



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2008

CLASSICAL STUDIES – HIGHER LEVEL (400 marks)

WEDNESDAY, 18 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.
- There are one hundred marks for each topic.
- Photographs required for answering questions on Topics 8 and 10 are provided on an accompanying paper marked X.

GROUP 1: Topics 1 to 4

Topic 1. Athens at War.

[100]

Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) (a) Describe how it came about that the Athenians occupied and fortified Pylos in 425 BC. (15)
(b) Give an account of how the Athenians defeated the Spartans on the island of Sphacteria. (25)
(c) What were the effects of this victory on the course of the Peloponnesian War? (10)
- (ii) (a) Outline the reasons why Athens and Sparta agreed to the Peace of Nicias. (40)
(b) According to Thucydides, why was the Peace of Nicias “never properly in force”? (10)
- (iii) While preparations were being made for the Sicilian Expedition, a large number of Hermae were mutilated throughout Athens.
(a) Explain what the Hermae were. (10)
(b) According to Thucydides, why were the Athenians so upset by the mutilation of the Hermae? (10)
(c) Explain how the mutilation of the Hermae led to Alcibiades’ desertion to Sparta. (30)
- (iv) (a) Outline the events that led to the Oligarchic Coup in 411 BC. (35)
(b) In your opinion, how did the Oligarchic Coup affect the Athenians’ conduct of the war? (15)

Topic 2. Alexander the Great.

[100]

Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) “Alexander was also more moderate in his drinking than was generally supposed.” (Plutarch)
Do you agree with the above comment? Give reasons for your answer, supporting them with reference to the prescribed texts. (50)
- (ii) (a) Describe how Alexander and the Macedonians defeated Darius and the Persians at the battle of Issus in 333 BC. (35)
(b) What were the main consequences of Alexander’s victory? (15)
- (iii) “Alexander found himself passionately eager to visit the shrine of Ammon in Libya.” (Arrian)
(a) Why did Alexander wish to visit the shrine? (10)
(b) Describe what happened when Alexander reached the shrine. In your answer, refer to both Arrian and Plutarch. (30)
(c) What did you learn of Alexander’s attitude to religion from his visit to Siwah? (10)
- (iv) (a) Outline the sequence of events which led to the death of Cleitus. (30)
(b) How did the philosopher Anaxarchus help to relieve Alexander’s feeling of remorse after Cleitus’s death? (5)
(c) Both Arrian and Plutarch make excuses for Alexander’s killing of Cleitus. What is your opinion of their attempts to excuse him? Support your answer with reference to the texts. (15)

Topic 3. Life and Thought in the Late Roman Republic. [100]

Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) (a) Write a brief account of Pompey's campaign against Sertorius in Spain. (40)
(b) From your reading of Plutarch, what impression of Sertorius did you get? (10)
- (ii) (a) From your reading of the prescribed extract by Sallust, what impression did you get of Catiline? (30)
(b) According to Sallust, what kinds of people became followers of Catiline? (20)
- (iii) (a) In the Cicero extract *Against Antony*, what does Cicero find so objectionable about Antony's behaviour at the festival of the Lupercalia? (20)
(b) In the same extract, what is Cicero's attitude towards the assassins of Julius Caesar? (15)
(c) How does Cicero go on to sum up Julius Caesar's character and achievements? (15)
- (iv) (a) Describe what happened after Julius Caesar was captured by pirates in 75BC. (35)
(b) What do we learn of Caesar's character from his dealings with the pirates? (15)
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Topic 4. Roman Historians. [100]

Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) "While these events were taking place in Rome, mutiny broke out in the regular army in Pannonia." (Tacitus, *The Annals of Imperial Rome*)
(a) Outline the principal grievances and demands of the mutineers. (30)
(b) Describe how the mutiny was eventually brought to an end by Tiberius' son, Drusus. (20)
- (ii) Write an account of the life of Agrippina, wife of the Emperor Claudius and mother of the Emperor Nero. (50)
- (iii) "Then there was much discussion of Augustus himself." (Tacitus, *The Annals of Imperial Rome*)
(a) Outline the praise and criticism of Augustus after his funeral, as described by Tacitus. (40)
(b) Do you think Tacitus was entirely impartial in his account of this debate? Explain your answer. (10)
- (iv) "The first news of his death caused so much joy in Rome that people ran around yelling 'to the Tiber with Tiberius'." (Suetonius, *The Twelve Caesars*)
On the basis of your reading of the prescribed texts, how would you explain the joy of the Roman people on the death of the Emperor Tiberius? (50)
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GROUP II: Topics 5 to 7

Topic 5. Greek Drama. [100]

Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) Analyse the different types of humour in Aristophanes' play *Frogs*. (50)
- (ii) (a) In Euripides' play *Medea*, summarise Medea's attack on Jason in their first confrontation. (30)
- (b) Would you agree that Jason's defence of his actions is fair and reasonable? Give reasons for your answer. (20)
- (iii) (a) In Aeschylus' play *Prometheus Bound*, compare the attitude of Oceanus towards Zeus with the attitude of Hermes towards Zeus. (25)
- (b) How did Prometheus' reactions to Oceanus and Hermes differ? How do you explain this difference? (25)
- (iv) Analyse the relationship between Oedipus and Creon in Sophocles' play *Oedipus the King*. (50)
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Topic 6. Ancient Epic. [100]

Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) Compare the character of Turnus in the *Aeneid* with the character of Ferdiã in the *Táin*. (50)
- (ii) Compare the role of Venus in the *Aeneid* with the role of Athena in the *Odyssey*. (50)
- (iii) Trace the development in the character of Telemachus from the opening of the *Odyssey* to the Battle in the Hall. (50)
- (iv) "It is easier to admire Aeneas than to like him." Discuss this view of Virgil's hero. (50)
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Topic 7. Writers of the Augustan Age.**[100]**

Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) (a) What are the main themes that Ovid explores in the prescribed poems on your course? (30)
(b) Which is your favourite poem by Ovid? Give reasons for your choice. (20)
- (ii) (a) How does Livy explain Hannibal's great victory over the Romans at the Battle of Cannae? (35)
(b) Do you think Livy treated Hannibal fairly in the prescribed extracts? Explain your answer. (15)
- (iii) (a) In Virgil's *Underworld*, how is the ferryman Charon described? (15)
(b) How does Virgil create an atmosphere of horror and utter bleakness in his description of the Underworld? (20)
(c) Are you moved by Virgil's description of the souls? Explain your answer. (15)
- (iv) Discuss the view that while Horace is the poet of friendship and the quiet life, Propertius is the poet of passion. (50)
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GROUP III: Topics 8 to 10

Topic 8. Art and Architecture in Greek Society.**[100]**

Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) **Photograph A on Paper X** shows the plan of the temple of Apollo at Delphi.
- (a) In which order of Greek architecture is this temple built? (5)
(b) What materials were used in its construction? (10)
(c) Using the correct architectural terms, give a description of this temple. (35)
- (ii) Study the vase shown in **Photograph B on Paper X**.
- (a) What name is given to this kind of vase? (5)
(b) What was the function of such vases? (5)
(c) From which centre of pottery did this vase originate? (10)
(d) Comment on the decoration on the vase. (30)
- (iii) Study the sculpture shown in **Photograph C on Paper X**.
- (a) To which period of Greek sculpture does this sculpture belong? (5)
(b) Identify the figure shown in the centre. (5)
(c) What difficulties were faced by the sculptor and how has he tried to overcome them? (20)
(d) In what ways is this sculpture typical of its period? (20)
- (iv) **Photograph D on Paper X** shows a sculpture from the Hellenistic period.
- (a) Identify the statue shown. (5)
(b) Why were such statues put up in public places? (5)
(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. (20)
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Topic 9. The Philosopher in Society: A Study of Socrates and Plato. [100]

Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) (a) Briefly summarise Socrates' Similes of the Sea Captain and of the Large and Powerful Animal. (30)
- (b) Explain how Plato used these similes to express his views on democracy. (20)
- (ii) "That ... is the way in which I would select and appoint our Rulers and Guardians." (Plato, *The Republic*)
- (a) Explain how, according to Socrates, the Rulers and Auxiliaries are to be selected. (20)
- (b) Briefly describe the way of life of the Rulers and Auxiliaries. (30)
- (iii) "How do you think our state will be able to fight a war, Socrates, if it has no wealth, especially if it is compelled to fight against an enemy that is both large and wealthy?" (Plato, *The Republic*)
- Explain how, according to Socrates, his ideal state could be able to defeat a larger and richer enemy state. (50)
- (iv) In Plato's *Seventh Letter*, how does he explain and justify his return to Syracuse for a second time? (50)
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Topic 10. Roman Art and Architecture. [100]

Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) **Photograph E on Paper X** shows the plan of Aosta (*Augusta Praetoria*).
- (a) Identify the features shown at **c, d, e, ff, and gg**. (15)
- (b) Why was Aosta founded by the emperor Augustus in 25 BC? (10)
- (c) Comment on the location of the amphitheatre in Aosta. (10)
- (d) Use the plan to comment on Wheeler's view that Aosta was primarily a military fortress with some features of civic amenities. (15)
- (ii) **Photographs F and G on Paper X** show two well known Roman amphitheatres.
- (a) Identify the amphitheatres shown. (10)
- (b) What evidence is there that the amphitheatre in **Photograph F** is of a very early date? (15)
- (c) Comment on the architectural developments between the two amphitheatres. In your answer, refer to the exterior and interior of both amphitheatres. (25)
- (iii) **Photograph H on Paper X** shows a relief from the Arch of Titus in Rome.
- (a) What important event is being commemorated in this relief? (10)
- (b) Explain what Wheeler means by "the principle of frontality" in Roman relief sculpture. Use **Photograph H** to show the use of the principle in this sculpture. (25)
- (c) "In a real sense the chariot of Titus marks a turning point in classical art." (Wheeler) How does Wheeler justify this statement? (15)
- (iv) **Photograph I on Paper X** shows a wall-painting from Pompeii.
- (a) Write a description of this painting. (25)
- (b) Discuss Wheeler's view that "the crowded scene is little more than a sketch, but it vividly displays the episode." (25)
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