



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2015

CLASSICAL STUDIES – HIGHER LEVEL (300 marks)

FRIDAY, 12 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.
- Candidates are required to answer **SIX QUESTIONS** drawn from the **FOUR** chosen topics as follows:
Candidates must answer **two** questions from two of their chosen topics and **one** question from **each** of the remaining two of their chosen topics.
- There are fifty marks for each question. The total marks for the paper are 300.
- 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.

- (i) (a) Outline the arguments used by Archidamus, King of Sparta, when he advised his subjects against a war with Athens. (35)
- (b) Why did the Spartans reject their King's advice? (15)
- (ii) (a) Nicias' leadership of the Sicilian Expedition proved to be disastrous. Discuss this statement. (30)
- (b) Compare Nicias' leadership with that of Gylippus, the Spartan general. (20)
- (iii) (a) Describe the course of the Battle of Amphipolis in 422 BC. (35)
- (b) How did the outcome of the battle affect the course of the Peloponnesian War? (15)
- (iv) (a) Give an account of the events leading to the Oligarchic Coup of 411 BC. (35)
- (b) Explain why the Oligarchy failed to maintain the support of the people of Athens. (15)
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Topic 2. Alexander the Great.

- (i) From your reading of the prescribed texts, discuss the influence of Philip, Olympias and Aristotle on Alexander. (50)
- (ii) (a) Compare the preparations made by Alexander with the preparations made by Darius before the Battle of Gaugamela. (15)
- (b) How did Alexander's tactics lead to success in the battle? (25)
- (c) What were the immediate consequences of the battle? (10)
- (iii) (a) At the Hyphasis River, why did Alexander's army refuse to follow him further into India? (20)
- (b) How did Alexander deal with this mutiny? (20)
- (c) What did you learn about Alexander's relationship with his men from this incident? (10)
- (iv) "That his character and temper grew worse as his power grew greater seems clear." (Plutarch)
From your reading of Arrian and Plutarch, discuss this view of Alexander, with reference to the period from the Battle of Gaugamela in 331 BC to the time of his death in 323 BC. (50)
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Topic 3. Life and Thought in the Late Roman Republic.

- (i) (a) Based on your reading of Sallust's writings on your course, what was his attitude towards the Rome of his day? (20)
- (b) What does Sallust blame for the change from 'the good old days'? (30)
- (ii) Pompey deserved the title of 'Pompey the Great'. Discuss this statement giving reasons for your answer. (50)
- (iii) On the Ides of March, 44 BC, Julius Caesar was assassinated.
- (a) For what reasons did Brutus and his fellow conspirators decide to assassinate Caesar? (20)
- (b) Describe what happened in Rome from the time of the assassination to the departure of the conspirators to the east. (30)
- (iv) In 51 BC Cicero wrote a letter to Atticus, about his brother Quintus and Quintus' wife Pomponia.
- (a) Outline the contents of this letter. (30)
- (b) What does this letter reveal about the relationship between Cicero and Quintus? (10)
- (c) With whom do you sympathise more, Quintus or Pomponia? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
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Topic 4. Roman Historians.

- (i) In his *Annals* Tacitus describes how men discussed the reign of Augustus after his funeral.
- (a) Summarise the opinions expressed for and the opinions expressed against the recently dead Emperor. (35)
- (b) Do you think Tacitus was fair to Augustus in his account of this debate? Give reasons for your answer. (15)
- (ii) While presenting the facts, Tacitus interprets them in a way that is critical of Tiberius at every opportunity. Comment on this view, supporting your points by reference to the prescribed text. (50)
- (iii) Despite being considered foolish and incompetent, even by his own mother, Claudius proved himself to be an able and good Emperor. Discuss this statement supporting your answer by reference to the biography of Claudius by Suetonius. (50)
- (iv) (a) Give an account of Nero's artistic pursuits. (30)
- (b) How, in your opinion, did Nero's participation in public performances affect his role as Emperor? (10)
- (c) What insights into Nero's character do we get from the manner of his death? (10)
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GROUP II: Topics 5 to 7

Topic 5. Greek Drama.

- (i) While Dionysus is presented as a ludicrous figure, he is engaged in a serious mission. Discuss this statement in relation to Aristophanes' play *Frogs*. (50)
- (ii) Parenthood is a central theme of Euripides' play *Medea*. Discuss this statement supporting your answer with reference to the play. (50)
- (iii) In Aeschylus' *Prometheus Bound*, Oceanus says to Prometheus, "You are a far more prudent counsellor of others than you are of yourself." Discuss this view of Prometheus supporting your answer with reference to the play. (50)
- (iv) From your reading of *Oedipus The King* by Sophocles, discuss the view that although Oedipus has committed "crimes too huge for hanging", he is still a heroic character. (50)
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Topic 6. Ancient Epic.

