



# Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

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LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2018

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## CLASSICAL STUDIES – HIGHER LEVEL (300 marks)

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FRIDAY, 15 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 their **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) (a) How did Pericles persuade the Athenians to go to war against the Spartans? (35)  
(b) In your opinion, was Pericles' death a disaster for the Athenians?  
Explain your answer with reference to the prescribed text. (15)
- (ii) (a) Describe how the Athenians succeeded in defeating the Spartans at Pylos and Sphacteria. (40)  
(b) How did the surrender of the Spartans on Sphacteria affect the course of the war? (10)
- (iii) In 415 BC the Athenians held a debate on sending an expedition to Sicily.  
(a) Outline the main arguments put forward by Alcibiades in favour of the expedition. (20)  
(b) What arguments were put forward by Nicias against the expedition? (20)  
(c) Why, in your opinion, did Alcibiades' arguments succeed? (10)
- (iv) The historian Dionysus of Halicarnassus said that Thucydides should not have allowed himself to be "side tracked by his obsession with speeches".  
(Introduction to Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*)  
Do you agree with Dionysus about Thucydides' use of speeches?  
Answer with reference to the prescribed text. (50)
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### Topic 2. Alexander the Great.

- (i) (a) Describe how Alexander and his Macedonians defeated Darius at the battle of Issus in 333 BC. (35)  
(b) What did you learn about Alexander's character from his behaviour in the aftermath of the Battle of Issus? (15)
- (ii) (a) Outline the sequence of events that led to the death of Callisthenes in 327 BC. (35)  
(b) What is your opinion of Alexander's behaviour towards Callisthenes? Explain your answer. (15)
- (iii) (a) Arrian says of Alexander, at the Mallian Siege, "To think was to act."  
Give an account of Alexander's involvement in the Mallian Siege in 325 BC. (30)  
(b) What does this event and its aftermath tell us about the relationship between Alexander and his men? (20)
- (iv) What Alexander conducted was, "nothing short of a reign of terror". (P. Cartledge)  
Do you agree with this statement about the latter half of Alexander's campaign?  
Explain your answer with reference to the prescribed texts. (50)
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### **Topic 3. Life and Thought in the Late Roman Republic.**

- (i) "Catullus is a poet of intense moods." (E.A. Havelock)  
Discuss this view of Catullus with reference to the prescribed poems on your course. (50)
- (ii) One of Caesar's most striking characteristics was his willingness to take risks.  
From your reading of the prescribed texts, discuss this view of Julius Caesar. (50)
- (iii) "When I was told of the death of your daughter Tullia, I was, of course, as grieved and upset as I was bound to be."  
(a) In his letter, how does Sulpicius Rufus try to console Cicero for his loss? (40)  
(b) Do you think that this letter would have helped Cicero in his grief?  
Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- (iv) (a) Give an account of the Battle of Pharsalus in which Caesar defeated Pompey. (35)  
(b) What is your opinion of Pompey's performance as a general in this battle?  
Explain your answer with reference to the text. (15)
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### **Topic 4. Roman Historians.**

- (i) From your reading of the prescribed texts, what is your view of the achievements of the Emperor Augustus? (50)
- (ii) (a) The treason trials exposed Tiberius' worst qualities. Do you agree?  
Justify your answer with reference to the prescribed texts. (35)  
(b) In your opinion, was Tacitus fair in his account of the reign of Tiberius? (15)
- (iii) It is generally accepted that during his reign, Claudius was dominated by his wives and freedmen. Discuss this statement with reference to the prescribed material. (50)
- (iv) Corbulo is regarded by most historians as the greatest general of his time.  
Give an account of Corbulo's achievements. (50)
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## GROUP II: Topics 5 to 7

### Topic 5. Greek Drama.

- (i) (a) What is Aristophanes' attitude towards Aeschylus in his play *Frogs*? (25)  
(b) In *Frogs*, why was Euripides not chosen as the poet to be brought back to the city? (25)
- (ii) "These are new laws indeed by which Zeus tyrannically rules." (The Chorus)  
Discuss the view that Zeus is the villain of Aeschylus' *Prometheus Bound*. (50)
- (iii) Discuss the view that, in *Oedipus the King* by Sophocles, Oedipus displays all the qualities of a great detective. (50)
- (iv) "Surely of all creatures that have life and will, we women are the most wretched."  
(Medea, in Euripides' play *Medea*)  
(a) Explain why Medea thinks that women are the 'most wretched' of creatures. (30)  
(b) Do you think that *Medea* is a misogynistic (anti-women) play?  
Explain your answer with reference to the text. (20)
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### Topic 6. Ancient Epic.

