

**Victorian Certificate of Education  
2023****CLASSICAL STUDIES****Written examination****Wednesday 8 November 2023****Reading time: 2.00 pm to 2.15 pm (15 minutes)****Writing time: 2.15 pm to 4.15 pm (2 hours)****QUESTION BOOK****Structure of book**

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number of questions</i>	<i>Number of questions to be answered</i>	<i>Number of marks</i>
A – Individual study	8	2	40
B – Comparative study	8	1	40
			Total 80

- Students are permitted to bring into the examination room: pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers.
- Students are NOT permitted to bring into the examination room: blank sheets of paper and/or correction fluid/tape.
- No calculator is allowed in this examination.

**Materials supplied**

- Question book of 15 pages, including **assessment criteria** for Section B on page 14
- One or more answer books

**Instructions**

- Write your **student number** in the space provided on the front cover(s) of the answer book(s).
- All written responses must be in English.

**At the end of the examination**

- Place all other used answer books inside the front cover of the first answer book.
- You may keep this question book.

**Students are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any other unauthorised electronic devices into the examination room.**

**SECTION A – Individual study****Instructions for Section A**

There are eight questions in Section A. Answer only **two** of these. Each question has three parts. Clearly number your answers in the answer book(s) provided. The mark allocation for each question provides a guide in determining the length of your response. All questions in Section A are worth 20 marks.

**Question 1 (20 marks)****Homer, *The Iliad*, Book 22**

translated by Robert Fagles with an introduction and notes by Bernard Knox, Penguin Classics, 1998

So the old man groaned  
[...]  
but they could not shake the fixed resolve of Hector.

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- a. Describe the circumstances that have led to grief in this passage. 4 marks
- b. Identify and explain how Homer creates pathos in this scene. 6 marks
- c. Using evidence, evaluate the significance of this extract for the characterisation of Hector in Book 22. 10 marks

**Question 2** (20 marks)**Herodotus, *The Histories***

translated by Aubrey de Sélincourt and revised with an introduction and notes by John Marincola,  
Penguin Classics, 2003

Cyrus heard the name  
[...]  
that the flames were put out.

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- a. Describe the circumstances that have led to the scene in this extract. 4 marks
- b. Identify the techniques used in this extract and explain how they are used. 6 marks
- c. Using evidence, evaluate the depiction of Croesus in this extract and elsewhere in the work prescribed for study this year. 10 marks

**Question 3** (20 marks)**Aeschylus, 'Agamemnon'**

from *The Oresteia*, translated by Robert Fagles with an introductory essay, notes and glossary by Robert Fagles and WB Stanford, Penguin Classics, 1977 (reprinted with revisions in 1979)

CHORUS:

[...] a bridal rite

[...]

Is that clear enough?

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- a. Describe the circumstances that have led to this scene. 4 marks
- b. Identify and explain how the poet creates dramatic tension in this extract. 6 marks
- c. Using evidence, evaluate the significance of this extract to the work as a whole. 10 marks

**Question 4** (20 marks)

**Greek sculptures**

**Image A**



Source: National Archaeological Museum, Athens

**Image B**

Source: National Archaeological Museum, Athens

- a. Describe the sociohistorical context of each sculpture. 4 marks
- b. Compare the techniques used to create the sculptures presented in Image A and Image B. 6 marks
- c. Evaluate how an individual's life was commemorated in Greek sculpture. Refer to the works presented in Image A and Image B, and to **two** other sculptures prescribed for study this year. 10 marks

**SECTION A – continued  
TURN OVER**

**Question 5** (20 marks)**Virgil, *The Aeneid*, Book 12**

translated and with an introduction by David West, Penguin Classics, 2003 (revised edition)

This done, the Father of the Gods  
[...]  
and the voice stuck in his throat.

