



# Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

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LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2011

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## CLASSICAL STUDIES – HIGHER LEVEL (300 marks)

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WEDNESDAY, 22 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.
- 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) “...and as for the sufferings of individuals, they seemed almost beyond the capacity of human nature to endure.”  
(Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*)
- (a) Describe how the Great Plague of 430 BC affected the people of Athens. (35)
- (b) How does Thucydides’ account of the Plague show his qualities as an historian? (15)
- (ii) (a) Give an account of the Spartan victory at the Battle of Mantinea. (40)
- (b) Why was the Spartan victory at Mantinea particularly important for King Agis? (10)
- (iii) “The failure was due to nothing in the enterprise itself, but entirely in the initial mistake in the appointment of Nicias.” (Bury and Meiggs)
- Discuss this view that the disastrous outcome of the Sicilian Expedition was due to Nicias’ failures as its leader. (50)
- (iv) Discuss the significance of the role of the Persians in the final phases of the Peloponnesian War. (50)
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**Topic 2. Alexander the Great.**

- (i) What do we learn about Alexander through his dealings with the women in his life? Refer to the prescribed texts in your answer. (50)
- (ii) “In military matters Darius was the feeblest and most incompetent of men.” (Arrian, *Campaigns of Alexander*)
- (a) Do you agree with this judgement of Darius by Arrian? Support your answer with reference to the prescribed texts. (30)
- (b) Describe how Darius met his death. (20)
- (iii) (a) Why was the capture of the Rock of Aornos so important to Alexander? (10)
- (b) Describe how Alexander’s genius as a commander overcame the challenges presented by this formidable fortress. (40)
- (iv) (a) Describe how Alexander succeeded in crossing the Hydaspes River unopposed. (20)
- (b) Analyse the reasons for Alexander’s victory over Porus in the Battle of the Hydaspes. (30)
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### Topic 3. Life and Thought in the Late Roman Republic.

- (i) (a) What impression of the character of Catiline do you get from your reading of the prescribed texts? (30)
- (b) Give a brief account of how Cicero put an end to the Catilinarian conspiracy. (20)
- (ii) From your reading of the prescribed poems of Catullus, discuss his treatment of the themes of love and loss. (50)
- (iii) (a) During the period of the Late Republic, explain how pirates came to pose a serious threat to Rome. (15)
- (b) How did Pompey succeed in eliminating this threat? (25)
- (c) What qualities did Pompey show in this episode? (10)
- (iv) From your reading of Plutarch, discuss the factors which led to the fall of the Roman Republic. (50)
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### Topic 4. Roman Historians.

- (i) (a) Give an account of the career of Sejanus in the reign of the Emperor Tiberius. (35)
- (b) Explain how, in your opinion, Sejanus came to have such influence over the Emperor. (15)
- (ii) Tiberius and Claudius were emperors of Rome. From your reading of the prescribed texts, which of these two emperors do you consider to have been the better ruler of the Roman Empire? In your answer, refer to **both** emperors. (50)
- (iii) (a) Outline the role played by Livia in the lives of Augustus and Tiberius. (40)
- (b) Based on your reading of *The Annals*, in your opinion how does Tacitus feel about Livia? Briefly explain your answer. (10)
- (iv) From your reading of the prescribed texts write an analysis of the character of Augustus. (50)
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**GROUP II: Topics 5 to 7**

**Topic 5. Greek Drama.**

- (i) “You cannot equal the gods ... but we do rate you first of men.” (Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*).
- (a) Why do the Thebans have such a high opinion of Oedipus? (20)
- (b) Do you agree that Oedipus’ great qualities contributed to his downfall? Support your answer with reference to the play. (30)
- (ii) The play *Frogs* was written and performed when Athens was at war with Sparta. What advice on the war did Aristophanes give to the Athenians through the characters and chorus in the play? (50)
- (iii) From your reading of the encounters between Jason and Medea in Euripides’ play, *Medea*, analyse the aspects of Jason’s character that contribute to his downfall. (50)
- (iv) “... man whose life is but a day.” (Aeschylus, *Prometheus Bound*).  
Discuss the views of the human race revealed by the characters in Aeschylus’s play. (50)
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**Topic 6. Ancient Epic.**

- (i) (a) Give a brief account of Odysseus’ stay among the Phaeacians in Homer’s *Odyssey*. (30)
- (b) Odysseus rejects the offer to stay in Phaeacia. In your opinion, what aspects of the Phaeacian way of life do not suit Odysseus? (20)
- (ii) (a) Outline the role of Anchises in Books 2 to 6 of Virgil’s *Aeneid*. (25)
- (b) Discuss the importance of fathers in Virgil’s *Aeneid*. (25)
- (iii) Explain how the voyages of Odysseus in Homer’s *Odyssey* compare with and differ from the voyages made by Aeneas in Virgil’s *Aeneid*. (50)
- (iv) Compare the features of the *Táin* and Homer’s *Odyssey* which are typical of primary (oral) epic. (50)
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**Topic 7. Writers of the Augustan Age.**