- (i) "Happy beyond words I should have been, if only the Trojan ships had never come to my shore!" (Dido's words before she dies in Virgil's *Aeneid* Book 4)  
(a) What was Dido's situation before Aeneas and the Trojans arrived in Carthage? (15)  
(b) Do you agree with the view that Dido was an innocent victim of Aeneas and the gods?  
Give reasons for your answer. (35)
- (ii) In Homer's *Odyssey*, Telemachus developed from being a shy and depressed young man into a confident and strong support for his father, Odysseus, in his battle with the Suitors.  
Trace this development and explain how it came about. (50)
- (iii) Loyalty is the virtue most valued in Homer's *Odyssey* and its absence is severely punished.  
Discuss this view with reference to the text. (50)
- (iv) Compare the style of warfare in the *Táin* with the style of warfare in Virgil's *Aeneid*. (50)
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## Topic 7. Writers of the Augustan Age.

- (i) “The detailed observation of nature was perfectly suited to Virgil’s talents.”  
(W.W. Briggs)  
Discuss this statement using the prescribed extracts from Virgil. (50)
- (ii) From your reading of the prescribed poems, compare and contrast the attitudes of Propertius and Ovid towards women. (50)
- (iii) One of the qualities we admire in Horace’s satires is his sense of humour. Discuss this statement supporting your answer with reference to *The Bore, Journey to Brundisium* and *The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse*. (50)
- (iv) “The men excused their act on the score of passion and love, the most moving of all pleas to a woman’s heart.” (Livy *The Sabine Women*)
- (a) Describe how Romulus and his men acquired wives. (30)
- (b) What is your opinion of the justification offered by Romulus and his men for their actions? (20)
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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 pedimental sculpture from Korkyra.
- (a) Identify the figure in the centre. (5)
  - (b) To which period of Greek sculpture does this piece belong? (5)
  - (c) In what ways is this sculpture typical of its period? (30)
  - (d) Do you think that the sculptor has resolved the problem of depicting a running figure effectively in this sculpture? Explain your answer. (10)
- (ii) **Photographs B** and **C** on **Paper X** show a Greek theatre.
- (a) Identify the theatre. (5)
  - (b) Identify the areas marked **a, b, c, d** and **e**. (15)
  - (c) Would you agree that this building was well designed for its purpose? Give reasons for your answer. (30)
- (iii) Study the vase shown in **Photograph D** on **Paper X**.
- (a) What kind of vase is this and what was it used for? (10)
  - (b) From which pottery centre did this vase originate? (5)
  - (c) Give a description of the scene on this vase. (20)
  - (d) Briefly outline the technique used in the creation of black-figure vases. (15)
- (iv) Study **Photographs E** and **F** on **Paper X** and answer the following questions.
- (a) What is the name given to each of these types of statue? (10)
  - (b) To which sculptural period do each of these statues belong? (10)
  - (c) Describe the developments in sculpture that have taken place in the period between **Photographs E** and **F**. (30)
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## Topic 9. The Philosopher in Society: A Study of Socrates and Plato.

