



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

CLASSICAL STUDIES – HIGHER LEVEL (300 marks)

SAMPLE PAPER

- 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 1: Topics 1 to 4

Topic 1. Athens at War.

- (i) Athens was a democracy where all important matters were decided by the citizens in the Assembly. In your opinion, did this form of government help or hinder the Athenians in their conduct of the war against Sparta and her allies? Support your answer with reference to the text. (50)
- (ii) (a) Give an account of the part played by Alcibiades, the Athenian statesman and general, in the Peloponnesian War. (35)
- (b) Do you admire Alcibiades or not? Give reasons for your answer. (15)
- (iii) The Battle of Amphipolis took place in 422 BC.
- (a) Give an account of the battle. (35)
- (b) How did the outcome of the battle affect the course of the war? (15)
- (iv) "My work is not a piece of writing designed to meet the taste of the immediate public but was done to last forever." (Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*)
In your view, what are the qualities which make Thucydides a great historian?
Support your answer by reference to the text. (50)
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Topic 2. Alexander the Great.

- (i) (a) Outline the events which led to the deaths of Philotas and Parmenio. (30)
- (b) Do you think Philotas' execution was justified? Give reasons for your answer. (20)
- (ii) Give an account of the Battle of Gaugamela under the following headings:
Preparations by Alexander and Darius for the battle;
The course of the battle;
The consequences of Alexander's victory for his campaign to conquer the Persian Empire. (50)
- (iii) (a) In your opinion, why did Alexander decide to cross the Gedrosian Desert? (15)
- (b) Do you agree that the crossing of the Gedrosian Desert was the greatest catastrophe of Alexander's entire career? Give reasons for your answer. (35)
- (iv) "... and so he sent for Aristotle." (Plutarch, *Life of Alexander*)
- (a) According to Plutarch, why did Philip entrust the education of his son Alexander to Aristotle? (10)
- (b) According to Plutarch, what influence did Aristotle have on Alexander? (20)
- (c) What evidence is there that Alexander continued to be interested in philosophy throughout his life? (20)
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Topic 3. Life and Thought in the Late Roman Republic.

- (i) Give an account of the part played by Publius Clodius in the events of the Late Republic. (50)
- (ii) In the extract *How to Make Right Decisions*, Cicero asks whether one man should ever profit by another's loss.
- (a) Show how Cicero uses specific examples to debate this question. (40)
- (b) Do you agree with Cicero's judgement in these examples? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- (iii) (a) According to Sallust in *The Greatness and Decline of Rome*, why were the nobles most to blame for the decline of Rome? (35)
- (b) In the same extract, why does Sallust blame in particular the dictator Sulla for the growth of violence and greed? (15)
- (iv) (a) Give an account of the last days of Cicero's life after he was proscribed by Mark Antony. (35)
- (b) Give reasons why Mark Antony hated Cicero. (15)
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Topic 4. Roman Historians.

- (i) (a) Give an account of the life and death of Julia, the only daughter of the Emperor Augustus. (35)
- (b) What is your opinion of the way Augustus treated his daughter Julia? Support your answer by reference to the text. (15)
- (ii) Tacitus' biography of Tiberius gives an accurate account of his reign, but interprets these events to show Tiberius in the worst possible light. Discuss this statement. Support your answer with reference to the text. (50)
- (iii) (a) Describe the downfall and death of Messalina, wife of the Emperor Claudius. (40)
- (b) Comment on the behaviour of Claudius at the time of Messalina's death. (10)
- (iv) The philosopher Seneca acted as tutor to the Emperor Nero.
- (a) Outline the career of Seneca during Nero's reign. (30)
- (b) "Seneca's death was slow and lingering." (Tacitus, *Annals*) According to Tacitus, how did Seneca die? (20)
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GROUP II: Topics 5 to 7

Topic 5. Greek Drama.

- (i) In Aeschylus' play *Prometheus Bound*, Zeus is clearly depicted as the villain. Do you agree with this statement? Support your answer by reference to the play. (50)
- (ii) (a) In the play *Frogs*, what is your opinion of the way in which Aristophanes portrays Dionysus? (25)
(b) Discuss the role of Xanthias, Dionysus' slave, in Aristophanes' play *Frogs*. (25)
- (iii) In Euripides' play *Medea*, in their first confrontation Medea accuses Jason of ingratitude, broken vows and desertion of her and of their children.
- (a) How does Jason defend himself against these charges? (35)
(b) From your reading of this scene, what is your opinion of Jason's attitude to women? (15)
- (iv) Discuss the role and character of Jocasta in Sophocles' play *Oedipus the King*. (50)
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Topic 6. Ancient Epic.

