



# Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

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## LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

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### CLASSICAL STUDIES – ORDINARY LEVEL (300 marks)

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## SAMPLE PAPER

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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.
- 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) In 415 BC, the Athenian general Alcibiades deserted Athens and went over to the Spartan side.
- (a) What events led Alcibiades to change sides? (35)
  - (b) What advice did Alcibiades give the Spartans about waging the war against Athens? (15)
- (ii) In 429 BC the Spartans laid siege to the town of Plataea.
- (a) Give a brief account of the siege of Plataea. (35)
  - (b) Describe what happened when the Plataeans finally surrendered. (15)
- (iii) “... as for the sufferings of individuals, they seemed almost beyond the capacity of human nature to endure.”  
(Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*)
- (a) Give an account of the sufferings of the Athenian people during the Plague (430 BC). (35)
  - (b) Describe how some Athenians risked their lives to help others. (15)
- (iv) Write notes on **any two** of the following:-
- Nicias (the Athenian general); Brasidas (the Spartan general); Archidamus (the Spartan king). (25, 25)
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**Topic 2. Alexander the Great.**

- (i) “Alexander suddenly found himself passionately eager to visit the shrine of Ammon in Libya.”  
(Arrian, *The Campaigns of Alexander*)
- (a) Give an account of Alexander’s journey to the shrine of Ammon at Siwah in Libya. (25)
  - (b) In your opinion, why was Alexander so eager to visit the shrine? (15)
  - (c) Do you think that Alexander really believed that he was the son of Zeus-Ammon? Give a reason for your answer. (10)
- (ii) In 328 BC Alexander killed his senior officer Cleitus.
- (a) Give an account of the quarrel between the two men which ended with the death of Cleitus. (35)
  - (b) Describe Alexander’s behaviour in the days after the killing of Cleitus. (15)
- (iii) In 331 BC Alexander defeated Darius at the Battle of Gaugamela.
- (a) Why did Alexander refuse to fight on the night before the battle actually took place? (10)
  - (b) Give a brief account of the battle. (30)
  - (c) Mention **one** important result of the battle. (10)
- (iv) From your reading of Arrian, do you agree that Alexander deserved his title of “Great”?  
Give reasons for your answer. (50)
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**Topic 3. Life and Thought in the Late Roman Republic.**

- (i) What accusations does Cicero make against Mark Antony in his speech *Against Antony*? (50)
- (ii) (a) Outline the events leading to the assassination of Julius Caesar. (35)  
(b) According to Plutarch, what were the immediate results of Caesar's assassination? (15)
- (iii) Cicero's friend Servius Sulpicius Rufus wrote to him in 45 BC: "When I was told of the death of your daughter Tullia, I was of course as grieved and upset as I was bound to be."  
(a) How does Sulpicius try to console Cicero in his loss? (40)  
(b) Do you think that his words would have helped Cicero? Give a reason for your answer. (10)
- (iv) From your reading of his poems what impression did you get of Catullus:-  
- as a lover  
- as a friend  
- as a brother? (50)
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**Topic 4. Roman Historians.**

- (i) (a) Briefly outline the events leading to the death of Germanicus. (35)  
(b) Comment on Tiberius' relationship with Germanicus and with Germanicus' wife Agrippina. (15)
- (ii) (a) According to Suetonius, Augustus' lifestyle was very simple. Give examples of the simplicity of Augustus' lifestyle. (15)  
(b) In your opinion, what were Augustus' major achievements? Give reasons for your answer. (35)
- (iii) In AD 26 Tiberius left Rome for the island of Capri.  
(a) In your opinion, why did Tiberius leave Rome at that time? (25)  
(b) What account does Suetonius give of Tiberius' life on Capri? (25)
- (iv) Write notes on **any two** of the following:-  
Julia (daughter of Augustus); Quintilius Varus (Augustus' general); Marcus Agrippa. (25, 25)
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**GROUP II: Topics 5 to 7**

**Topic 5. Greek Drama.**

- (i) “Surely, of all creatures that have life and will, we women  
Are the most wretched.” (Euripides, *Medea*)
- (a) How does Medea describe the difficulties experienced by women? (40)
- (b) According to Medea, why does she suffer even more than the women of Corinth? (10)
- (ii) Oedipus is a man of violent temper.  
What evidence do you find of Oedipus’ temper in Sophocles’ play *Oedipus the King*? (50)
- (iii) Medea is a brilliant manipulator.  
Show how Medea succeeds in manipulating Jason, Creon and Aegeus in her pursuit of vengeance in Euripides’ play *Medea*. (50)
- (iv) (a) Give an account of the part played by Jocasta in Sophocles’ *Oedipus the King*. (35)
- (b) According to the Messenger, how did Jocasta die? (15)
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**Topic 6. Ancient Epic.**

- (i) (a) What was the warning given to Odysseus by Teiresias about the island of the Sun-god? (10)
- (b) Describe what happened when Odysseus and his men landed on the island of the Sun-god. (30)
- (c) Why was the visit of Odysseus and his men to the island of the Sun-god such a terrible disaster? (10)
- (ii) (a) Describe the first meeting of Odysseus with his son Telemachus after Odysseus’ return to Ithaca. (40)
- (b) Do you find Homer’s description of this meeting between Odysseus and Telemachus moving? Explain your answer. (10)
- (iii) In Book 1 of Virgil’s *Aeneid* the goddess Juno tries to destroy the Trojan fleet with a violent storm.
- (a) Why does Juno want to destroy the Trojans and their fleet? (15)
- (b) Comment on Aeneas’ behaviour as leader during and after this storm. (35)
- (iv) (a) Give an account of the preparations Dido makes for her death. (25)
- (b) What do you find most moving in Virgil’s account of Dido’s actual death? (15)
- (c) What curse did Dido put on Aeneas before she died? (10)
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## Topic 7. Writers of the Augustan Age.