- (i) (a) Summarise the similes of the Sea Captain and the Large and Powerful Animal. (30)  
(b) What do these similes reveal about Plato's views on democracy? (20)
- (ii) Though a devoted follower of Plato's philosophy, Dion's behaviour in Syracuse did not live up to that philosophy.  
Discuss this statement, supporting your answer with reference to Plutarch's *Life of Dion*. (50)
- (iii) (a) Why does Socrates think that war is inevitable in a civilised community? (20)  
(b) According to Socrates, how could his ideal state be capable of defeating a larger and richer enemy? (20)  
(c) Do you agree with Socrates' views on war? Give a reason for your answer. (10)
- (iv) (a) What role did Socrates give to music in his ideal educational system? (20)  
(b) How did Socrates justify the rejection of certain kinds of music? (15)  
(c) What is your opinion of Socrates' views on music? (15)
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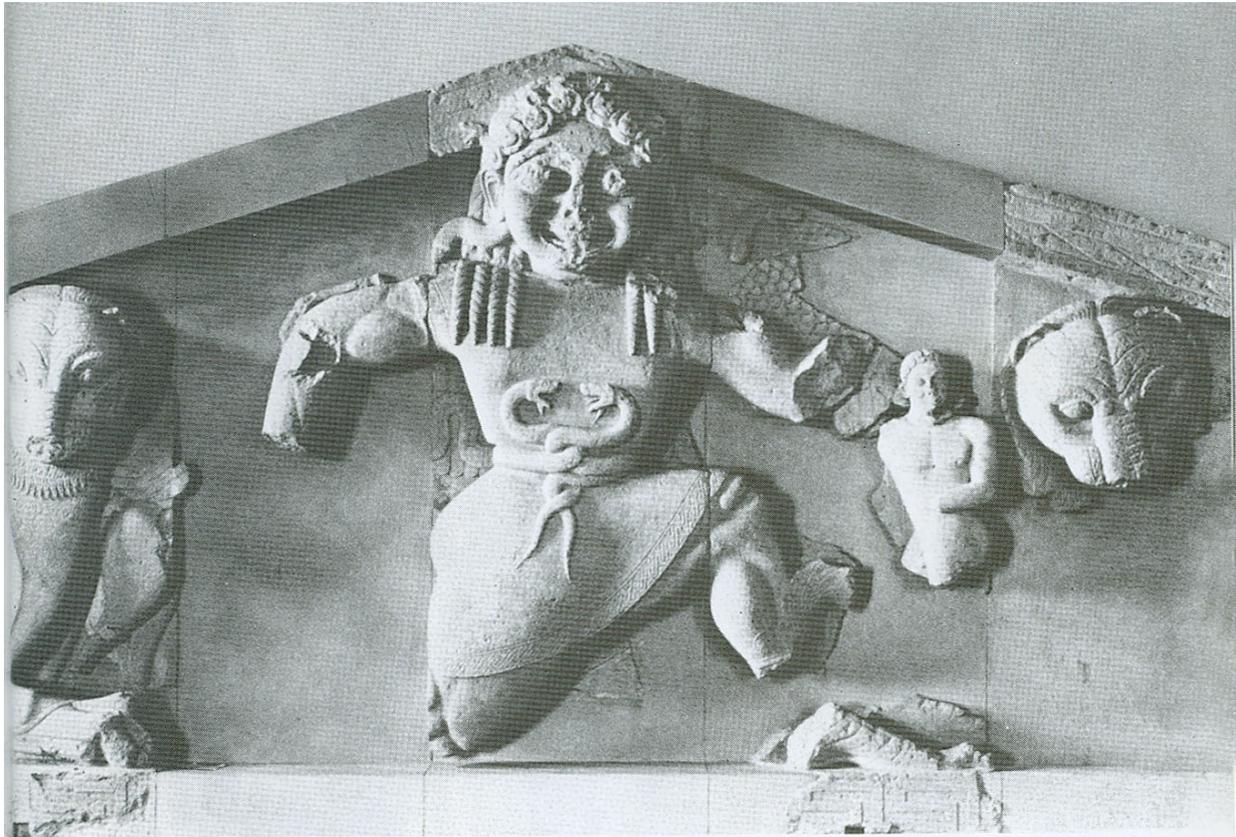
## Topic 10. Roman Art and Architecture.

