



# Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

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LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2019

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## CLASSICAL STUDIES – HIGHER LEVEL (300 marks)

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MONDAY, 24 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 their **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 the same winter the Athenians, following their annual custom, gave a public funeral for those who had been the first to die in the war.'  
(Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*)
- (a) Give an account of the funeral oration delivered by Pericles on this occasion. (40)
- (b) In your opinion, would the words Pericles addressed to the relatives of the dead have given them any comfort? Support your answer with reference to his speech. (10)
- (ii) In 421 BC the Spartans and the Athenians agreed to the Peace of Nicias.
- (a) Why did both sides make peace at this time? (40)
- (b) Why, according to Thucydides, was the Peace of Nicias "never properly in force"? (10)
- (iii) Just before the Sicilian Expedition set sail, a large number of Hermae were mutilated in Athens.
- (a) Explain what the Hermae were. (10)
- (b) Why were the Athenians so upset by the mutilation of the Hermae? (10)
- (c) Explain how this episode affected the subsequent course of the war. (30)
- (iv) In his *History of the Peloponnesian War*, Thucydides presents us with a very dark view of human nature.  
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. (50)
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### Topic 2. Alexander the Great.

- (i) (a) Describe how Alexander and his army defeated the Persians at the Granicus River. (30)
- (b) What did you learn about Alexander's leadership qualities from the lead up to the battle, the battle itself and its aftermath? (20)
- (ii) (a) Why did Alexander's army mutiny at the Hyphasis River? (25)
- (b) How did Alexander react to this mutiny? (10)
- (c) What did this incident reveal about Alexander's relationship with his men? (15)
- (iii) (a) According to the prescribed texts, what signs and omens were there of the approaching death of Alexander? (20)
- (b) Describe Alexander's final illness and death. (30)
- (iv) The legendary heroes Heracles and Achilles had a big influence on the actions of Alexander. What evidence is there in the prescribed texts to support this view? (50)
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### Topic 3. Life and Thought in the Late Roman Republic.

- (i) “For if we each of us propose to rob or injure one another for our personal gain, then we are clearly going to demolish what is more completely natural than anything else in this world: the link that unites every human being with every other.”  
(Cicero, *How to make the right decisions*)
- (a) What arguments does Cicero make to support this statement? (30)
- (b) Cicero gives us examples of two men, one selling corn to Rhodes and the other selling his house without revealing its defects. Do you agree with Cicero’s views on these men? Give reasons for your answer. (20)
- (ii) Discuss the statement that, in his poems, Catullus reveals himself to be a good friend, a devoted brother and a passionate lover. Support your answer by reference to poems on your course. (50)
- (iii) From your study of Plutarch’s *Lives*, what do you consider to have been the most important factors in the gaining of power in Rome at the time of the late Republic? Support your answer by reference to specific events. (50)
- (iv) (a) Give an account of the circumstances which led to the formation of the First Triumvirate of Caesar, Pompey and Crassus in 60 BC. (30)
- (b) Explain how the First Triumvirate fell apart. (20)
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### Topic 4. Roman Historians.

- (i) Describe the part played by Mark Antony in events from 44 BC (the death of Julius Caesar) to 31 BC (the Battle of Actium). (50)
- (ii) (a) Give an account of the revolt of Boudicca, queen of the Iceni, against the Romans in 61 AD. (40)
- (b) Why do you think the revolt failed? (10)
- (iii) Though often mocked as foolish and useless, Claudius proved himself a good and capable ruler of Rome.  
Do you agree with this statement? Refer to the prescribed texts in your answer. (50)
- (iv) Of the prescribed texts by Tacitus and Suetonius which do you prefer?  
Support your answer with reference to the texts. (50)
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## GROUP II: Topics 5 to 7

### Topic 5. Greek Drama.

- (i) Dionysus is a comical character but he has a serious task to perform. Discuss this view of Dionysus in Aristophanes' play *Frogs*. (50)
- (ii) In Aeschylus' play *Prometheus Bound* what are the qualities of Prometheus that make him worthy to be a great tragic hero? Support your answer by reference to the play. (50)
- (iii) In Euripides' *Medea*, Medea reveals an extraordinary ability to manipulate people.
- (a) Explain how Medea manipulates the other characters in the play. (35)
- (b) In what ways does Jason's character contribute to his downfall? (15)
- (iv) (a) Analyse the role played by the Oracle at Delphi in the plot of Sophocles' play *Oedipus the King*. (40)
- (b) What is Jocasta's attitude to oracles and prophecies? (10)
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### Topic 6. Ancient Epic.

