



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2023
Classical Studies
Ordinary Level
Monday 26 June Afternoon 2:00 - 4:30
400 marks

Examination Number

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Day and Month of Birth

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For example, 3rd February
is entered as 0302

Centre Stamp

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Instructions

Write your examination number and date of birth in the boxes on the front cover.

Write your answers in blue or black pen.

You may use pencil, including colouring pencils, **only** in drawings or diagrams.

Write all your answers in the spaces provided in this booklet. There is additional answer space at the end of the booklet. Label any such extra work clearly with the question number and part.

This examination booklet will be scanned and your work will be presented to an examiner on screen. Anything that you write outside of the answer areas may not be seen by the examiner.

There are **two** sections in this paper.

Section A	Stimulus Questions	300 marks
	• Answer all questions presented.	

Images for Questions 1-8 in Section A are on **Paper X**, which accompanies this examination paper.

Section B	Extended Answers	100 marks
	• Answer Question 11. • Answer one from Questions 12-16.	(50 marks) (50 marks)

Where appropriate, you may include drawings, diagrams etc., in the blank answer space on page 6 in Section A, and pages 20 and 25 in Section B.

Section A**Stimulus Questions****300 marks**

Answer all **ten** of the following questions. Each question carries thirty marks.
Refer to the images on **Paper X** as indicated for Questions 1-8.

Question 1**(30 marks)**

Image A, Image B, and Image C are sculptures of **three** different goddesses.

(a) Choose Image A, Image B **or** Image C and complete the grid below.

Image (A, B, or C)	Greek Name	Roman Name	Role

(b) Explain how **one** detail from your chosen image helped you identify the goddess in part **(a)**.

(c) Summarise **one** myth associated with **any** ancient Greek / Roman goddess.

(d) Do you think Greek / Roman goddesses are as powerful as male gods? Explain your answer.

Question 2**(30 marks)**

Image D shows the father of Zeus.

(a) What is the name of Zeus' father? Tick (✓) the correct box below.

Atlas ☐Cronos ☐Pandora ☐Prometheus ☐

(b) Give an account of **any** ancient Greek or Roman myth that involves a father and son.

(c) Give **two** reasons why you think that so many myths involve a power struggle.

(d) Besides the theme of a power struggle, list **three** other common themes in ancient Greek / Roman mythology.

Question 3

(30 marks)

Image E shows a reconstruction of the Temple of Vesta in ancient Rome.

(a) Where is the Temple of Vesta located? Tick (✓) the correct box below.

Forum Romanum ☐

Palatine Hill ☐

Capitoline Hill ☐

(b) Identify **two** architectural features of this temple.

(c) What was Vesta's role?

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(d) Outline **two** duties of the Vestal Virgins in Roman religion.

(e) What is your opinion about the life of a Vestal Virgin? Support your answer with information about the role of women in ancient Rome.

Question 4**(30 marks)**

Image F shows an infantry unit in Alexander the Great's army: The Macedonian Phalanx.

Image G shows an infantry unit in Julius Caesar's army: The Roman Legion.

(a) Choose **one** of the infantry units shown in these images and answer the following questions.

Chosen Infantry Unit:

(i) Explain **two** features of this infantry unit, such as: its structure, organisation, leadership, equipment, tactics, etc. You may support your answer with a diagram.

Optional Space for Diagram:

(ii) What does this infantry unit tell us about the military culture of its society?

(b) Name **one** military event from the campaigns of Alexander the Great **or** Julius Caesar.

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(c) List **five** important points about the military event named in part **(b)**.

You may refer to points related to:

- terrain, formation, course of the battle / siege, tactics, leadership, etc.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

(d) Why is the military event named in part **(b)** considered a key moment of this military campaign? Give reasons for your answer.

Question 5**(30 marks)**

Image H shows a funeral in ancient Greece. Image I shows a funeral in ancient Rome.

(a) Write **four** of these terms next to their definitions in the table below.

- procession; sarcophagus; necropolis; anointing; stele; prothesis.

Definition	Term
a burial area outside of the city	
the dead person is laid out for mourners to view	
a carved piece of stone used to identify a grave	
the dead body is covered in scented oils and dressed	
a coffin made of stone	
the dead person is carried to the burial site	

(b) Choose Image H **or** Image I and describe what is shown in the image.

Chosen Image:	

(c) What do funerary artefacts teach us about the importance of attending funerals in ancient Greece and Rome? Explain your answer.

Question 6**(30 marks)**

Image J is a drawing of the character Philoctetes. Image K is a sculpture of the character Medea.