- (i) **Photograph G** on **Paper X** shows a plan of Trier (Augusta Treverorum) in Roman Gaul.
- (a) Identify the features shown at **c, d, e, g** and **k**. (15)
  - (b) Based on your studies, what evidence can you find to show that Trier was an important and wealthy city in ancient times? You may also refer to **Photograph G** in your answer. (25)
  - (c) Give a brief description of the Aula Palatina. (10)
- (ii) Study **Photograph H** on **Paper X**.
- (a) What event is shown on this panel and to which monument does it belong? (10)
  - (b) Describe what is happening in the scene. (10)
  - (c) Comment on the sculptor's use of high and low relief in the panel. (15)
  - (d) What is your view of Wheeler's remark that the sculptor has got the perspective, "nearly right"? (15)
- (iii) **Photograph I** on **Paper X** shows the Roman theatre at Orange.
- (a) Give a detailed description of the theatre. (30)
  - (b) How does this theatre illustrate Wheeler's statement that, "the Roman theatre conformed to the Roman trend towards enclosed interiors"? (10)
  - (c) In what ways was this theatre well designed for its purpose? (10)
- (iv) **Photograph J** on **Paper X** shows a wall-painting from Herculaneum.
- (a) To which style of Roman wall-painting does this picture belong? (5)
  - (b) What features of this painting are typical of this style? (20)
  - (c) From your study of the Roman paintings on your course, what can you tell about the interests of Roman society? (25)
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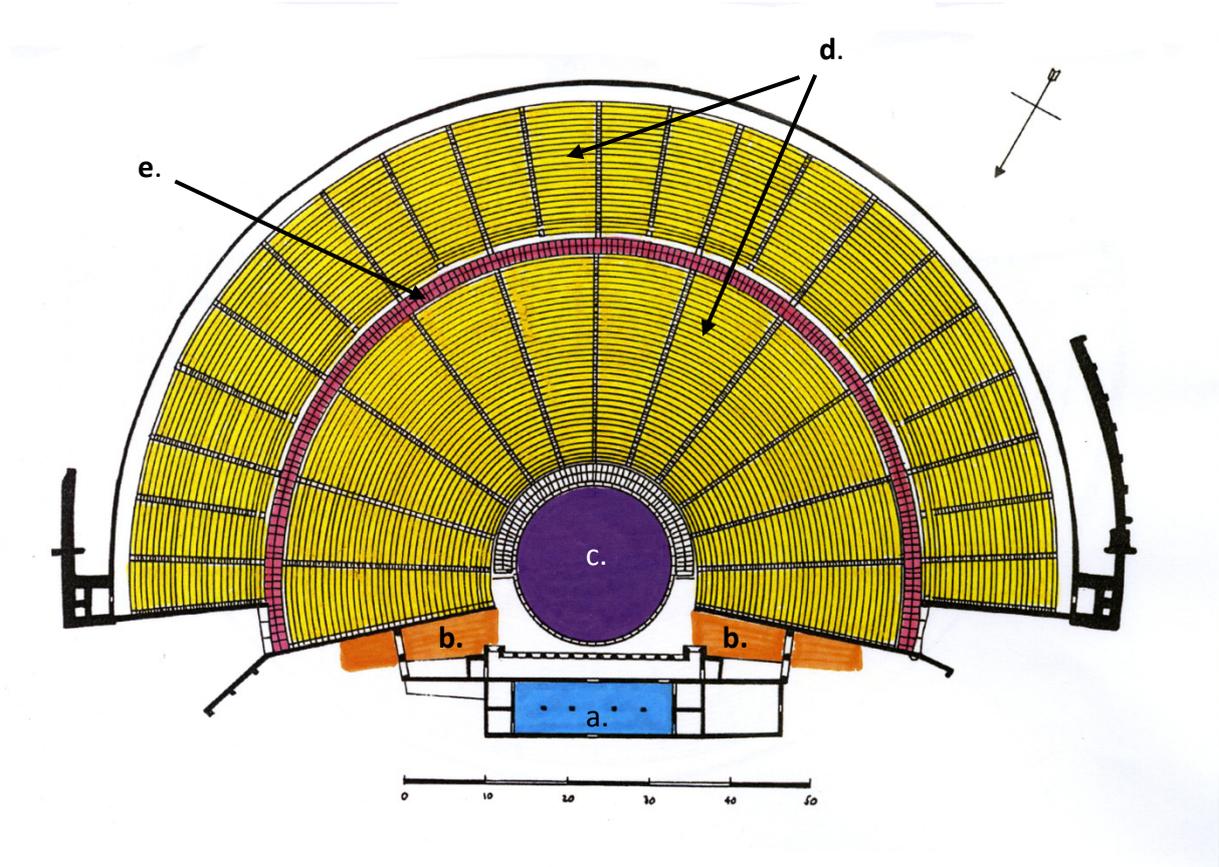
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**PAPER X**

