



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2017

CLASSICAL STUDIES – HIGHER LEVEL (300 marks)

FRIDAY, 16 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) In Athens all important issues were decided by the citizens in the Assembly. From your reading of Thucydides do you think their democratic form of government helped or hindered the Athenians in their war against Sparta? (50)
- (ii) (a) Explain why the Athenians decided to fortify Delium in 424 BC. (20)
- (b) Give a brief account of the Battle of Oropus. (20)
- (c) How did the Boeotians recapture the temple at Delium? (10)
- (iii) In 415 BC Alcibiades, the Athenian general, deserted Athens and went over to the Spartan side.
- (a) Describe the events leading to Alcibiades' desertion to Sparta. (25)
- (b) What advice did Alcibiades give the Spartans about the conduct of the war? (15)
- (c) What is your opinion of Alcibiades' behaviour at this time? (10)
- (iv) (a) Outline the part played by the Athenian general Demosthenes in the Peloponnesian War. (35)
- (b) In your opinion was Demosthenes a great general? Give reasons for your answer. (15)
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Topic 2. Alexander the Great.

- (i) (a) From your reading of Arrian and Plutarch, describe Alexander's dealings with women. (40)
- (b) What is your opinion of Alexander's attitude towards women? (10)
- (ii) (a) Describe how Alexander managed to cross the River Hydaspes unopposed. (20)
- (b) Give an account of the Battle of the Hydaspes explaining why Alexander won it. (20)
- (c) What did you learn about the character of Alexander from his treatment of Porus? (10)
- (iii) (a) In 330 BC, the Persian palace at Persepolis was destroyed by fire. From your reading of Arrian and Plutarch, describe how this event came about. (35)
- (b) In your opinion which of the two accounts is the more believable? Give reasons for your answer. (15)
- (iv) "...in drink, too, he now tended to barbaric excess". (Arrian, *The Campaigns of Alexander*)
From your reading of Arrian and Plutarch, how big a part did Alexander's drinking play in his life? Support your answer with reference to the texts. (50)
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Topic 3. Life and Thought in the Late Roman Republic.

- (i) “Meanwhile there hung over Rome like a cloud, the menace of Sertorius.” (Plutarch, *Pompey*)
- (a) Give an account of Pompey’s campaign against Sertorius in Spain. (40)
- (b) From your reading of Plutarch, what was your impression of Sertorius? (10)
- (ii) (a) Describe Cato’s role in the politics of the late republic. (30)
- (b) What were the circumstances of Cato’s death? (10)
- (c) What was Caesar’s attitude towards Cato after Cato’s death? (10)
- (iii) (a) Outline the main themes of the poems of Catullus on your course. (25)
- (b) What do his poems reveal about the character of Catullus? (15)
- (c) Do you think his poems have any relevance for the twenty-first century reader? (10)
- (iv) (a) In *Right and Wrong*, Cicero wrote “True law is Reason, right and natural, commanding people to fulfil their obligations and prohibiting and deterring them from doing wrong.” How does Cicero explain this statement? (40)
- (b) Do you agree with his views on this matter? Explain your answer. (10)
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Topic 4. Roman Historians.

- (i) (a) Give a brief account of the career of Octavian (later Augustus) from the death of Julius Caesar in 44 BC to his victory at the Battle of Actium in 31 BC. (35)
- (b) In your opinion, what qualities enabled him to emerge victorious? (15)
- (ii) (a) Why, in your opinion, did Tiberius leave Rome for the island of Capri in 26 AD? (20)
- (b) How did his absence on Capri affect affairs in Rome? (15)
- (c) Comment briefly on Suetonius’ description of Tiberius’ lifestyle on the island. (15)
- (iii) When Claudius was young, his sister Livilla overheard someone predict that he would one day rule Rome. She prayed aloud that Rome “might be spared so cruel and undeserved a misfortune”. (Suetonius) From your reading of Suetonius, do you think that her fears were justified? (50)
- (iv) (a) Describe the Great Fire of Rome which destroyed much of the city in 64 AD. (30)
- (b) Comment on the behaviour of Nero during and after the Great Fire. (20)
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GROUP II: Topics 5 to 7

Topic 5. Greek Drama.

- (i) (a) From your reading of *Prometheus Bound* by Aeschylus, how does Prometheus justify stealing fire to give to mankind? (25)
- (b) How do the other immortals view his giving of fire to humans? (25)
- (ii) (a) In the first encounter between Medea and Jason in Euripides' *Medea*, what are Medea's grievances against Jason? (20)
- (b) Do you find Jason's defence convincing? Give reasons for your answer. (30)
- (iii) From your reading of *Frogs*, what did you learn about life and politics in Athens at the time of Aristophanes? (50)
- (iv) In Sophocles' play *Oedipus the King*, Oedipus sends for the prophet Tiresias.
- (a) Describe the encounter between the two men. (25)
- (b) What do you think of the behaviour of **both** Oedipus and Tiresias at that meeting? (25)
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Topic 6. Ancient Epic.