(a) Based on your study of Euripides' *Medea* **or** Sophocles' *Philoctetes*, discuss **any two** characters.

Character 1:
Character 2:

- (b)** Tick (✓) the box to indicate whether each statement is True **or** False.
- | | True | False |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| (i) The City Dionysia was a yearly festival that included animal sacrifice. | ☐ | ☐ |
| (ii) Greek Tragedy featured dialogue, music, singing and dancing. | ☐ | ☐ |
| (iii) Men and women were actors in theatres in ancient Greece. | ☐ | ☐ |

(c) Give **one** reason why Greek Tragedy was so popular in ancient Greece.

Question 7**(30 marks)**

Image L is a Roman mosaic of gladiators fighting.

(a) Describe the experience of attending a gladiator fight in the Colosseum.

(b) Explain **two** differences between public entertainment in ancient Greece and Rome.

(c) In your opinion, are the types of public entertainment in Ireland today like the ones in ancient Greece **or** Rome? Give reasons for your answer.

Question 8**(30 marks)**

Image M shows Aeneas and his family escaping Troy.

(a) Write these **four** names next to their descriptions in the table below.

- Anchises; Ascanius / Iulus; Creusa; Penates.

Description	Name
father of Aeneas	
Household Gods	
son of Aeneas	
wife of Aeneas	

(b) What do the actions shown in Image M tell us about the character of Aeneas?
Support your answer with details from Image M.

(c) Describe **two** moments that influenced Aeneas' decision to escape from Troy.

Question 9**(30 marks)**

Read Text A and Text B below, which are taken from the *Odyssey* and the *Aeneid*.

Text A: The *Odyssey*, Book 5.

Odysseus' knees shook and his spirit failed. In anguish he reflected deeply: "Poor wretch that I am, what will become of me after all? ...Three and four times blessed are those countrymen of mine who fell long ago on the broad plains of Troy in loyal service to the sons of Atreus. If only I too could have met my fate and died the day the Trojan hordes let fly at me with their bronze spears over Achilles' corpse!"

Text B: The *Aeneid*, Book 1.

At once Aeneas, limbs limp in the chill of fear, groaning and lifting both his palms toward the stars cries out: "Three and four times blessed, my comrades lucky to die beneath the soaring walls of Troy—before their parents' eyes! If only I'd gone down under your right hand—Diomedes, strongest Greek afield—and poured out my life on the battlegrounds of Troy!"

- (a)** Identify **one** emotion found in both texts. List **one** phrase from each text that helped you decide on this emotion.

Emotion:
Text A:
Text B:

- (b)** Describe in your own words what is happening in **either** Text A **or** Text B.

Chosen Text:	

- (c) Which hero, Odysseus **or** Aeneas, was better at overcoming challenges?
Give reasons for your answer with reference to **either** the *Odyssey* **or** the *Aeneid*.

Question 10**(30 marks)**

Read Text A and Text B below, which are taken from **two** different poems by Horace.

Text A: A quotation from *Ode 2.10*

“Appear brave and in good spirits during difficult times.”

Text B: A quotation from *Ode 1.36*

“Now is the time to drink wine and drum the earth with our lively dancing.”

(a) Choose **either** Text A **or** Text B, and explain its message in your own words.

Chosen Text:	

(b) Do you agree with Horace’s views on how to live well? Support your answer with examples from at least **one** poem in Horace’s *Odes and Epodes*.

(c) Who was Horace? Give at least **two** points about his life.

Section B – Extended Answers – begins on page 16.

