



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2012

CLASSICAL STUDIES – HIGHER LEVEL (300 marks)

FRIDAY, 15 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 427 BC a motion to cancel the death sentence imposed on the people of Mytilene was put before the Athenian Assembly.
- (a) Summarise the arguments made by Cleon and Diodotus in the debate. (40)
- (b) At the end of the debate, what did the Assembly decide? (10)
- (ii) Discuss the importance of naval power in the Peloponnesian War. (50)
- (iii) Alcibiades was a fine example of “restless and undisciplined ambition.” (Meiggs)
Discuss this opinion of Alcibiades with reference to the prescribed text. (50)
- (iv) In his introduction to *The History of the Peloponnesian War* Thucydides wrote: “If one looks at the facts themselves, one will see that this was the greatest war of all.”
- (a) What reasons does Thucydides give to justify his view that the Peloponnesian War was the greatest war of all? (30)
- (b) Do you agree with his assessment? Give reasons for your answer. (20)
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Topic 2. Alexander the Great.

- (i) After the Battle of Gaugamela Alexander began to adopt a new policy of orientalism.
- (a) What forms did this orientalism take? (20)
- (b) Describe how the Macedonians reacted against Alexander’s orientalism. (30)
- (ii) (a) Explain why the city of Tyre was so difficult to capture. (15)
- (b) How did Alexander overcome the difficulties presented by Tyre and its defenders? (25)
- (c) What do you learn about Alexander’s character from Arrian’s account of the siege and capture of Tyre? (10)
- (iii) (a) Give an account of the burning of Persepolis by Alexander as described by Plutarch. (25)
- (b) In what ways does Arrian’s account differ from Plutarch’s account? (15)
- (c) In your opinion, which is the more believable account? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- (iv) Alexander was one of the most successful military commanders of all time. In your view, what qualities made him so successful? Refer to the prescribed texts in your answer. (50)
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Topic 3. Life and Thought in the Late Roman Republic.

- (i) “At no other time has the condition of imperial Rome, as it seems to me, been more pitiable.”
(Sallust, *The Greatness and Decline of Rome*)
- (a) According to Sallust, what qualities had made Rome great in its earlier history? (20)
- (b) How does Sallust account for the decline of Rome? (30)
- (ii) (a) Describe the circumstances which led to the formation of the First Triumvirate of Caesar, Pompey and Crassus. (25)
- (b) Explain why the First Triumvirate broke up. (15)
- (c) Give an account of Crassus’ disastrous invasion of Parthia in 54 BC. (10)
- (iii) Discuss the role of the dictator Sulla in the early careers of Pompey and Caesar. (50)
- (iv) “Cicero was always far too fond of praise and too concerned about what people thought of him.”
(Plutarch, *Life of Cicero*)
- From your reading of Plutarch and of Cicero’s *Letters*, discuss whether this is a fair assessment of Cicero. (50)
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Topic 4. Roman Historians.

- (i) (a) Augustus boasted that he had transformed the appearance of the city of Rome. Outline his achievements in making Rome a more beautiful city. (20)
- (b) Augustus also made Rome a safer city to live in. How did he achieve this? (15)
- (c) Augustus sought to restore traditional morality in Rome. What measures did he take to bring this about? (15)
- (ii) The first five years of Nero’s reign are generally seen as a success.
- (a) In what ways did Nero succeed in ruling Rome well in this period? (20)
- (b) Explain how the deterioration in Nero’s behaviour affected the city of Rome in his later reign. (30)
- (iii) Many historians regard Corbulo as the greatest general of the age. Write an account of Corbulo’s military successes. (50)
- (iv) In his introduction to the *Annals of Imperial Rome*, Tacitus wrote: “I shall write without indignation or partisanship.” Based on your reading of the *Annals*, in your opinion, did Tacitus live up to his promise? (50)
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GROUP II: Topics 5 to 7

Topic 5. Greek Drama.

- (i) (a) In his play *Frogs*, why does Aristophanes believe that Athens is in urgent need of a poet? (25)
- (b) Explain why Aeschylus is preferred to Euripides in the play. (25)
- (ii) Discuss Sophocles' use of irony in *Oedipus the King*. (50)
- (iii) The principal character of *Prometheus Bound* is fastened to a rock for most of the play.
In your view, how does Aeschylus succeed in overcoming the static setting of his play to make it intensely dramatic to the very end. (50)
- (iv) Above all else Medea is a brilliant manipulator of people.
Discuss this view. Support your answer with reference to Euripides' *Medea*. (50)
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Topic 6. Ancient Epic.

