



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2022

CLASSICAL STUDIES – HIGHER LEVEL (200 marks)

MONDAY, 27 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 **FOUR QUESTIONS**. Candidates must answer **one** question from a Topic **in each** of the three Groups. Candidates can then select their remaining question from any Topic in any Group.
- There are fifty marks for each question. The total marks for the paper are 200.
- Photographs required for answering questions on Topics 8 and 10 are provided on an accompanying paper marked **X**.

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GROUP I: Topics 1 to 4

Topic 1. Athens at War.

- (i) In 432 BC the Spartans debated among themselves whether they should declare war on Athens.
 - (a) Outline the arguments made by Archidamus, King of Sparta, against the war. (35)
 - (b) Why did the Spartans reject his advice? (15)
 - (ii) “And as for the sufferings of individuals, they seemed almost beyond the capacity of human nature to endure.”
 - (a) Describe how the Great Plague of 430 BC affected the people of Athens. (35)
 - (b) From your reading of Thucydides’ account of the Plague, what similarities and differences do you find with the COVID pandemic of the last two years? (15)
 - (iii) From your reading of Thucydides’ account, analyse the reasons for the disastrous failure of the Athenians in their campaign in Sicily. (50)
 - (iv) From your reading of *The History of the Peloponnesian War* what, in your view, are the qualities that make Thucydides a great historian?
Support your answer by reference to the text. (50)
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Topic 2. Alexander the Great.

- (i) The siege and capture of Tyre in 332 BC was, “perhaps the hardest task that Alexander’s military genius ever encountered”. (Bury and Meiggs)
 - (a) What were the main challenges presented by Tyre and its defenders? (20)
 - (b) The historian Paul Cartledge views the siege of Tyre as Alexander’s “masterpiece” as a military commander. Do you agree with this opinion?
Give reasons for your answer. (30)
 - (ii) In 333 BC the armies of Darius and Alexander met for the first time in the Battle of Issus.
 - (a) Outline the course of the battle. (30)
 - (b) Explain how Darius and Alexander showed contrasting styles of leadership from the lead up to the Battle of Issus through to the aftermath of the battle. (20)
 - (iii) (a) Why did Alexander’s Macedonian troops mutiny at Opis in 324 BC? (25)
(b) What does Alexander’s speech to the men at Opis reveal about his character? (25)
 - (iv) Arrian, in *The Campaigns of Alexander*, writes that, “the sheer pleasure of battle was irresistible for Alexander.” Discuss this statement with reference to Alexander’s career. (50)
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Topic 3. Life and Thought in the Late Roman Republic.

- (i) (a) From your reading of the prescribed poems of Catullus, give an account of the love affair between Lesbia and the poet. (35)
- (b) Do you think that the poems of Catullus have any relevance for today's reader? Give reasons for your answer with reference to the prescribed poems. (15)
- (ii) Discuss the view that Pompey did not deserve to be known as "Pompey the Great". Support your answer with reference to the prescribed texts. (50)
- (iii) (a) Why did Brutus, Cassius and the other conspirators decide to assassinate Julius Caesar in 44 BC? (20)
- (b) Describe what happened in Rome from the time of Caesar's assassination to the departure of the conspirators to the east. (30)
- (iv) In 51 BC Cicero wrote a letter to Atticus, about his brother Quintus and Pomponia, Quintus's wife.
- (a) Outline the contents of the letter. (30)
- (b) What does the letter reveal of the relationship between Cicero and his brother? (10)
- (c) Who, in your opinion, deserves our sympathy more, Quintus or Pomponia? Explain your answer. (10)
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Topic 4. Roman Historians.

- (i) (a) Augustus boasted that he had transformed the appearance of Rome. How did he succeed in making the city more beautiful? (20)
- (b) How did Augustus make Rome a safer city for its citizens to live in? (15)
- (c) Why did Augustus attempt to restore traditional morality in Rome? (15)
- (ii) (a) Give an account of the rise and fall of Sejanus in the reign of the Emperor Tiberius. (35)
- (b) In your opinion, how did Sejanus come to have significant influence over Tiberius? (15)
- (iii) In 64 AD much of Rome was destroyed by fire.
- (a) Give an account of the Great Fire of Rome. (30)
- (b) What is your opinion of Nero's behaviour during and after the Great Fire? (20)
- (iv) From your reading of the prescribed texts of Tacitus and Suetonius, which of the two historians, Tacitus or Suetonius, do you prefer? Support your answer with reference to the texts. (50)
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GROUP II: Topics 5 to 7

Topic 5. Greek Drama.

- (i) (a) Outline Medea's grievances against Jason in their first encounter, in Euripides' play *Medea*. (30)
- (b) In your opinion, is Jason's defence of his actions fair and reasonable? Give reasons for your answer. (20)
- (ii) Do you agree with the view that, even though he has committed, "crimes too huge for hanging", Oedipus is still a heroic character? Support your answer with reference to *Oedipus the King* by Sophocles. (50)
- (iii) (a) The opening scene of Aeschylus's *Prometheus Bound* shows Prometheus being dragged to a, "desolate peak... a bitter bleak ravine". Where is this place and what is the attitude of his jailors to their task? Support your answer with reference to the play. (25)
- (b) Explain how Aeschylus succeeds in making his play intensely dramatic despite its static setting. (25)
- (iv) From your reading of Aristophanes' *Frogs*, what did you learn about life and politics in Athens at that time? (50)
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Topic 6. Ancient Epic.