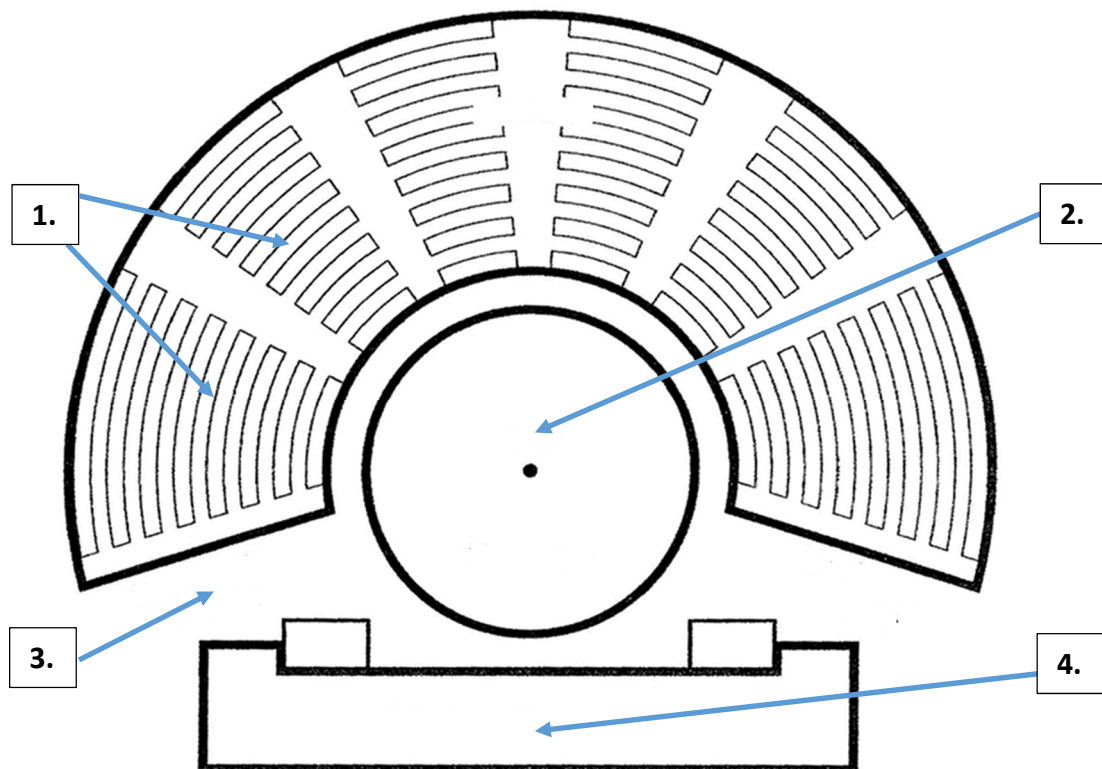
Question 11

(50 marks)

Answer (a) and (b) on the following pages.

(a) Choose Image Y or Image Z.