- (i) (a) Explain how Poseidon became a bitter enemy of Odysseus in Homer's *Odyssey*. (10)
- (b) How did Poseidon show his enmity for Odysseus on his journey from Troy to Ithaca? (15)
- (c) How important to Odysseus was the help he received from Athena in enabling him to triumph over the Suitors? (25)
- (ii) Odysseus and Aeneas both visit the Underworld. In your view, what are the main differences between the accounts in Homer's *Odyssey* and Virgil's *Aeneid*? (50)
- (iii) Compare and contrast the character of Cúchulainn in the *Táin* with the character of Aeneas in Virgil's *Aeneid*. (50)
- (iv) Virgil's *Aeneid* is, above all, a celebration of the greatness of Rome.
Discuss this statement supporting your answer with reference to the *Aeneid*. (50)
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Topic 7. Writers of the Augustan Age.

- (i) (a) In his poem *Love and Peace*, what has Propertius to say about war and death? (20)
- (b) According to *Love and Peace*, how does Propertius intend to spend his old age? (15)
- (c) What impression of Propertius do you get from your reading of this poem? (15)
- (ii) (a) Explain the tactics used by Hannibal to defeat the Romans in Livy's account of the Battle of Cannae. (25)
- (b) Contrast the behaviour of the two consuls, Terentius Varro and Aemilius Paulus, in Livy's account of the battle. (25)
- (iii) (a) From your reading of the prescribed extracts of Virgil, what evidence do you find of Virgil's love for nature and the countryside? (30)
- (b) In your opinion, is Virgil's view of country life unrealistic? Give reasons for your answer. (20)
- (iv) Ovid's *Baucis and Philemon* is a wonderful example of storytelling with a moral purpose. Discuss this statement. Support your answer with reference to the text. (50)
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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 it was used for. (10)
- (b) Describe the scene depicted on the vase. (20)
- (c) To which period of vase painting does it belong? Give reasons for your answer. (20)
- (ii) **Photograph B** on **Paper X** shows the plan of the temple of Zeus at Olympia.
- (a) Who designed this temple and when was it built? (10)
- (b) Using the correct architectural terms, give a full description of the temple. In your answer, refer to both the plan and the temple itself. (20)
- (c) Give a description of the sculptural decoration of this temple. (20)
- (iii) **Photograph C** on **Paper X** shows a statue of a god from Melos.
- (a) Which god is shown here and what reveals his identity? (10)
- (b) To what period of Greek sculpture does this statue belong? (5)
- (c) What features of the period of Greek sculpture can be seen in this statue? (30)
- (d) Name one other sculpture from Melos. (5)
- (iv) **Photograph D** on **Paper X** shows a section of the frieze from the Parthenon in Athens.
- (a) Where on the Parthenon was the frieze located? (5)
- (b) What important event is thought to be depicted on the Parthenon frieze? (5)
- (c) Give a description of the Parthenon frieze. (20)
- (d) Do you agree with the general view that the frieze represents the high point of Classical Greek art? Give reasons for your answer. (20)
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Topic 9. The Philosopher in Society: A Study of Socrates and Plato.

- (i) (a) Summarise Socrates' views on physical education in his ideal state. (30)
- (b) What kind of diet does Socrates recommend for those in training? (10)
- (c) Do you think Socrates' views on physical education would be acceptable in today's world? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- (ii) Do you think that Dion's activities in Syracuse proved him a worthy follower of Plato? Give reasons for your answer. (50)
- (iii) In Plato's *Republic*, Adeimantus claims that philosophers are "useless members of society." How does Socrates refute Adeimantus' allegation against philosophers? (50)
- (iv) (a) According to Socrates, how did primitive society originate? (20)
- (b) Summarise Socrates' explanation of how the primitive community developed into a "civilised community." (20)
- (c) According to Socrates, why is war inevitable in this "civilised community"? (10)
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Topic 10. Roman Art and Architecture.

- (i) **Photograph E** on **Paper X** shows the plan of the town of Lepcis Magna in North Africa.
- (a) Identify the features at **aa, c, f, g, k**. (15)
- (b) Using the plan, give a brief history of the two main stages in the development of the town and its public buildings. (25)
- (c) Explain Wheeler's statement that with the building of the harbour "the city over-reached itself." (10)
- (ii) **Photograph F** on **Paper X** shows the reconstructed interior of the Basilica Nova in Rome.
- (a) Name the emperor whose colossal statue is located in the apse. (5)
- (b) Give a full description of the Basilica Nova. (25)
- (c) What were basilicas used for? (10)
- (d) What was distinctive about the basilicas in British towns? (10)
- (iii) Study **Photograph G** on **Paper X**.
- (a) In what ways is this sculpture typically Roman? (25)
- (b) Wheeler remarks on the "range and vitality" of Roman portrait sculpture. Discuss this comment with reference to **two** other examples of portrait sculpture on your course. (25)
- (iv) (a) Identify the wall painting shown in **Photograph H** on **Paper X**. (5)
- (b) This painting is a fresco. Explain the basic process of painting a fresco. (15)
- (c) In your opinion, is Wheeler justified in calling this painting "a masterpiece"? Give reasons for your answer. (30)
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