



# Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

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LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2017

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## CLASSICAL STUDIES – ORDINARY LEVEL (300 marks)

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FRIDAY, 16 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) “They decided to go to Athens, to join the Athenian alliance, and see whether they could get any support in that quarter.” (Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*)
- (a) Explain why Corcyra wanted to become an ally of Athens in 433 BC. (15)
  - (b) What were the main arguments used by the Corcyraeans to persuade the Athenians to accept them as allies? (25)
  - (c) What was the Athenian response to the Corcyraeans? (10)
- (ii) In 421 BC Athens and Sparta agreed to the Peace of Nicias.
- (a) Why did Sparta and Athens decide to make peace at this time? (30)
  - (b) What were the main terms of the Peace of Nicias? (20)
- (iii) In 416 BC the Athenians ordered the people of Melos to surrender.
- (a) What arguments were used by the Athenians to persuade the Melians to surrender? (20)
  - (b) How did the Melians reply to these arguments? (20)
  - (c) What happened in the end of this episode? (10)
- (iv) “Alcibiades was a persuasive politician, but he was also irresponsible and self-centred.”
- (a) From your reading of Thucydides’ *Peloponnesian War*, what evidence is there that Alcibiades was a persuasive politician? (20)
  - (b) What evidence is there that he was irresponsible and self-centred? (30)
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### Topic 2. Alexander the Great.

- (i) (a) Describe the Battle of the Granicus River using the following guidelines: Parmenio’s advice; Alexander’s tactics; the course of the battle; the saving of Alexander’s life; the aftermath. (40)
- (b) What does this episode tell you about the character of Alexander? (10)
- (ii) (a) What was the Gordian Knot? (10)
- (b) Describe how Alexander solved the puzzle of the Gordian Knot. (25)
- (c) What does this incident tell you about the character of Alexander? (15)
- (iii) Write notes on **any two** of the following: Bucephalas (Alexander’s horse); Callisthenes (philosopher); Parmenio (general). (25, 25)
- (iv) (a) In your opinion, why did Alexander return to Babylon via the Gedrosian Desert? (10)
- (b) What difficulties did Alexander and his men face during this journey? (20)
- (c) How did Alexander show his leadership qualities during the journey? (20)
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### Topic 3. Life and Thought in the Late Roman Republic.

- (i) (a) Describe what happened when Publius Clodius entered the house of Julius Caesar where the festival in honour of the Good Goddess was being held. (35)  
(b) What happened at Clodius's trial? (15)
- (ii) When Cicero's only daughter Tullia died, his friend Sulpicius wrote to him.  
(a) How did Sulpicius try to console Cicero on his loss? (40)  
(b) Do you think Cicero would have found this letter helpful? Give a reason for your answer. (10)
- (iii) (a) What did you learn about Catullus' love for Lesbia from reading the poems on your course? (35)  
(b) Do you find Catullus a likeable character? Give reasons for your answer. (15)
- (iv) (a) What problem had pirates been causing Rome before Pompey's campaign against them? (15)  
(b) Describe how Pompey cleared the Mediterranean of pirates. (35)
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### Topic 4. Roman Historians.

- (i) (a) Tell the story of the disaster suffered by the Roman legions under Quinctilius Varus in the Teutoburg Forest in Germany in 9 AD. (20)  
(b) How did this disaster affect Augustus' plans to conquer Germany? (15)  
(c) What evidence is there that Augustus was troubled by this event for the rest of his life? (15)
- (ii) Write notes on **any two** of the following:  
Agrippa (Augustus's right-hand man); Julia (Augustus's daughter); Sejanus (Praetorian Prefect). (25, 25)
- (iii) (a) Write an account of the career of Mark Antony from the assassination of Julius Caesar in 44 BC to the Battle of Actium 31 BC. (40)  
(b) Describe how Mark Antony and Cleopatra died after the Battle of Actium. (10)
- (iv) (a) How does Suetonius describe the lifestyle of the emperor Tiberius on the island of Capri? (20)  
(b) According to Suetonius, when Tiberius died, the Romans rejoiced, shouting, "To the Tiber with Tiberius!" Why did the Romans rejoice when Tiberius died? (30)
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## GROUP II: Topics 5 to 7

### Topic 5. Greek Drama.

- (i) (a) From your reading of *Oedipus the King* by Sophocles, explain why Oedipus left Corinth and became King of Thebes. (30)
- (b) Do you think Oedipus was a good king? Support your answer by reference to the play. (20)
- (ii) (a) From your reading of *Medea* by Euripides, what evidence is there to show that Medea was expert at getting people to do what she wanted? (30)
- (b) Do you think that Medea is an interesting character? Give reasons for your answer. (20)
- (iii) (a) In your opinion, what faults in Jason's character helped to bring about his downfall? (35)
- (b) Do you feel any sympathy for Jason at the end of the play? Give reasons for your answer. (15)
- (iv) (a) In Sophocles' play *Oedipus the King*, explain why Jocasta thinks that oracles and prophecies are not reliable. (25)
- (b) How does Jocasta cause Oedipus to start thinking that he might be the murderer? (10)
- (c) Briefly describe Jocasta's death. (15)
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### Topic 6. Ancient Epic.

