**Task 1:** Answer @ OR ⑥ in questions 1-9.

1. Tyrants @ follow OR ⑥ ignore the rule of law.
2. Tyrants @ protect OR ⑥ intimidate the weak.
3. They gain and hold power through @ military force OR ⑥ democratic elections.
4. Their rule is often marked by @ honest OR ⑥ corrupt behaviour.
5. They usually @ conceal and distort OR ⑥ reveal and respect the truth.
6. Tyrants often establish a @ free press OR ⑥ a propaganda machine.
7. They @ undermine OR ⑥ protect human rights.
8. They @ show respect for the citizens and their dignity OR ⑥ threaten and manipulate citizens.
9. Tyrants @ imprison, torture or kill people without trial OR ⑥ ensure that people have a fair trial.

**Task 2:** Highlight.

Which words or phrases below do you believe might represent the actions of tyrants? You should be able to find eight words or phrases.

1. exploit citizens • 2. hold fair elections • 3. violate human rights
   4. violate or break the law • 5. uphold human dignity
   6. assassinate opponents • 7. act with decency and honour
   8. uphold justice • 9. threaten people • 10. persecute opponents
   11. hold fake elections • 12. force confessions • 13. hold fair trials
   14. ensure that the justice system is separate from the government

**Task 3: An Ancient Roman Tyrant**

First, read this brief introduction and the back of this handout:

Nero seemed like an obedient and appreciative teenager when he first became the Roman Emperor. He was only 17 years old. He was so grateful to his mother Agrippina for helping him to gain power that his first watchword (like a password) for the palace guard was “the best of mothers”. Yet five years later, he ordered his mother’s death. According to one account, as she stood waiting to be killed by Nero’s soldiers, Agrippina tore her clothes from her stomach and cried, “Strike here, for this bore Nero.”

Agrippina was not Nero’s only victim. He is thought to have been responsible for the deaths of his 20-year-old wife, Octavia, his 14-year-old stepbrother, Britannicus, and his old tutor, Seneca.

You can read the whole horrifying and sordid story on the back of this handout.

Afterwards, read this [short biography of Nero](#).

Write this heading in your workbook:

**Portrait of a Tyrant**

List the behaviours that Nero displayed which could be characterised as “tyrannical”. Use some of the wording above if possible. You are allowed to use dot points if this helps you.
How Did Acquippa Die?

Rome's response was immediate. The Senate voted to declare Acquippa a public enemy and offered a reward for his capture or death. Acquippa was on the run, trying to evade the Romans and their allies. He was said to have escaped to the mountains and was never captured.

Class Discussion

1. What were the reasons for Nero's decision to end his life?

2. How did the situation with Acquippa influence Nero's decision to commit suicide?

3. What were the consequences of Nero's death for Rome?

Influence Over Nero

Although Nero's rule was marked by violence and corruption, he was also a patron of the arts. He supported various artists and writers, and his court was a center of intellectual and cultural activity.

The Early Years of Nero's Reign

60 BC saw the end of the Roman Republic and the beginning of the Roman Empire. The Senate, led by consul Julius Caesar, declared war on Pompey and his allies. The war was won by Julius Caesar, who became a dictator of Rome. Nero's reign was marked by political instability and economic decline.