Image Y: The Theatre of Dionysos

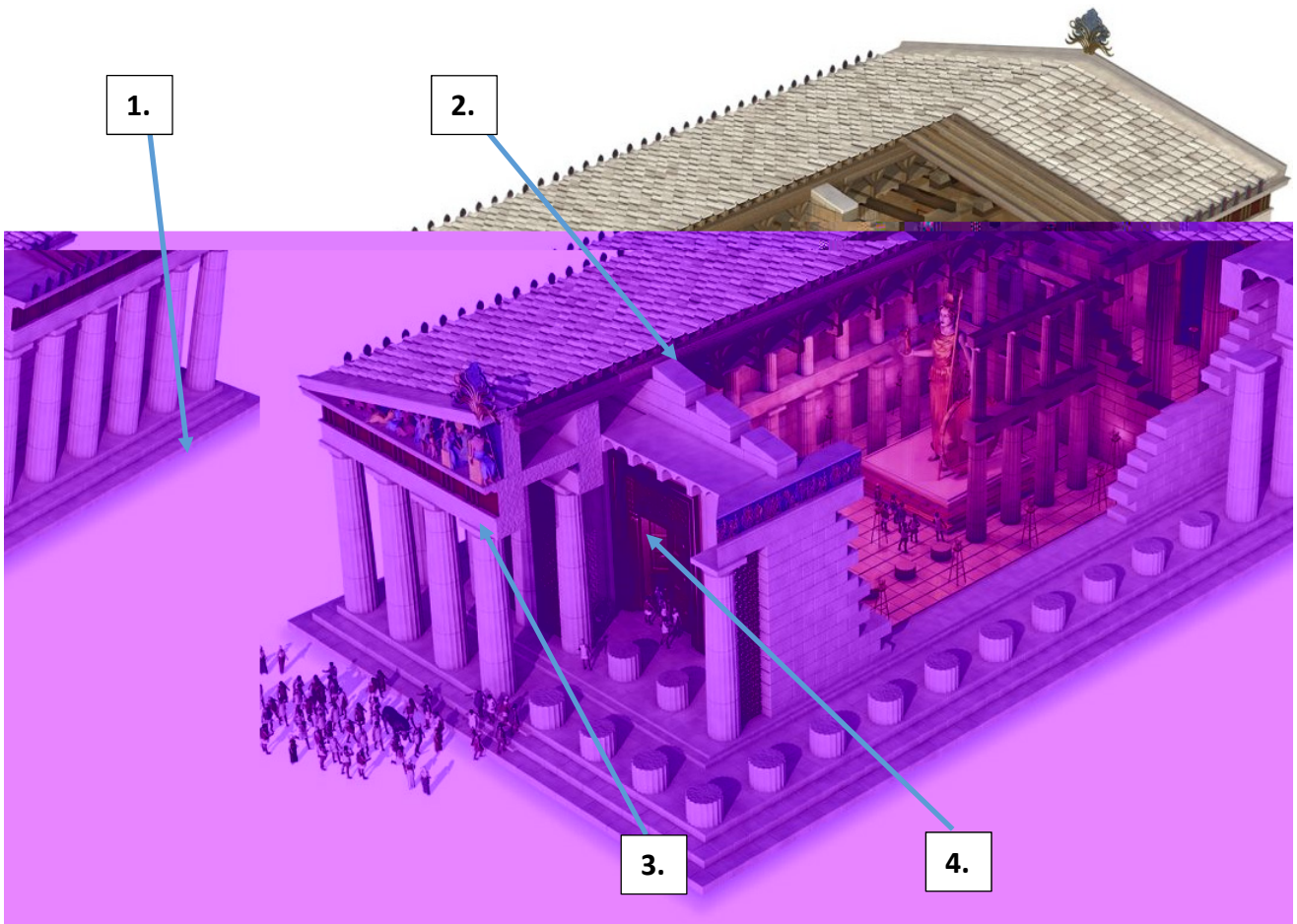


(i) Write the names of the **four** architectural elements labelled in Image Y.

1.
2.
3.
4.

OR

Image Z: The Parthenon



(ii) Write the names of the **four** architectural elements labelled in Image Z.

1.
2.
3.
4.

(b) Answer **one** of these questions.

(i) Discuss the importance of the Theatre of Dionysos **or** the Parthenon in ancient Athenian society. You may use headings such as the ones below.

- political; religious; cultural.

OR

(ii) Describe what took place in Athens during the City Dionysia **or** the Panathenaea. In your answer, you may describe how the Theatre of Dionysos **or** the Parthenon was used during the festival.

OR

(iii) Imagine you are attending an event at the Theatre of Dionysos **or** the Parthenon in ancient Greece. Describe your experience. You may write from the perspective of someone participating in the event **or** someone observing it.

Optional Planning Space:

Answer for Question 11 (b), part

Optional Answer Space for drawings, diagrams, etc:

Answer **one** of the five questions below.

Question 12

(50 marks)

Answer **(a)** and **(b)**.

- (a)** Based on your reading of Euripides' *Medea* or Sophocles' *Philoctetes*, discuss **one** key decision that a character makes.
- (b)** In your opinion, did the character make the right decision? Explain your answer with reference to the text.

OR

Question 13

(50 marks)

Answer **(a)** and **(b)**.

- (a)** Describe **at least one** moment when you felt a character was mistreated by fate or the gods. You may use examples from **any** Strand on your course.
- (b)** What is your opinion of the role and nature of the gods? Support your answer with examples from **at least one** Strand on your course.

OR

Question 14

(50 marks)

Answer **(a)** and **(b)**.

- (a)** Give an account of **one** example where you thought that an author showed bias / favouritism in the portrayal of Alexander the Great or Julius Caesar.
- (b)** What is your own opinion of the character of Alexander the Great or Julius Caesar? Support your answer with evidence from any text.

OR

Question 15

(50 marks)

Discuss Alexander the Great's **and /or** Julius Caesar's attitude towards the conquered. Support your answer with examples of how the conquered were treated.

OR

Question 16

(50 marks)

Answer **(a)** and **(b)**.

- (a)** Describe the architectural features of the Pantheon in Rome or the Erechtheion in Athens.
- (b)** Why do you think that these two buildings are considered masterpieces of architecture? Refer to **both** temples in your answer for part **(b)**.

Optional Planning Space:

Answer for Question

Optional Answer Space for drawings, diagrams, etc:

[illegible]

Acknowledgements:

Texts

Page 12: Homer. *Odyssey*. Trans. E.V. Rieu. Ed. Dominic Rieu. London: Penguin Books, 2003.
Virgil. *The Aeneid*. Trans. David West. London: Penguin Books, 2003.

Page 14: Horace. *Ode* 2.10, l: 21-22.
Horace. *Ode* 1.37, l: 1-2.

Images

Page 16: <https://quizlet.com/249642711/typical-greek-theater-plan-diagram/>
Page 17: <https://www.dkfindout.com/us/history/ancient-greece/parthenon/>

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