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- a. Describe the circumstances that have led to this scene. 4 marks
- b. Identify and explain how Virgil creates horror in this extract. 6 marks
- c. Using evidence, analyse the significance of this extract for the poet's characterisation of the gods and Turnus in Book 12. 10 marks

**Question 6** (20 marks)**Suetonius, 'Life of Nero', in *The Twelve Caesars***

translated by Robert Graves, revised with an introduction and notes by James B Rives,  
Penguin Classics, 2007

Nero showed no greater mercy  
[...]  
and practically beggared all private citizens.

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- a. Describe the lack of mercy shown by Nero in the passages leading up to this extract. 4 marks
- b. Identify the techniques used in this extract and explain how they are used. 6 marks
- c. Using evidence, evaluate the significance of this extract for the biographer's characterisation of Nero in the work as a whole. 10 marks

**Question 7** (20 marks)**Catullus, *The Complete Poems***

translated with an introduction and notes by Guy Lee, Oxford World's Classics, 1990

**Poem A**

51  
That man is seen by me  
[...]  
and am racked.

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this material is not supplied.

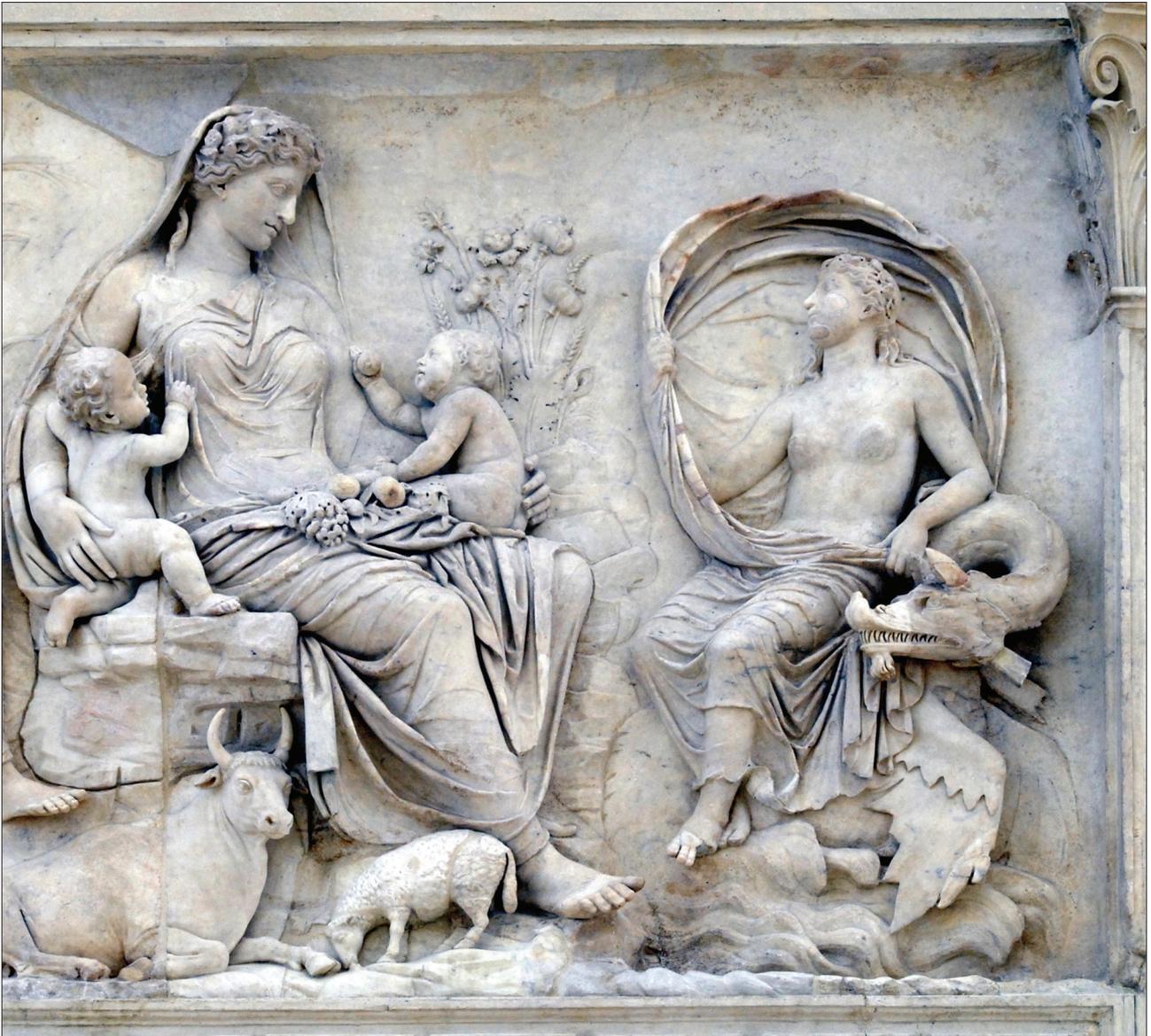
- a. Describe the scene and the characters represented in Poem A. 4 marks
- b. Identify the techniques in both Poem A and Poem B and explain how they are used. 6 marks
- c. Evaluate the poet's representation of his relationship with Lesbia. Refer to the poems presented in Poem A and Poem B and to **two** other poems prescribed for study this year. 10 marks