- (i) Would you agree that Virgil's description of Aeneas's visit to the Underworld is more moving and dramatic than Homer's description of Odysseus's visit to the Underworld? Explain your answer with reference to both texts. (50)
- (ii) Critics of Aeneas have commented that he "lacks warmth of feeling and is exempt from ordinary human emotions". (Camps)
Discuss this statement, supporting your answer with reference to Virgil's *Aeneid*. (50)
- (iii) (a) Describe the practice of hospitality and gift-giving as described by Homer in the *Odyssey*. (40)
- (b) How does Homer use the practice of hospitality and gift-giving to show whether characters are good or evil? (10)
- (iv) Compare the status and role of women in the *Táin* with the status and role of women in **either** Homer's *Odyssey* **or** Virgil's *Aeneid*. (50)
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Topic 7. Writers of the Augustan Age.

- (i) (a) In Livy's account of the Battle of Cannae, how did Hannibal achieve his great victory over the Romans? (30)
- (b) What was Livy's attitude towards the Roman commanders, Paulus and Varro, in the prescribed extract? (20)
- (ii) (a) From your reading of the poems by Horace on your course, describe his philosophy on life. (35)
- (b) Do you think that the philosophy of Horace has any relevance to us today? Give reasons for your answer. (15)
- (iii) "Virgil's compassion and sympathy for those who suffer is very moving."
- Discuss this statement supporting your answer by reference to the extracts *Orpheus and Eurydice* and *The Underworld*. (50)
- (iv) Ovid's *Baucis and Philemon* is both an emotional love story and a deeply moral tale. Discuss this statement with reference to the poem. (50)
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GROUP III: Topics 8 to 10

Topic 8. Art and Architecture in Greek Society.

- (i) Study the vase shown in **Photograph A** on **Paper X**.
- (a) Identify the type of vase shown and say what it was used for. (10)
 - (b) Name the potter who made this vase. (5)
 - (c) Describe the scenes shown on the vase and comment on its decoration. (20)
 - (d) Briefly outline the difference between black-figure vases and red-figure vases. (15)
- (ii) **Photographs B** and **C** on **Paper X** show the Temple of Apollo at Delphi.
- (a) Why was Delphi such an important sanctuary in ancient Greece? (10)
 - (b) In which order of Greek architecture is this temple built? (5)
 - (c) What materials were used in its construction? (10)
 - (d) Using the correct architectural terms give a full description of the temple. (25)
- (iii) **Photograph D** shows a metope from the temple of Zeus at Olympia.
- (a) To what period does this metope belong? (5)
 - (b) Where exactly on the temple were the metopes located? You may use a sketch as part of your answer. (5)
 - (c) Explain what event is shown on the metope. (10)
 - (d) Comment on the artistic style and quality of the sculpture. (30)
- (iv) Study the sculpture shown in **Photograph E** on **Paper X**.
- (a) Identify the statue shown. (5)
 - (b) What was the purpose of such statues? (10)
 - (c) In what ways is this statue typical of the Hellenistic period? (20)
 - (d) Comment on the artistic achievement of the sculptor of this statue. (15)
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Topic 9. The Philosopher in Society: A Study of Socrates and Plato.

- (i) In Plato's *Republic*, Socrates questions Cephalus on old age.
- (a) What is Cephalus' response to Socrates' questions? (20)
 - (b) According to Cephalus, what is the advantage of wealth as death approaches? (15)
 - (c) What is your opinion of Cephalus' views on the advantage of wealth as one nears death? (15)
- (ii) (a) Outline the Simile of the Cave in Plato's *Republic*. (30)
- (b) Explain the meaning of the simile. (20)
- (iii) (a) In Plato's *Republic*, how does Socrates refute the claim by Adeimantus that philosophers "become, most of them, very odd birds, not to say thoroughly vicious... and useless as members of society"? (35)
- (b) Do you agree with Adeimantus or Socrates in this matter? Give reasons for your answer. (15)
- (iv) From your reading of *Letter VII* and *Letter VIII*, what is your opinion of Plato's character and philosophy? (50)
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Topic 10. Roman Art and Architecture.

(i) **Photograph F** on **Paper X** shows the plan of Roman Caerwent in South Wales.

- (a) Identify the features shown at **aa, b, c, f,** and **g**. (15)
- (b) Describe the forum at Caerwent and explain how it differed from a typical Roman forum in Italy. (25)
- (c) Explain what Wheeler means when he writes that Caerwent “was... part of civil, not military, strategy”. (10)

(ii) **Photograph G** on **Paper X** shows the plan of the Stabian Baths at Pompeii.

Photograph H on **Paper X** shows the plan of Hadrian’s Baths at Leptis Magna.

- (a) Using the **two** plans compare and contrast the Stabian Baths and Hadrian’s Baths. (30)
- (b) Briefly describe the facilities in a typical Roman baths. (10)
- (c) What was the function of baths in Roman social life? (10)

(iii) **Photograph I** on **Paper X** shows a bust of the Emperor Commodus. **Photograph J** shows a bust of the Emperor Philip the Arabian.

- (a) In your opinion, what do the two busts reveal of the characters of the two emperors? (25)
- (b) What is typically Roman about these busts? (25)

- (iv)(a) Identify the painting shown in **Photograph K** on **Paper X**. (5)
 - (b) Why did the Romans decorate their houses with paintings such as this? (10)
 - (c) Give a description of the painting commenting on its artistic quality. (30)
 - (d) What other subject matter was commonly found in Roman painting? (5)
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