- (i) Compare and contrast the character of Ferdia in the *Táin* with the character of Turnus in the *Aeneid*. (50)
- (ii) Discuss the view that love and justice are central themes of Homer's *Odyssey*. Support your answer with reference to the *Odyssey*. (50)
- (iii) (a) Outline the role of Venus in Virgil's *Aeneid*. (35)
- (b) In your opinion, were Venus' interventions always helpful to Aeneas? Explain your answer by reference to the *Aeneid*. (15)
- (iv) Odysseus shows all the qualities of a great action hero in Homer's *Odyssey*. Discuss this view supporting your answer with reference to the text. (50)
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Topic 7. Writers of the Augustan Age.

- (i) (a) Outline the main preoccupations of Ovid in the prescribed poems on your course. (30)
- (b) Which one of the prescribed Ovid poems is your favourite? Give reasons for your choice. (20)
- (ii) "We will always be fighting each other or else I will be fighting rivals over you: you at peace will never satisfy me." (Propertius)
To what extent is this statement a true reflection of Propertius' relationship with Cynthia? Refer to the poems on your course in your answer. (50)
- (iii) Livy highlights the virtues of courage and patriotism.
Discuss this statement, supporting your answer with reference to the prescribed extracts from Livy's *Histories*. (50)
- (iv) (a) In Virgil's *Song of Silenus* explain how we see the playful side of Virgil's writing. (15)
- (b) One of the delights of Virgil's poetry is his love of nature. Discuss this view, referring to the poems on your course. (35)

GROUP III: Topics 8 to 10

Topic 8. Art and Architecture in Greek Society.

- (i) **Photograph A on Paper X** shows a famous temple.
- (a) Identify this temple and say where it is located. (10)
- (b) To which order of Greek architecture does this temple belong? (5)
- (c) Describe the materials used in its construction. (5)
- (d) Using the correct architectural terms, give a full description of this temple. (30)
- (ii) Study **Photograph B on Paper X**.
- (a) Identify the type of vase in the photograph and say what it was used for. (10)
- (b) In which centre of pottery was it made? (10)
- (c) Give a description of the decoration on the vase. (30)
- (iii) Look at **Photograph C on Paper X**.
- (a) What type of statue is this and to which era does it belong? (10)
- (b) What features of the statue make it typical of this era? (30)
- (c) Richter says that this statue, "shows the combination of stylisation and naturalism at its best". Explain this statement. (10)
- (iv) Look at **Photograph D on Paper X**
- (a) Identify this statue and say where it was sculpted. (10)
- (b) To which period of Greek sculpture does it belong? (5)
- (c) Which features of the sculpture are typical of this period? (35)

Topic 9. The Philosopher in Society: A Study of Socrates and Plato.

- (i) “It seems our first business is to supervise the production of stories and choose only those we think suitable, and reject the rest.” (Plato’s *Republic*)
- (a) Which stories are chosen and which stories are rejected by Plato? (15)
- (b) How does Plato justify his choices and his rejections? (25)
- (c) Do you agree with Plato’s views on this matter? Explain your answer. (10)
- (ii) (a) Outline Plato’s arguments for the equal treatment of men and women in his ideal state. (25)
- (b) Does Plato think that men and women are equal in every respect? Explain your answer. (15)
- (c) Do you agree with Plato’s views on men and women? Explain your answer. (10)
- (iii) Discuss Dion’s failure to model his behaviour on Plato’s teachings, despite his devotion to the philosopher. Support your answer with reference to Plutarch’s *Life of Dion*. (50)
- (iv) (a) How did Socrates propose to select the Rulers and Auxiliaries of his ideal state in Plato’s *Republic*? (25)
- (b) Do you think that the lifestyle he recommends for them could work in the real world? Give reasons for your answer. (25)
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Topic 10. Roman Art and Architecture.

- (i) **Photograph E** on **Paper X** shows the plan of Aosta (Augusta Praetoria), a city of Roman Gaul.
- (a) Identify the features shown at *a, d, e, ff* and *gg*. (15)
- (b) What type of town was Aosta and what was the reason for its location? (15)
- (c) From studying the plan, what can you tell about the life of the citizens in Aosta? (20)
- (ii) **Photograph F** on **Paper X** shows a relief from the Arch of Titus in Rome.
- (a) What important historical event is commemorated in this relief? (10)
- (b) In describing this panel Wheeler writes: “Here the sculptor has made an incomplete attempt at perspective and there is a hint of frontality.” Comment on this view. (20)
- (c) In what ways does this sculpture differ from the earlier Ara Pacis? (20)
- (iii) **Photograph G** on **Paper X** shows a mosaic from Pompeii.
- (a) What battle is shown in this mosaic and who are the two main characters? (15)
- (b) How has the artist conveyed the personalities in the mosaic and the drama of the battle? (25)
- (c) How would a mosaic such as this have been made? (10)
- (iv) **Photograph H** on **Paper X** shows the Roman theatre at Aspendos in Asia Minor.
- (a) Give a detailed description of this theatre. (25)
- (b) How does this theatre conform to “the Roman trend towards enclosed interiors”? (15)
- (c) Describe one difference (other than the trend towards enclosed interiors) between Roman and Greek theatres. (10)
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