



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2009

CLASSICAL STUDIES – HIGHER LEVEL (400 marks)

WEDNESDAY, 17 JUNE – AFTERNOON 2.00 to 5.00

- 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 1: Topics 1 to 4

Topic 1. Athens at War.

[100]

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

- (i) “Now they began to blame Pericles for having persuaded them to go to war and to hold him responsible for all the misfortune that had overtaken them.” (Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*)
- (a) In his speech to the assembly in 430 BC, how did Pericles attempt to defend himself and to restore the confidence of the Athenians? (35)
- (b) According to Thucydides, why was the death of Pericles such a disaster for Athens? (15)
- (ii) (a) Summarise the main points made on each side of the debate about the surrender of the Melians. (The Melian Dialogue). (35)
- (b) What is your opinion of the attitude of the Athenians in this dialogue? (15)
- (iii) (a) Explain why in 411 BC, the people of Athens decided to accept the rule of the Four Hundred and end the democracy. (30)
- (b) Describe the events that led to the Oligarchy being deposed. (20)
- (iv) Compare the leadership shown by the Spartan general, Gylippus, and the Athenian commander, Nicias, in the defeat of the Athenians at Syracuse. (50)

Topic 2. Alexander the Great.

[100]

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

- (i) At the Granicus River Alexander won his first victory over a Persian army.
- (a) Give a brief account of the course of the battle. (30)
- (b) What do we learn about Alexander’s qualities of leadership from this battle? (20)
- (ii) (a) Describe Alexander’s relationship with his father, Philip. (30)
- (b) Do you think Alexander’s upbringing was a good preparation for his future career? Give reasons for your answer. (20)
- (iii) (a) Describe Alexander’s final illness and death. (35)
- (b) From your reading of Plutarch and Arrian, what do you believe was the most likely cause of Alexander’s death? Give reasons for your answer. (15)
- (iv) For all his brilliant achievements, Alexander was at heart a cruel and vindictive tyrant. Discuss this statement. (50)
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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) Outline the reasons why Brutus, Cassius and the other conspirators decided to assassinate Caesar in 44 BC. (30)
- (b) Do you agree that Plutarch's description of the assassination was particularly vivid and dramatic? Give reasons for your answer. (20)
- (ii) (a) Give an account of the Battle of Pharsalus in which Caesar defeated Pompey. (35)
- (b) Comment on Pompey's generalship in this battle. (15)
- (iii) (a) Describe briefly the part played by Cato in the political life of the late Roman Republic. (35)
- (b) Did you find Cato an admirable person? Give reasons for your answer. (15)
- (iv) (a) From your reading of the prescribed poems by Catullus on your course, give an account of the love affair between the poet and his beloved, Lesbia. (35)
- (b) Did you enjoy reading these poems? Give reasons for your answer. (15)
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Topic 4. Roman Historians.

[100]

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

- (i) (a) Outline the factors that led Boudicca, Queen of the Iceni, to revolt against Rome. (15)
- (b) Describe the course of the revolt. (35)
- (ii) Which of the two historians on your course, Tacitus or Suetonius, do you prefer? Support your answer by reference to the texts. (50)
- (iii) Explain why, according to Suetonius, there was "widespread general rejoicing" at the news of Nero's death. (50)
- (iv) Give an account of the life and death of Germanicus, the nephew of Tiberius. (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) Discuss the role of the Chorus in Euripides' play *Medea*. In your answer you should focus especially on the Chorus' attitude to (a) Medea and (b) Jason. (50)
- (ii) Aeschylus' play *Prometheus Bound* is a clear and unequivocal condemnation of tyrannical power.
Discuss this statement, supporting your answer by reference to the play. (50)
- (iii) Discuss the role of Dionysus in Aristophanes' play, *Frogs*. (50)
- (iv) In Sophocles' play, *Oedipus the King*, Oedipus has no control over what has happened to him before coming to Thebes but he shows his greatness in the way he reacts to his fate.
Discuss, supporting your answer by reference to the play. (50)
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Topic 6. Ancient Epic. [100]

