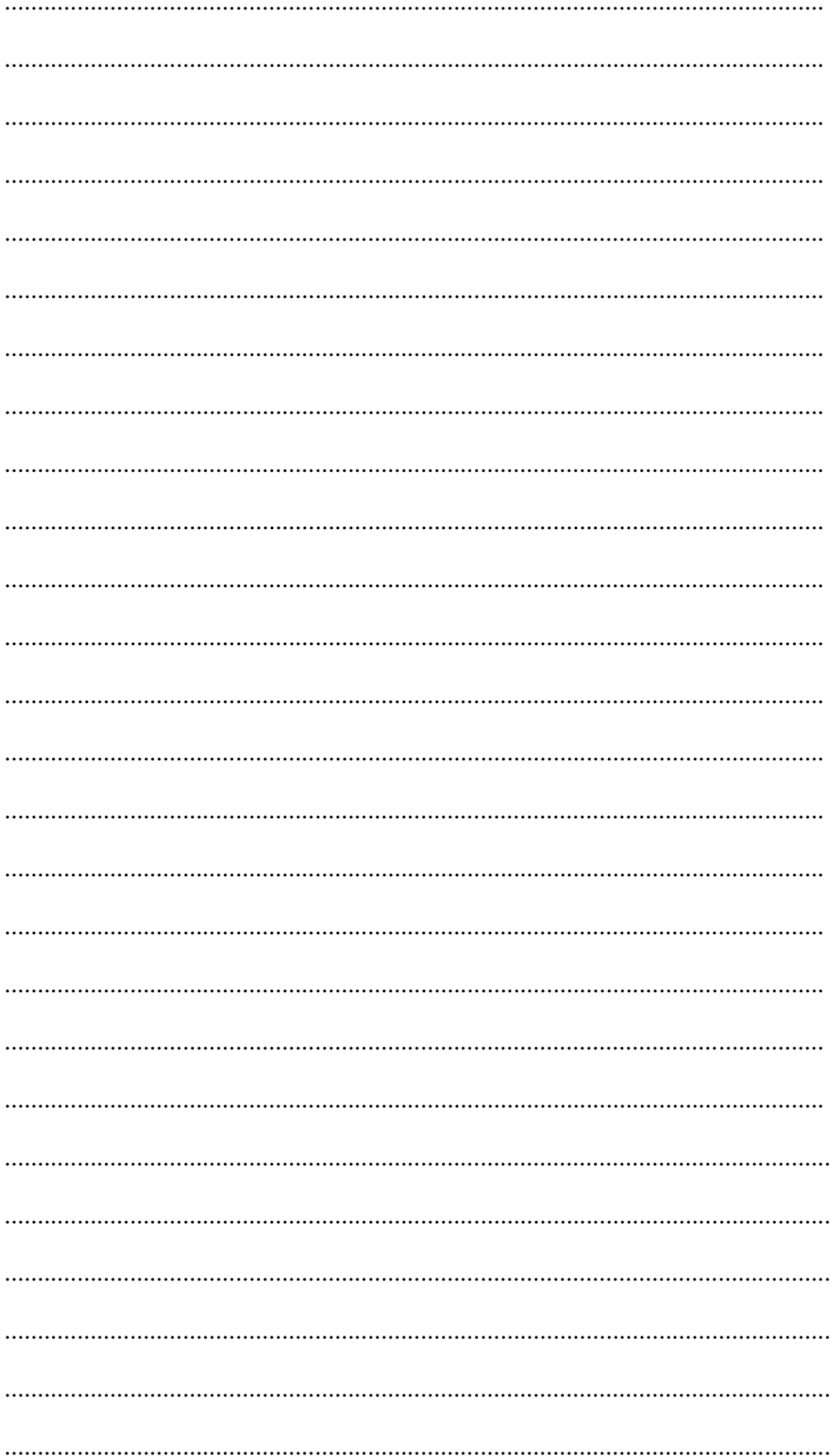
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