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**Question 8 (20 marks)**

**Roman reliefs**

**Image A**



Source: Museo dell'Ara Pacis, Rome; image: Hugh Olliff/Alamy Stock Photo

**Image B**

Source: Via di San Gregorio, Rome  
Copyright © Mary Ann Sullivan

- a. Describe the scenes depicted in the reliefs in Image A and Image B. 4 marks
- b. Compare the techniques used to create the reliefs presented in Image A and Image B. 6 marks
- c. Evaluate how the reliefs reflect the beliefs of Roman society. Refer to the reliefs presented in Image A and Image B, and to **two** other reliefs prescribed for study this year. 10 marks

**END OF SECTION A  
TURN OVER**

**SECTION B – Comparative study****Instructions for Section B**

Write an essay on **one** of the following questions. All questions in Section B are worth 40 marks. Clearly number your response in the answer book(s) provided.

**Assessment criteria**

The essay will be assessed against all four of the following criteria:

- knowledge of the classical works and their relationships with their sociohistorical contexts
- analysis of the ideas and the techniques used to express these ideas in the classical works
- comparison and evaluation of the ideas and techniques used in the classical works
- construction of an argument based on relevant evidence

**Question 1** (40 marks)**Aristophanes, ‘Lysistrata’ and Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War***

‘The two depictions of the Peloponnesian War are different in every way.’

Analyse this statement using evidence from both works.

**Question 2** (40 marks)**Aeschylus, ‘Prometheus Bound’ and Plato, ‘Apology’**

‘The quest for justice is also the desire for vengeance.’

Analyse this statement using evidence from both works.

**Question 3** (40 marks)**Sophocles, ‘Antigone’ and Euripides, ‘Electra’**

‘The decisions that women face are more complex than those faced by men.’

Analyse this statement using evidence from both works.

**Question 4** (40 marks)**Cicero, ‘First and Second Catilinarians’ and Sallust, ‘Catiline’s War’**

‘Both Cicero and Sallust portray Catiline as a complete villain.’

Analyse this statement using evidence from both works.

**Question 5** (40 marks)**Livy, *The Rise of Rome* and Tacitus, *The Annals of Imperial Rome***

‘The greatest threats to Rome were internal not external.’

Analyse this statement using evidence from both works.

**Question 6** (40 marks)**Juvenal, ‘Satires’ and Petronius, ‘Dinner with Trimalchio’**

‘Juvenal and Petronius have nothing but contempt for their fellow Romans.’

Analyse this statement using evidence from both works.

**Question 7** (40 marks)**Pergamon Altar and Trajan's Column**

'Both the Pergamon Altar and Trajan's Column depict an indifference to the suffering of victims.'

Analyse this statement using evidence from both works.

**Question 8** (40 marks)**Virgil, *The Aeneid*, Book 4 and Euripides, 'Medea'**

'Lack of understanding between men and women brings devastating consequences for all.'

Analyse this statement using evidence from both works.