- (i) (a) Both Odysseus in *The Odyssey* and Aeneas in *The Aeneid* visit the Underworld. For what reasons do Odysseus and Aeneas each visit the Underworld? (10)
- (b) From your reading of both accounts, which one do you prefer? Support your answer with reference to the texts. (40)
- (ii) (a) In Homer's *Odyssey*, Odysseus inspires hatred from Poseidon and admiration from Athena. Explain why this is the case. (20)
- (b) In what ways does Athena contribute to Odysseus's success? (30)
- (iii) (a) What was the role of the gods in the doomed love affair of Dido and Aeneas? (25)
- (b) In your opinion, was Dido in any way responsible for her own downfall? Explain your answer with reference to the text. (25)
- (iv) Compare the world shown in the *Táin* with the world depicted by Homer in the *Odyssey*. Support your answer by reference to both texts. (50)
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Topic 7. Writers of the Augustan Age.

- (i) In their poems, the poets Virgil and Horace both seem to long for a simple, more natural way of life.
- (a) From your reading of the prescribed poems, explain how both poets reveal this desire in their writing. (35)
 - (b) Do you think that this attitude towards life has any relevance to today's world? Support your answer with reference to the texts. (15)
- (ii) (a) According to Livy's *The Sabine Women* how did Romulus and his men acquire wives for themselves? (30)
- (b) What is your opinion of Romulus's justification for their actions? (20)
- (iii) (a) Outline the main preoccupations of Ovid in the prescribed poems. (30)
- (b) Which one of Ovid's poems is your favourite? Give reasons for your choice. (20)
- (iv) (a) From your reading of the prescribed poems of Propertius, what did you learn about his attitude to love? (35)
- (b) What evidence did you find in the poetry of Propertius of his sense of humour? Support your answer with reference to the texts. (15)
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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 a vase from ancient Athens.
- (a) What type of vase is this? (5)
 - (b) What was the purpose of such vases? (10)
 - (c) Describe the scene shown and the decoration on this vase. (15)
 - (d) Explain how the decoration was applied to black figure vases. (20)
- (ii) **Photographs B and C on Paper X** show the Temple of Hera at Paestum.
- (a) Name the order of Greek architecture in which the temple is built. (5)
 - (b) Using the correct architectural terms give a full description of the temple. (25)
 - (c) Name one other temple at the site in Paestum. (5)
 - (d) What evidence is there that this temple is earlier in style than the Parthenon in Athens? (15)
- (iii) **Photograph D on Paper X** shows a section of the frieze from the Parthenon in Athens.
- (a) Where was the frieze located on the Parthenon? You may use a sketch as your answer. (5)
 - (b) Give a description of the Parthenon frieze. (25)
 - (c) What important event is thought to be commemorated by the Parthenon frieze? (5)
 - (d) Do you agree with the general view that the frieze represents the high point of Classical Greek art? Give reasons for your answer. (15)
- (iv) **Photograph E on Paper X** shows a famous statue from ancient Greece.
- (a) Identify the statue and say where it was sculpted. (10)
 - (b) Name the period of Greek sculpture to which the statue belongs. (5)
 - (c) Which features of this sculpture are typical of the period? (35)
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Topic 9. The Philosopher in Society: A Study of Socrates and Plato.

- (i) (a) Give a brief account of the similes of the Sea Captain and the Large and Powerful Animal. (30)
- (b) How does Plato use these similes to express his views on democracy? (20)
- (ii) In Plato's *Republic*, Socrates asks Cephalus whether or not old age is difficult.
- (a) What reply does Cephalus give to Socrates? (20)
- (b) According to Cephalus, what is the advantage of being rich as death approaches? (15)
- (c) Do you agree with Cephalus's views on the advantage of wealth as one nears the end of life? Give reasons for your answer. (15)
- (iii) (a) How does Socrates justify his view that wealth and poverty corrupt workers? (25)
- (b) According to Socrates, how might his ideal state defend itself or fight a war without wealth? (25)
- (iv) (a) Why did Plato go to Syracuse for the first time? Support your answer with reference to Plato's *Seventh Letter*. (30)
- (b) Do you agree that Plato never achieved his goals in Syracuse? Give reasons for your answer. (20)
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Topic 10. Roman Art and Architecture.

- (i) **Photograph F** on **Paper X** shows the plan of the town of Ostia.
- (a) Identify the features shown at **aa, d, e, f** and **g**. (15)
 - (b) According to Wheeler, what evidence is there to show that Ostia was the port of Rome? (10)
 - (c) Describe the types of housing found at Ostia. (15)
 - (d) In your opinion, what is typically Roman about the town plan of Ostia? (10)
- (ii) Look at **Photograph G** on **Paper X**.
- (a) Identify the monument shown in **Photograph G**. (5)
 - (b) What does the monument commemorate? (10)
 - (c) Explain why this monument is so valuable to historians. (20)
 - (d) "All perspectives are at sixes and sevens." (Wheeler) Comment on the sculptor's treatment of perspective in the carving of this monument. (15)
- (iii) **Photograph H** on **Paper X** shows the interior of the Pantheon in Rome.
- (a) Name the emperor who commissioned the building of this temple. (5)
 - (b) "As an interior the Pantheon is unsurpassed."
Do you agree with Wheeler's assessment? Explain your answer. (30)
 - (c) Describe the exterior of the Pantheon. (15)
- (iv) **Photograph I** on **Paper X** shows a wall painting from Prima Porta.
- (a) What is this fresco called? (10)
 - (b) 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. (25)

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