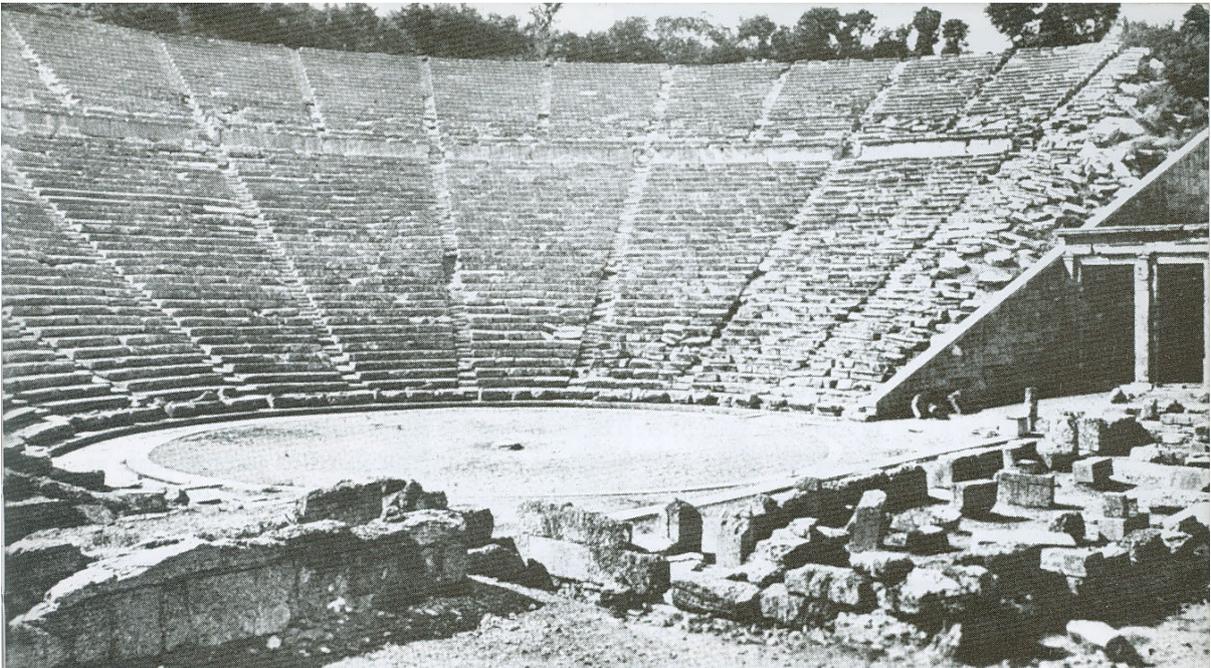
**A.**



**B.**



**C.**



D.