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

- (i) Identify and compare the features of the *Táin* as a primary (oral) epic and those of Virgil's *Aeneid* as a secondary (literary) epic. (50)
- (ii) (a) Briefly recount the Cyclops episode from Homer's *Odyssey*. (30)
(b) What does this episode reveal about Odysseus' character? (20)
- (iii) Compare the treatment of the character of Odysseus in Homer's *Odyssey* with the treatment of Ulysses in Virgil's *Aeneid*. (50)
- (iv) Book 4, which deals with Aeneas' affair with Dido, has long been regarded as the greatest and most moving of all the books of Virgil's *Aeneid*.
Do you agree with this statement? Support your answer by reference to the text. (50)
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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) Generally speaking, the writers of the Augustan Age preferred the country to the city and the past to the present.
Discuss this statement referring to the prescribed extracts from **any two** of the writers on your course. (50)
- (ii) (a) Summarise the story of Hercules and Cacus by Virgil. (30)
(b) Do you think Virgil is a good storyteller?
Give reasons for your answer. (20)
- (iii) (a) What are the main themes that Propertius explores in the prescribed poems on your course? (30)
(b) Name your favourite poem by Propertius.
Give reasons for your choice. (20)
- (iv) (a) Give a brief account of how Horatius and his two companions held the bridge against the Etruscans in Livy's story *Horatius on the Bridge*. (20)
(b) In your opinion, what makes Livy's account so dramatic? (15)
(c) How does Livy use this story to praise the wisdom of the Roman Senate? (15)

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 plan of the temple of Artemis at Ephesus.
(a) In which order of Greek architecture is this temple built? (5)
(b) What materials were used in its construction? (10)
(c) Give a full description of this temple, using the correct architectural terms. (35)
- (ii) **Photograph B on Paper X** shows a vase from Caere in ancient Etruria.
(a) What is the name of this type of vase? (5)
(b) What was the function of such vases? (5)
(c) Comment on the subject matter and decoration of this vase. (25)
(d) Briefly explain how black-figure decoration was put on vases such as this. (15)
- (iii) Study the sculpture shown in **Photograph C on Paper X**.
(a) Name the figure standing and the infant he is holding. (10)
(b) Name the sculptor of this statue. (5)
(c) To which period of Greek sculpture does this piece belong? (5)
(d) Identify particular features of this work which are typical of this period. (30)
- (iv) **Photograph D on Paper X** shows a metope from the Parthenon in Athens.
(a) Identify the figures shown in the metope. What do they represent? (15)
(b) What other themes are represented on the metopes of the Parthenon? (15)
(c) Name the sculptor who was in overall charge of the sculptures of the Parthenon. (5)
(d) To which period of Greek sculpture does this metope belong? Give reasons for your answer. (15)

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) (a) Why did Plato go to Syracuse for the first time? Support your answer by reference to Plato's *Seventh Letter*. (30)
- (b) Do you agree that Plato never achieved his goals in Syracuse?
Give reasons for your answer. (20)
- (ii) (a) How does Plato propose to select those who will be the future Philosopher Kings in his ideal state? (25)
- (b) What kind of education did Plato consider suitable for training the future Philosopher Kings? (25)
- (iii) (a) According to Plato, what role should music play in his ideal educational system? (30)
- (b) How does Plato justify his views on music? (20)
- (iv) Plato's *Republic* should be essential reading for all politicians.
Do you agree with this statement? Support your answer by reference to the text. (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) Study the plan of Timgad shown in **Photograph E** on **Paper X** and answer the following questions.
- (a) Identify the features marked at **aa, d, k, l, m**. (15)
- (b) Where is Timgad located and why did the Emperor Trajan have it built there? (10)
- (c) What evidence is there to show that Timgad survived well into the fourth century AD? (10)
- (d) What does the plan reveal about the quality of life experienced by the inhabitants of Timgad? (15)
- (ii) (a) Identify the bridge shown in **Photograph F** on **Paper X**. (10)
- (b) Name the Emperor who ordered it to be built. (5)
- (c) What do such bridges tell us about the Romans and their Empire? (15)
- (d) Comment briefly on the principal architectural features of this bridge. (20)
- (iii) **Photographs G** and **H** show the busts of two aged women.
- (a) In what ways are these portrait-busts typically Roman? (20)
- (b) Compare the two portrait-busts. (20)
- (c) Comment on the depiction of the eyes in each of the portrait-busts. (10)
- (iv) Study **Photograph I** on **Paper X**.
- (a) What event is shown in this mosaic? (5)
- (b) Comment on Wheeler's statement: "The tumultuous battle scene is certainly rendered with a vivid sense of drama and a genuine attempt to distinguish the personalities involved." (30)
- (c) Briefly explain how mosaics were made. (15)
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