- (i) (a) In his poems *Gather Ye Rosebuds, We All Must Die* and *Cease to Mourn* what advice does Horace give his readers? (40)
- (b) Did you enjoy reading these poems? Explain your answer. (10)
- (ii) (a) What do we learn about Propertius' personality from his poems *Cynthia, Gone to Clitumnus* and *Cynthia is Dead*? (35)
- (b) Do you think Propertius found happiness in his love for Cynthia? Support your answer by reference to the prescribed poems. (15)
- (iii) "The Firstborn of the New Age is already on his way from high heaven down to earth."  
(Virgil, *The Birth of the Saviour*)
- (a) According to Virgil, what changes will come about when the New Age dawns? (40)
- (b) Mention one suggestion that has been made about the identity of this saviour. (10)
- (iv) "They therefore decided to send as an ambassador to the commons Menenius Agrippa."  
(Livy, *Class Warfare*)
- (a) According to Livy in *Class Warfare*, why did the Senators choose Menenius Agrippa as their ambassador? (10)
- (b) Summarise the story Menenius told the plebeians. (20)
- (c) How does Menenius' story convince the plebeians to return to Rome? (10)
- (d) What important compromise was agreed between the Senate and the plebeians? (10)
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## GROUP III: Topics 8 to 10

### Topic 8. Art and Architecture in Greek Society.

- (i) (a) Identify the temple shown in **Photograph A** on **Paper X** and say where it is located. (10)
- (b) Which type of stone was used in its construction? (5)
- (c) Give a description of this temple using correct architectural terms. (25)
- (d) Identify one Ionic feature in this temple. (10)
- (ii) **Photograph B** shows the statue known as the Maiden of Berlin.
- (a) To what period of Greek sculpture does this sculpture belong? (10)
- (b) In what ways is this statue typical of its period? (30)
- (c) According to Richter, how does this statue mark a step forward in the development of sculpture? (10)
- (iii) **Photograph C** shows part of the Parthenon Frieze.
- (a) What important event is depicted in the frieze? (5)
- (b) Explain the difference between *high relief* and *low relief*. (15)
- (c) In your opinion, how has the sculptor conveyed a sense of movement in this piece? (20)
- (d) Where on the temple was the frieze located? (10)
- (iv) (a) Identify the famous statue shown in **Photograph D** on **Paper X**. (10)
- (b) To which period of Greek sculpture does this statue belong? Give reasons for your answer. (20)
- (c) What did this statue represent? (10)
- (d) In your opinion, why is this statue so admired? (10)
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## Topic 9. The Philosopher in Society: A Study of Socrates and Plato.

- (i) (a) Outline Socrates' Magnificent Myth. (25)  
(b) In your opinion, what is the meaning of this myth? (10)  
(c) Why did Socrates want all three classes in his ideal state to believe this myth? (15)
- (ii) (a) Summarise the views of Cephalus on old age in the Introduction to Plato's *Republic*. (30)  
(b) According to Cephalus, what difference does wealth make to old age? (20)
- (iii) (a) According to Socrates, why will his ideal state be able to fight a war against richer states? (20)  
(b) How does Socrates claim that workers may be ruined and corrupted by wealth and poverty? (30)
- (iv) (a) Outline the Simile of the Large and Powerful Animal. (35)  
(b) What does this simile tell us about Socrates' views on democracy? (15)
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## Topic 10. Roman Art and Architecture.

- (i) **Photograph E** on **Paper X** shows the Roman theatre at Sabratha.
- (a) Give a full description of this theatre using correct architectural terms. You may use a sketch as part of your answer. (30)  
(b) What kind of entertainment was provided in Roman theatres? (10)  
(c) How do Roman theatres differ from modern theatres? (10)
- (ii) Study **Photograph F** on **Paper X**.
- (a) Identify the monument from which this section is taken. (5)  
(b) Identify the emperor shown in the frieze. (5)  
(c) Comment on the way the emperor is shown. (15)  
(d) How has the artist achieved variety and depth in this frieze? (25)
- (iii) Study the amphitheatre shown in **Photograph G** on **Paper X**.
- (a) Where is this amphitheatre located? (5)  
(b) Why were shows in this amphitheatre banned by the Senate in AD 59? (10)  
(c) How does the Colosseum in Rome differ from the amphitheatre shown in **Photograph G**? (25)  
(d) Briefly describe the entertainment provided in amphitheatres generally. (10)
- (iv) **Photograph H** on **Paper X** shows a mosaic from the House of the Faun in Pompeii.
- (a) Name the famous battle shown in this mosaic. (10)  
(b) Identify the central figure in the chariot and the man on horseback near the tree. (10)  
(c) Describe the basic technique for making a mosaic. (15)  
(d) Do you agree that the artist has brilliantly captured the tumult and terror of battle in this mosaic? Give reasons for your answer. (15)
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