- (i) (a) In Homer's *Odyssey*, describe what happened after Odysseus and his men were given the bag of winds by Aeolus. (30)
- (b) In your opinion, who was at fault in this episode? Give reasons for your answer. (20)
- (ii) (a) Describe what happened when Odysseus and his men met the Lotus-Eaters. (20)
- (b) Give an account of Odysseus' encounter with the Sirens. (20)
- (c) What do these two episodes tell you about the character of Odysseus? (10)
- (iii) (a) In Virgil's *Aeneid*, why did Dido leave Tyre and found the new city of Carthage in Africa? (10)
- (b) Explain how and why Venus made Dido fall in love with Aeneas. (25)
- (c) Describe the meeting of Aeneas and Dido in the Underworld. (15)
- (iv) In Book 2 of Virgil's *Aeneid*, Aeneas describes what happened to him the night Troy fell.
- (a) What does Hector say to Aeneas when he visits him in a dream? (10)
- (b) Describe the death of King Priam. (25)
- (c) Describe what happened to Aeneas's wife Creusa that night. (15)
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**Topic 7. Writers of the Augustan Age.**

- (i) (a) What evidence is there in the poems of Propertius that he was a passionate lover? (25)  
(b) Do you agree that Propertius was an unhappy lover? Give reasons for your answer. (25)
- (ii) (a) Based on your reading of *The Bore* and *The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse* by Horace, what is Horace's opinion of city life? (20)  
(b) Based on your reading of Horace's poems on your course, what is Horace's opinion of life in the country? (30)
- (iii) (a) Tell the story of *Baucis and Philemon* by Ovid. (40)  
(b) What does Ovid admire about the elderly couple? (10)
- (iv) (a) In Virgil's *Orpheus and Eurydice*, describe how Orpheus loses his wife twice. (30)  
(b) According to Virgil, how does Orpheus die? (10)  
(c) Did you find this poem moving? Give a reason for your answer. (10)
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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 the Karyatid Porch.
- (a) Explain what is meant by a 'karyatid'. (10)
  - (b) Name the building to which this porch belongs and say where it is located. (10)
  - (c) What materials were used in the construction of this building? (10)
  - (d) How is this temple different from a typical Greek temple? (20)
- (ii) **Photograph B** on **Paper X** shows a relief sculpture from the Temple of Artemis at Korkyra.
- (a) Identify the main figure in this sculpture. (10)
  - (b) Where on the temple was this sculpture originally located?  
You may use a labelled diagram as your answer. (10)
  - (c) What evidence is there that this sculpture is of the Early Archaic period? (30)
- (iii) Study the statue in **Photograph C** on **Paper X**.
- (a) What name is given to this type of statue? (10)
  - (b) What was the purpose of this type of statue? (10)
  - (c) To which period of Greek sculpture does this statue belong? (10)
  - (d) How is this sculpture typical of that period? (20)
- (iv) **Photograph D** on **Paper X** shows the Nike of Paionios.
- (a) What is a "Nike"? (10)
  - (b) To what period of Greek sculpture does this statue belong? (10)
  - (c) In what ways is it typical of the period it belongs to? (15)
  - (d) How has the sculptor managed to convey movement in this statue? (15)
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**Topic 9. The Philosopher in Society: A Study of Socrates and Plato.**

- (i) In the ideal state in Plato's *Republic* there were three classes of citizens.
- (a) Name the three classes of citizens and explain the role of **each** of the classes. (40)
  - (b) Is there any movement allowed between the classes? Explain your answer. (10)
- (ii) In the ideal state in Plato's *Republic*, Socrates would ban certain types of stories for children.
- (a) What types of stories would Socrates not allow children to be taught? (25)
  - (b) Why, according to Socrates, are these stories harmful to children? (25)
- (iii) (a) Give an account of Socrates' Simile of the Large and Powerful Animal. (40)
- (b) In your opinion, what did Socrates mean by this simile? (10)
- (iv) (a) In Plato's *Republic*, how does Socrates explain the beginnings of society? (35)
- (b) From your reading of Plato's *Republic*, do you think that his ideal state could ever happen in reality? Give reasons for your answer. (15)
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**Topic 10. Roman Art and Architecture.**

- (i) **Photograph E on Paper X** shows a wall painting from Pompeii.
- (a) Explain what is happening in this painting. (20)
  - (b) How did the artist give energy and life to this painting? (20)
  - (c) Give an example of **one** other subject found on the wall paintings of Pompeii. (10)
- (ii) **Photograph F on Paper X** shows a relief from the Arch of Titus in Rome.
- (a) What event is shown in this relief? (10)
  - (b) Explain what is meant by high relief and low relief. (10)
  - (c) Comment on the use of perspective in the scene. (10)
  - (d) How has the sculptor highlighted the importance of Titus? (20)
- (iii) **Photograph G on Paper X** shows the Roman theatre at Sabratha in Africa.
- (a) Give a full description of this theatre, using the correct architectural terms. You may use a diagram as part of your answer. (30)
  - (b) What kind of entertainment was provided in Roman theatres? (10)
  - (c) How did Roman theatres differ from modern theatres? (10)
- (iv) (a) Identify the temple shown in **Photograph H on Paper X**. (10)
- (b) In which architectural order is this temple built? (10)
  - (c) Using the correct terms, give a full description of this temple. (30)
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