DBQ Roman Essay
During the course of the Roman Empire, men expected women to be both modest and beautiful. Women were expected to be subordinate to men, and to focus on a domestic-centered devotion to household and housekeeping.

Women were expected to be subordinate to men, which is outlined in documents 2, 7, 8, and 9. Suetonius says, in Document 2, that the emperor Augustus Caesar controlled the daily life of his daughter and granddaughter, he even had the power to judge and punish them for crimes. He banished his own daughter, and this suggests a supreme sense of being superior to women. Document 2 explains Augustus' power over the women in his household. Since IV is a historical document, his job is to write facts, therefore Doc 2 might be neutral because he would not be influenced by Augustus to slant the truth.

Document 2 proves how women were viewed as inferiors. It was believed that they exclusively suffered from deterioration, and were punished for them, as if men didn't have any.

Document 8 reinforces how often women were reproached
By men forget being themselves, and that women couldn't be free, could never consider themselves to be free, because they first answer to men. Doc. 3 from the epitaph of Althea Petestas emphasizes how wonderful Allah was. Considering this was an epitaph, it is likely a biased point of view because only good, positive things could be said about the dead so as not to disgrace them. To doc. 9, it can be gathered that in Rome, women were thought to be helpless without men, and that their husbands should serve as their guide so they would be prevented from participating in stupid pursuits. This means that men were women's guides, like they were not privy to the ridiculous ideas that infected women, and therefore women were inferior. Doc. 9, from the essayist Plutarch, gives advice on marriage to his friend. He would write these things b/c he would want to keep up a good reputation as a writer, and reinforcing social expectations would help him to do this. Therefore, Doc. 9 might be biased as well, b/c Plutarch is a man and obviously...
want to be revered by women. Document 10 questions why women can't be philosophers, etc. because they have the same abilities as men. This proves that women couldn't practice philosophy, hold higher jobs, or be good, because it says in Doc. 10 that they couldn't do these things. The reason they couldn't participate in these activities was because women were considered to be subordinate to men.

- During the Roman Empire, women were expected to be beautiful. The elaborate, highly-detailed hairstyles of the women in Document 3 suggests the amount of time women had to spend to be attractive to their husbands. They wouldn't have such elaborate hairstyles if they weren't expected to be beautiful. The statues in this document showed slender necks, symmetrical features, and even complexions. The sculptors in this time period would sculpt busts based on the ideal appearance they wanted women to have. Document 5 is another
epitaph, and the information on an epitaph would have
important and positive qualities of that dead person. One
of this woman's important qualities was that her way
of speaking and moving was attractive, and, moreover,
beautiful. Document 6 shows us a picture of a pretty
woman with big eyes, delicate features, and a poised,
pretty appearance. It is a painting of a beautiful woman,
and the commissioner of the portrait probably had it
done so that the beauty of this woman would be shown
off and displayed to guests. This is just another example
of how beauty was expected, because no one would
go through the time and expense of capturing this
woman's beauty if it wasn't a desired trait. Document
speaks in memory of a deceased woman. Several sentences
of this memorial are dedicated to describing in great
detail the beauty of Allah Potesiia. Since this is an
epitaph, it proves that beauty was expected because of
During the Roman empire, women were expected to be modest, as shown in documents 1, 7, and 4. In Doc. 1, Sec. 4, Junius explains why it is not humble for a woman to grab attention in such a way that public speaking would be a spotlit expectation. Therefore, the expectation of modesty was prevalent in society. In document 7, it explains how women were shamed and severely punished for committing unchaste, immodest acts. The fact that the Senate had passed a law concerning the modesty of women emphasizes how...
It was an important expectation.

During the Roman Empire, women were expected to behave domestically by focusing on household affairs, which is proved in documents 5 and 8. In document 5, the main accomplishment of this woman's life was tending the house and wool and raising children, not to mention being devoted to her husband. This shows that her duties lay in housekeeping and childbearing. Nothing else was mentioned. This shows a supreme devotion to women participating exclusively in domestic affairs. Document 5 also shows this. It says that Alliah worked to make sure the house was clean and orderly from dawn to dusk. Didn't she only ever abandon her chores, such as yarn-weaving for significant reasons. This also shows how domestic-centered women were expected to be, because it made up Alliah's entire life. An additional document that would have been helpful would be one from a woman's point of view. This is so because a woman would know first-hand what
her daily duties were; she would be able to go into detail about what her expectations were.

During the course of the Roman Empire, women were not only expected to behave as inferiors to men, but they were also expected to be at the center of domestic life, heading household affairs and raising a family. Women were expected to act in a humble, modest way and also appear beautiful. An additional document that would have been helpful would be one from a slave's point of view.

Additionally, it would explain if the expectations of enslaved men toward women were different than free men and women, because slaves were already obedient to their masters.