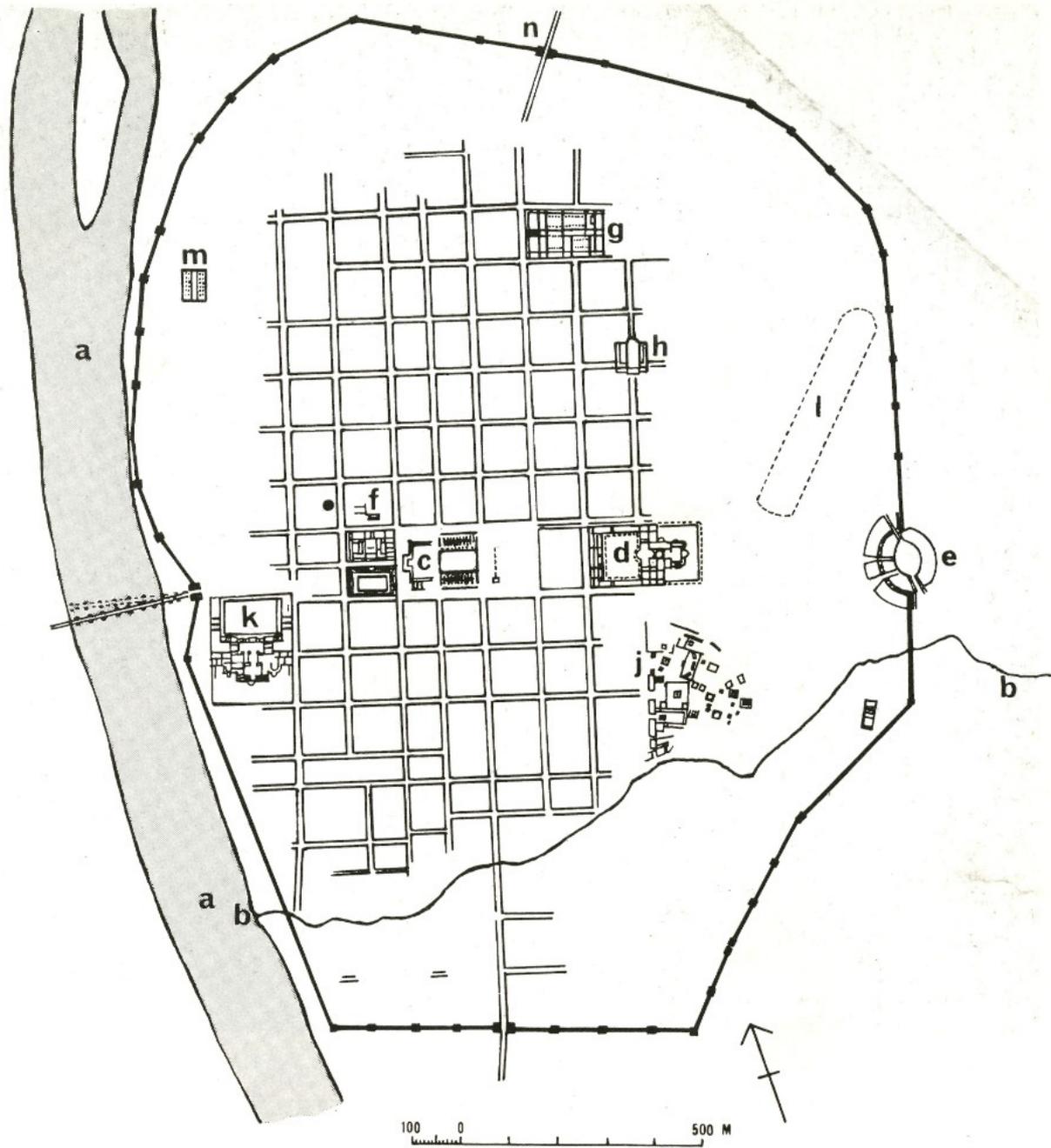
E.



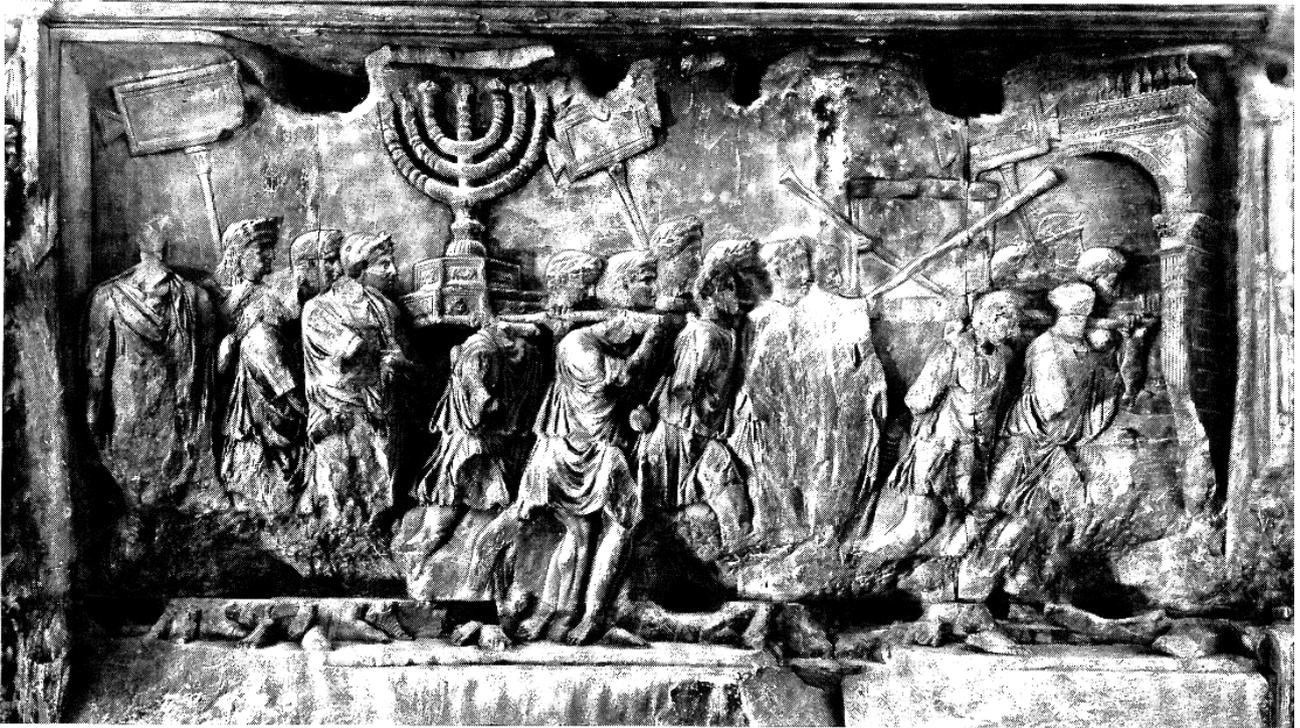
F.