- (i) In Homer's *Odyssey*, the Suitors and the disloyal maidservants receive terrible punishment for their crimes. Do you think that they deserved such punishment? Support your answer by reference to the text. (50)
- (ii) Compare the role played by Odysseus' son Telemachus in Homer's *Odyssey* with the role of Aeneas' son Ascanius in Virgil's *Aeneid*. (50)
- (iii) Though Juno is a relentless enemy of Aeneas, he does have friends among the gods. Discuss the role played by the gods in Virgil's *Aeneid* in the light of the above statement. (50)
- (iv) Compare the status of women in the *Táin* with the status of women in **either** the *Odyssey* or the *Aeneid*. (50)
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Topic 7. Writers of the Augustan Age.

- (i) From your reading of Propertius' poems on your course, what impression did you get of him as
(a) a man
(b) a lover? (25, 25)
- (ii) (a) Summarise the story of Orpheus and Eurydice as told by Virgil. (30)
(b) How has Virgil succeeded in making the story dramatic and moving? (20)
- (iii) (a) In the poems by Horace on your course, what is his attitude to death and the shortness of life? (35)
(b) How does Horace's attitude to death differ from Propertius' attitude to death? (15)
- (iv) (a) In the extract *The Romans Defeated by Hannibal at Cannae*, how does Livy describe the behaviour of the two consuls Terentius Varro and Aemilius Paulus? (30)
(b) Explain why Hannibal's tactics were so successful in the Battle of Cannae. (20)
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GROUP III: Topics 8 to 10

Topic 8. Art and Architecture in Greek Society.

- (i) **Photograph A** on **Paper X** shows a vase from ancient Athens.
- (a) What is the name of this shape of vase? (5)
(b) What was the purpose of such vases? (10)
(c) Comment on the scene and the decoration of this vase. (15)
(d) Explain briefly how the decoration was applied in black-figure vases. (20)
- (ii) Study the sculpture shown in **Photograph B** on **Paper X**.
- (a) Name the figure shown. Who was the sculptor of this statue? (15)
(b) To which period of Greek sculpture does this statue belong? (5)
(c) What features of this statue are typical of this period? (30)
- (iii) (a) Identify the sculpture shown in **Photograph C** on **Paper X**. (5)
(b) What was the purpose of this sculpture and where was it located? (10)
(c) Give a brief description of the temple where this sculpture was located. (15)
(d) To which period of Greek sculpture does this statue belong? Give reasons for your answer. (20)
- (iv) **Photograph D** on **Paper X** shows the plan of the Doric temple of Zeus at Akragas (Agrigento).
- (a) Describe the typical features of the Doric order. (20)
(b) Describe the temple in **Photograph D** and explain why it is so unusual. (25)
(c) To which period of Greek architecture does it belong? (5)
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Topic 9. The Philosopher in Society: A Study of Socrates and Plato.

- (i) (a) Outline Socrates' views on wealth and poverty in Plato's *Republic*. (35)
(b) Why does Socrates insist that the Guardians should own no private property? (15)
- (ii) (a) Outline the Simile of the Cave in Plato's *Republic*. (20)
(b) Explain the meaning of the simile. (20)
(c) Do you agree that the simile is effective in conveying Plato's point? Give a reason for your answer. (10)
- (iii) (a) Outline Socrates' views on the role of women in his ideal state in Plato's *Republic*. (25)
(b) How does Socrates justify his views on the role of women? (25)
- (iv) Would you like to live in the ideal society depicted in Plato's *Republic*? Support your answer by reference to the text. (50)
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Topic 10. Roman Art and Architecture.

- (i) Study the plan of Palmyra in **Photograph E** on **Paper X** and answer the following questions.
- (a) Identify the features marked at **B, C, D, E, F**. (15)
(b) Describe what Mortimer Wheeler called "the orientalisising features" of the ancient city. (15)
(c) "The Great Temple of Bel dominates the scene." (Wheeler) Briefly describe the temple and its enclosure. (20)
- (ii) **Photograph F** shows the interior of the Pantheon at Rome.
- (a) Name the emperor who was responsible for the building of the temple. (5)
(b) Describe the exterior of the temple. (15)
(c) Do you agree with Wheeler when he writes, "As an interior the Pantheon is unsurpassed."? Explain your answer. (30)
- (iii) (a) Identify the famous monument shown in **Photograph G** on **Paper X**. (5)
(b) What is commemorated by this monument? (5)
(c) "The strange convention of the 'continuous style' works." (Wheeler) What is the 'continuous style' and, according to Wheeler, how does it work? (25)
(d) "All perspective is at sixes and sevens." (Wheeler) Comment on the sculptor's treatment of perspective in the carving of the monument. (15)
- (iv) **Photograph H** on **Paper X** shows a wall painting from Pompeii.
- (a) To which style of Pompeian painting does this picture belong? (5)
(b) Describe the features of this style of painting that are to be seen in this picture. (30)
(c) In your opinion, why did the Romans have such pictures painted on their walls? (5)
(d) Name one other painting on your course that appealed to you and give reasons for your choice. (10)
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