

Analysing Question and Source

Question 1:

Analyse evidence from Source 1 to explain TWO ways Augustus' power was different or special. Explain ONE reason why this special power was granted?

Source 1

Augustus' *imperium* was granted a special status. It is still a matter of debate whether his *imperium* was defined as superior to that of other proconsuls – *imperium [proconsulare] maius* (an imperium greater than that of proconsuls) – as certainly occurred later under his successor Tiberius. In any event, if a disagreement arose between Augustus and another proconsul, the regulation allowed him to intercede as he saw fit. Furthermore, it was decreed that his powers as proconsul did not expire if he crossed the sacred city limits of Rome.

The Senate conferred on him the full powers of a tribune of the people (*tribunicia potestas*), although not the office itself. He had in the past received some of the rights of a tribune of the people, especially immunity of person; now he was granted everything that went with the office. In addition, a separate resolution gave Augustus the power to bypass the normal procedures and convene the Senate at any time. In this manner a whole range of powers and privileges was created for him, to give a legal foundation to his political role.

Source: Eck, W. (2007). *The Age of Augustus*. Blackwell Publishing.

Context statement

Werner Eck is a professor of Ancient History at University of Cologne. Eck's main field of research and publication is Roman history, particularly the imperial period.

Analysing Sample Answer

Question 1

According to Source 1 one way that Augustus' power was special or different was that as proconsul his powers "did not expire if he crossed the sacred city limits of Rome" and that if he disagreed with another proconsul, he was able to "intercede as he saw fit". Augustus' role as proconsul held significantly more power than others who held that role.

Another way that Augustus held unique power was through a resolution that enabled Augustus to "convene the Senate at any time". This is seen to be extraordinary as it is described as bypassing "the normal procedures".

According to Eck this was done to ensure that his power was secure and to "give a legal foundation to his political role".