- (i) (a) From reading the poems of Propertius on your course what did you learn of his attitude to love? (35)  
(b) What evidence do you find in Propertius' poetry of a sense of humour? Support your answer with reference to the prescribed poems. (15)
- (ii) From your reading of the prescribed extracts, what are the qualities that Livy most admires in the early Romans? (50)
- (iii) (a) Describe what happened to Horace on *The Journey to Brundisium*. (35)  
(b) What does this poem reveal about the character of Horace? (15)
- (iv) Ovid's *Misery in Exile* was written after he was banished to the Black Sea in AD 8.  
(a) How does Ovid describe his own misery? (25)  
(b) Compare Ovid's mood in this poem to his mood in his other poems on your course. (25)
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**GROUP III: Topics 8 to 10**

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

- (i) (a) Identify the type of vase shown in **Photograph A** on **Paper X** and say what its function was. (10)  
(b) Name the painter of this vase. (5)  
(c) Describe the scene depicted on the vase and comment on its artistic quality. (15)  
(d) Briefly outline the technique used in the production of Black Figure vases. (20)
- (ii) **Photograph B** on **Paper X** shows a Greek theatre.  
(a) Where is this theatre located? (5)  
(b) Name the architect of this theatre. (5)  
(c) Explain the terms: *Skene*, *Orchestra*, *Parados*, *Theatron*. (20)  
(d) In what ways was this theatre suited to the staging of drama in ancient Greece? (20)
- (iii) **Photograph C** on **Paper X** shows a stele.  
(a) What was the function of a stele? (5)  
(b) Give a full description of this piece. (25)  
(c) Name the period of Greek sculpture to which this stele belongs. (5)  
(d) What are the features of this stele that are typical of its period? (15)
- (iv) (a) Identify the statue shown in **Photograph D** on **Paper X**. (5)  
(b) What was its purpose? (5)  
(c) To which period of Greek sculpture does this statue belong? (5)  
(d) What features of this statue are typical of its period? (20)  
(e) Describe the method of "hollow casting" used in making bronze statues. (15)
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**Topic 9. The Philosopher in Society: A Study of Socrates and Plato.**

- (i) (a) Outline the “magnificent myth” that Socrates wishes the citizens of his ideal state to believe. (25)  
(b) According to Socrates, why is the “magnificent myth” needed? (10)  
(c) Do you think that Socrates is justified in deceiving the citizens by the use of this myth? (15)
- (ii) What opinion of Plato’s character did you form from your reading of Plutarch’s *Life of Dion*? (50)
- (iii) In his *Republic*, Plato proposed the banning of certain stories in the education of children.  
(a) Which stories did Plato wish to ban? (15)  
(b) How does Plato justify banning these stories? (20)  
(c) Do you agree with Plato? Give reasons for your answer. (15)
- (iv) (a) In Plato’s *Republic*, how does Socrates argue that his Ideal State is possible? (35)  
(b) Do you agree with Socrates? Explain your answer. (15)
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**Topic 10. Roman Art and Architecture.**

- (i) **Photograph E on Paper X** shows the plan of the town of Pompeii.  
(a) Identify the features shown at **a, b, c, d, e.** (15)  
(b) Using the plan, explain how Pompeii developed from the earlier settlement into the Roman town on the plan. (15)  
(c) What forms of entertainment and leisure activities were available to Pompeii’s inhabitants? (20)
- (ii) **Photograph F on Paper X** shows the theatre at Orange.  
(a) What part of the theatre is shown here? (5)  
(b) In what ways is the theatre at Orange a typical Roman theatre? (20)  
(c) What are the main differences between Greek theatres and Roman theatres? (15)  
(d) “A large theatre could, when necessary, be sheltered by awnings.” (Wheeler). What evidence is there for the existence of awnings in Roman theatres? (10)
- (iii) **Photograph G on Paper X** shows a bust of a Roman Emperor.  
(a) Identify the emperor. (5)  
(b) Why was the emperor depicted wearing a lion skin and bearing a club? (10)  
(c) What aspects of the emperor’s character are revealed in the bust? (20)  
(d) How is this portrait different to the depiction of the Emperor Augustus on the Ara Pacis? (15)
- (iv) **Photograph H on Paper X** shows a wall painting from Herculaneum.  
(a) Describe what is happening in this painting. (15)  
(b) In your opinion, what does Wheeler mean when he writes of “the highly impressionistic style” of this painting? (15)  
(c) Roman painting, taken as a whole, “is second rate.” (Woodford)  
From your study of Roman painting would you agree with this statement? (20)
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