- (i) (a) Describe the character of Penelope as revealed in Homer's *Odyssey*, up to her reunion with Odysseus in Book 23. (35)
- (b) What do we learn from their reunion about the relationship between Odysseus and Penelope? (15)
- (ii) In the *Aeneid*, Virgil celebrates the greatness of Rome. How does Virgil bring Rome's greatness and destiny to the attention of his readers in the *Aeneid*? (50)
- (iii) Nausicaa is one of the most appealing characters in Homer's *Odyssey*.
- (a) Describe the character and role of Nausicaa in the *Odyssey*. (35)
- (b) For what reasons does Odysseus not stay with the Phaeacians? (15)
- (iv) Compare the character of Cúchulainn in the *Táin* with the character of Aeneas in Virgil's *Aeneid*. (50)
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## Topic 7. Writers of the Augustan Age.

- (i) (a) In Virgil's extract *The Underworld* how does he create an atmosphere of bleakness and horror? (35)
- (b) From your reading of other prescribed poems by Virgil, explain how he can also be a poet of happiness and light. (15)
- (ii) From your reading of Propertius' poems on your course, analyse the nature of his relationship with Cynthia. (50)
- (iii) (a) Describe how Horatius and his two companions saved Rome according to Livy in *Horatius on the Bridge*. (30)
- (b) What was Livy's purpose in telling this story? (10)
- (c) Do you agree that Livy is a good storyteller? Explain your answer. (10)
- (iv) (a) Discuss the main concerns of Ovid in the prescribed poems on your course. (30)
- (b) Which one of Ovid's poems appealed to you most? Explain why you chose this particular poem. (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.
- (a) What type of vase is this? (5)
  - (b) What was the function of such vases? (5)
  - (c) From which pottery centre did this vase originate? (10)
  - (d) Comment on the decoration of this vase. (30)
- (ii) **Photograph B** on **Paper X** shows the plan of the temple of Hephaistos. **Photograph C** shows the temple of Hephaistos itself (also known as the “Theseum”).
- (a) Where exactly is this temple to be found? (5)
  - (b) In which order of Greek architecture is this temple built? (5)
  - (c) Name the materials used in its construction. (10)
  - (d) Using the correct architectural terms write a description of the temple. (30)
- (iii) Study **Photograph D** on **Paper X**.
- (a) Identify the type of statue shown. (5)
  - (b) To which era of Greek sculpture does this statue belong? (5)
  - (c) What features of this statue make it typical of its period? (30)
  - (d) What, in your opinion, does Richter mean when she says this statue, “shows the combination of stylisation and naturalism at its best”? (10)
- (iv) Look at the sculpture shown in **Photograph E** on **Paper X**.
- (a) Name the figure standing and the infant in his arm. (10)
  - (b) Name the sculptor of the statue. (5)
  - (c) What period of Greek sculpture does this sculpture belong to? (5)
  - (d) What features of this sculpture are typical of this period? (30)
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## Topic 9. The Philosopher in Society: A Study of Socrates and Plato.

- (i) (a) In his programme of education for children, which stories are deemed suitable and which stories are banned by Plato? (15)
- (b) How does Plato justify his choices and his rejections? (25)
- (c) Do you agree with Plato's views on stories? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- (ii) (a) How does Plato propose to select the future Philosopher Kings for his Ideal State? (25)
- (b) Describe the lifestyle of these Philosopher Kings. (25)
- (iii) In Plato's *Republic*, Socrates speaks of the need for a "magnificent myth".
- (a) Outline this "magnificent myth". (25)
- (b) According to Socrates, why is this myth necessary? (10)
- (c) Do you think that Socrates is justified in deceiving the citizens by the use of this myth? Explain your answer. (15)
- (iv) (a) In *Letter VII*, how does Plato explain and justify his return to Syracuse? (40)
- (b) What does Plato's return to Syracuse tell you about his character? (10)
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## Topic 10. Roman Art and Architecture.

- (i) **Photograph F** on **Paper X** shows the plan of Aosta (Augusta Praetoria).
- (a) Identify the features shown at **a, d, e, ff** and **gg**. (15)
  - (b) Why did Augustus found the town of Aosta in 25 BC? (10)
  - (c) Comment on the location of the amphitheatre in Aosta. (10)
  - (d) Using the plan, what can you tell about the lives of the citizens of Aosta? (15)
- (ii) **Photograph G** on **Paper X** shows the Arch of Titus. **Photograph H** on **Paper X** shows the Arch of Constantine.
- (a) In Roman towns where were arches like these usually located? (5)
  - (b) What military success was commemorated by the Arch of Titus? (10)
  - (c) Using the correct architectural terms, give a full description of both arches, explaining how they differ. (35)
- (iii) **Photograph I** on **Paper X** shows a famous Roman sculpture.
- (a) In what ways is this sculpture typical of Roman portrait sculpture? (40)
  - (b) What does this sculpture tell us about Roman family customs? (10)
- (iv) **Photograph J** on **Paper X** shows a mosaic from Pompeii.
- (a) Describe what is happening in this mosaic. (15)
  - (b) Briefly explain how mosaics were made. (15)
  - (c) How, in your opinion, has the artist managed to capture the personalities of the main characters and the drama of the battle? (20)
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