



# Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

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LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2008

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## CLASSICAL STUDIES – ORDINARY LEVEL (400 marks)

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WEDNESDAY, 18 JUNE, – AFTERNOON 2.00 to 5.00

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- There are questions on TEN TOPICS.
- The topics are divided into three groups as follows:
  - Group I : Topics 1 to 4.
  - Group II : Topics 5 to 7.
  - Group III : Topics 8 to 10.
- Candidates are required to answer questions on FOUR TOPICS as follows:  
One topic must be chosen from *each* of the three groups and the *fourth* topic may be chosen from *any one* of the three groups.
- There are one hundred marks for each topic.
- Photographs required for answering questions on Topics 8 and 10 are provided on an accompanying paper marked X.

**Group I: Topics 1 to 4**

**Topic 1. Athens at War.**

[100]

Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) (a) Just before the outbreak of the Peloponnesian War, why did Corcyra want to become an ally of Athens? (15)
- (b) What were the main arguments used by the Corcyraeans in their efforts to become allies of Athens? (25)
- (c) What was the final decision of the Athenians? (10)
- (ii) (a) Outline the part played by Gylippus, the Spartan general, in the defeat of the Athenian expedition to Sicily. (20)
- (b) What mistakes were made by the Athenians that led to their defeat in Sicily? (30)
- (iii) (a) In his *History of the Peloponnesian War*, what was Thucydides' method of reporting speeches? (25)
- (b) How do the speeches help to make Thucydides' history dramatic and interesting? In your answer, refer to the text. (15)
- (c) Why was Thucydides particularly well placed to give an accurate account of the war? (10)
- (iv) Write notes on **any two** of the following:-
- Brasidas, Spartan general; Demosthenes, Athenian general; Archidamus, king of Sparta. (25, 25)
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**Topic 2. Alexander the Great.**

[100]

Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) In 335 BC Alexander besieged the city of Thebes.
- (a) Why did Alexander besiege Thebes? (20)
- (b) How did Alexander treat the inhabitants after he captured the city? (20)
- (c) Describe how the Athenians reacted to the defeat of the Thebans. (10)
- (ii) In 326 BC the Macedonians mutinied and refused to cross the Hyphasis River into India.
- (a) Why were the Macedonians unwilling to go any further? (30)
- (b) Describe how Alexander dealt with this mutiny. (20)
- (iii) Describe Alexander's visit to Egypt under the following headings:-
- (a) the founding of the city of Alexandria (20)
- (b) the trip to the Oracle at Siwah. (30)
- (iv) Write notes on **any two** of the following:-
- The Rock of Aornos; Prostration; the Gordian Knot. (25, 25)
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**Topic 3. Life and Thought in the Late Roman Republic.****[100]**Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) (a) According to Caesar, why did he decide to invade Britain in 55 BC? (15)  
(b) What does Caesar tell us about the methods of fighting of the Britons? (25)  
(c) From your reading of Caesar's *Invasions of Britain*, what is your opinion of Caesar as a commander? (10)
- (ii) (a) Explain why Mark Anthony hated Cicero. (15)  
(b) Briefly describe Cicero's death. (35)
- (iii) (a) In the Sallust extract, *Cato and Caesar*, what comparisons does Sallust make between the characters of Cato and Caesar? (40)  
(b) Describe briefly how Cato met his death. (10)
- (iv) From your study of Catullus' poems, did you find Catullus a likeable person? Give reasons for your answer. (50)
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**Topic 4. Roman Historians.****[100]**Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) "Tiberius was tight-fisted to the point of miserliness." (Suetonius, *Life of Tiberius*)  
(a) What examples does Suetonius give of Tiberius' meanness? (40)  
(b) Describe **one** example of Tiberius' large-scale generosity. (10)
- (ii) Write notes on **any two** of the following:-  
Germanicus; Julia, (daughter of Augustus); Sejanus. (25,25)
- (iii) "I found Rome built of bricks; I leave her clothed in marble." (Augustus)  
(a) According to Suetonius, how did Augustus improve the appearance of Rome? (30)  
(b) What measures did Augustus take to make Rome a safer city to live in? (20)
- (iv) Give an account of Augustus' career up to the Battle of Actium in 31 BC. (At this time, Augustus was known as Octavian). (50)
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**GROUP II: Topics 5 to 7**

**Topic 5. Greek Drama.**

[100]

Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) Describe the attitude of the Chorus to Medea and to her plans in Euripides' play, *Medea*. (50)
- (ii) (a) What part does the oracle at Delphi play in the plot of Sophocles' play, *Oedipus the King*? (40)  
(b) What is Jocasta's attitude to oracles and prophecies? (10)
- (iii) (a) In Euripides' play, *Medea*, explain why Medea murdered her children. (30)  
(b) What happened to Medea after their murders? (20)
- (iv) (a) In Sophocles' play, *Oedipus the King*, why are Jocasta and Oedipus overjoyed at the news of the death of King Polybus in Corinth? (25)  
(b) What important information about his origins is given to Oedipus by the Messenger from Corinth? (15)  
(c) How did Oedipus get his name? (10)
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**Topic 6. Ancient Epic.**

[100]

Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) (a) In Homer's *Odyssey*, who or what were Scylla and Charybdis? Why were they so dangerous to shipping? (20)  
(b) Describe Odysseus' first encounter with Scylla and Charybdis. (20)  
(c) What does this episode tell you about the character of Odysseus? (10)
- (ii) (a) In Homer's *Odyssey*, briefly describe how Odysseus overcame the Suitors. (35)  
(b) Do you think the Suitors deserved their fate? Explain your answer. (15)
- (iii) In Virgil's *Aeneid* Book VI, Aeneas meets his father Anchises in the Underworld.  
(a) Summarise what Anchises told Aeneas about his future destiny and that of his descendants. (40)  
(b) What did you learn from this episode about Virgil's attitude to Rome? (10)
- (iv) (a) In Virgil's *Aeneid* describe how Aeneas and Dido fell in love and became lovers. (30)  
(b) Explain why Aeneas decided to leave Dido and sail to Italy. (10)  
(c) Do you think Aeneas deserves to be criticised for his treatment of Dido? Give a reason for your answer. (10)
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**Topic 7. Writers of the Augustan Age.****[100]**Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) (a) In the Virgil extract *Hercules and Cacus* explain why Hercules was angry with Cacus. (10)  
(b) Describe the difficulties faced by Hercules in overcoming Cacus. (20)  
(c) How did Hercules finally kill Cacus? (20)
- (ii) (a) In Livy's *Class Warfare*, describe the effect on the city of Rome of the plebeian citizens' withdrawal to the Sacred Mount. (20)  
(b) How did Menenius Agrippa succeed in convincing the plebeians to return? (20)  
(c) What important concession was granted to the plebeians by the senators? (10)
- (iii) (a) Briefly relate the story of Baucis and Philemon as told by Ovid. (40)  
(b) Did you enjoy this story? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- (iv) "In his poetry, Propertius is often tortured by jealousy and rarely happy." Discuss this view of Propertius' poems on your course. (50)
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**GROUP III: Topics 8 to 10****Topic 8. Art and Architecture in Greek Society.****[100]**Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) **Photograph A on Paper X** shows the Karyatid Porch.  
(a) Explain what is meant by a "Karyatid." (10)  
(b) Name the building to which this porch is attached. (10)  
(c) What material was used in the construction of this building? (10)  
(d) In what ways is this temple different from the Parthenon? (20)
- (ii) **Photograph B on Paper X** shows the statue of Peace with the child Wealth (Irene and Ploutos).  
(a) From which period of Greek sculpture does this statue come? (10)  
(b) Comment on the carving of the drapery. (15)  
(c) How has the sculptor shown the tender, playful relationship between the child and the woman? (15)  
(d) Mention **one** difference between this sculpture and a typical sculpture from the Archaic period. (10)
- (iii) **Photograph C on Paper X** shows a famous votive relief.  
(a) Explain what is meant by relief sculpture. (10)  
(b) Identify the female figure in this relief. (10)  
(c) From which period of Greek sculpture does this relief come? (10)  
(d) Do you find this work appealing? Give reasons for your answer. (20)
- (iv) **Photograph D on Paper X** shows a metope from the Parthenon in Athens.  
(a) Identify the two figures shown in the metope. (10)  
(b) In a Greek temple where would you find metopes? (10)  
(c) Name the sculptor who was in overall charge of sculpting on the Parthenon. (10)  
(d) From which period of Greek sculpture does this metope come? (10)  
(e) Comment on the way the sculptor has achieved a sense of movement in this metope. (10)
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**Topic 9. The Philosopher in Society: A Study of Socrates and Plato.****[100]**Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) "I entirely agree," said Adeimantus, "that these stories are unsuitable." (Plato, *The Republic*)
- (a) Which type of stories does Socrates consider unsuitable? (25)
- (b) Which type of stories does he consider acceptable? (25)
- (ii) According to Socrates, the perfect state will obviously have the qualities of wisdom, courage and self-discipline.
- (a) Where are these qualities to be found in the perfect state? (35)
- (b) How does Socrates define justice? (15)
- (iii) "Society originates then," said I, "so far as I can see, because the individual is not self-sufficient but has many needs which he cannot supply himself." (Plato, *The Republic*)  
How does Socrates develop this statement to explain the origins of society? (50)
- (iv) According to Socrates, why are women by nature just as suited as men for all the jobs in his ideal state? (50)
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**Topic 10. Roman Art and Architecture.****[100]**Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) (a) Identify the triumphal arch shown in **Photograph E** on **Paper X** and say where it is located. (10)
- (b) For what purpose were arches such as this built? (10)
- (c) Give a full description of this arch. (30)
- (ii) **Photograph F** on **Paper X** shows a bust of an old woman and **Photograph G** shows a bust of Philip the Arabian, Emperor of Rome.
- (a) Comment on the depiction of the eyes in both busts. (10)
- (b) According to Wheeler, what does this bust show of the character of Philip the Arabian? (20)
- (c) In what ways are both busts typical of Roman portrait sculpture? (20)
- (iii) (a) Identify the famous monument shown in **Photograph H** on **Paper X**. (10)
- (b) Write a description of the monument. (20)
- (c) What event is commemorated by this monument? (10)
- (d) Mention any **one** piece of information we learn about the Roman army from this monument. (10)
- (iv) **Photograph I** on **Paper X** shows a wall-painting from Pompeii.
- (a) Describe what is happening in the painting, and name the three principal figures involved. (25)
- (b) Comment on the portrayal of the face of the white figure on the left. (15)
- (c) What purpose was served by Roman wall-paintings? (10)
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