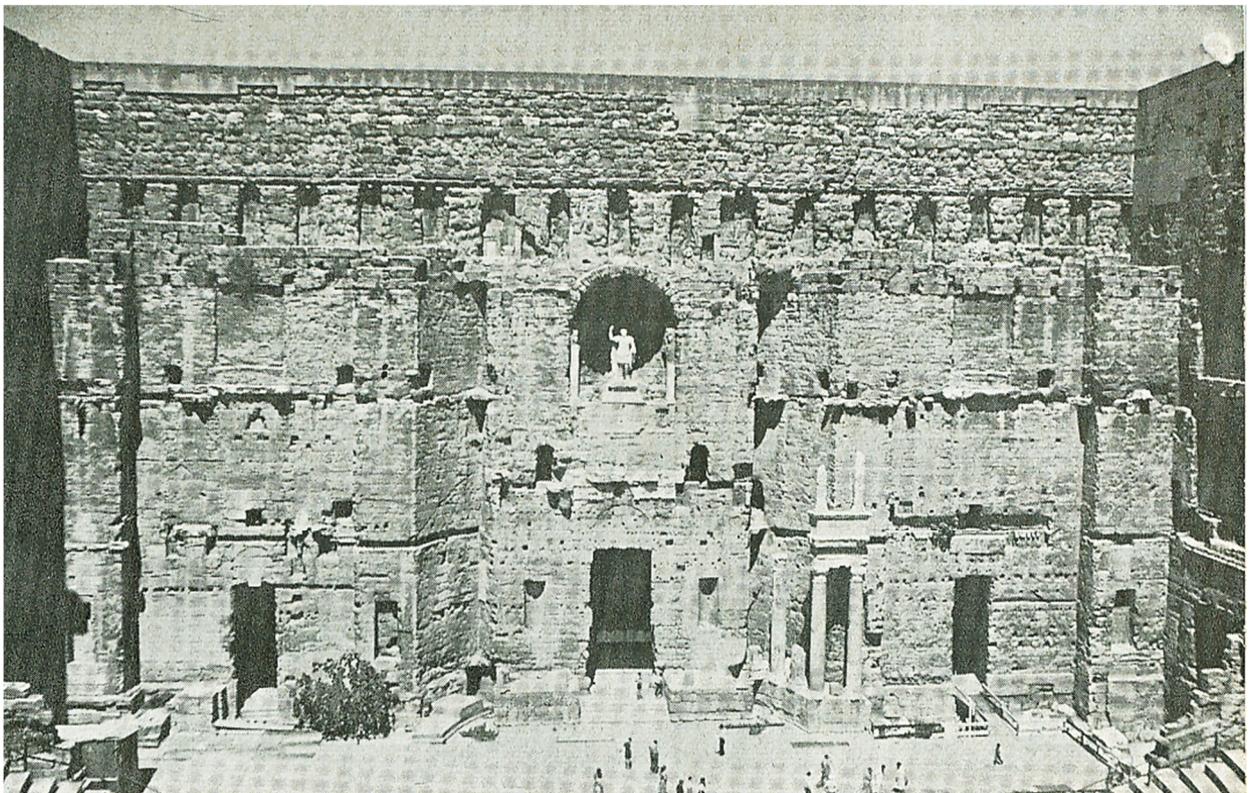
G.



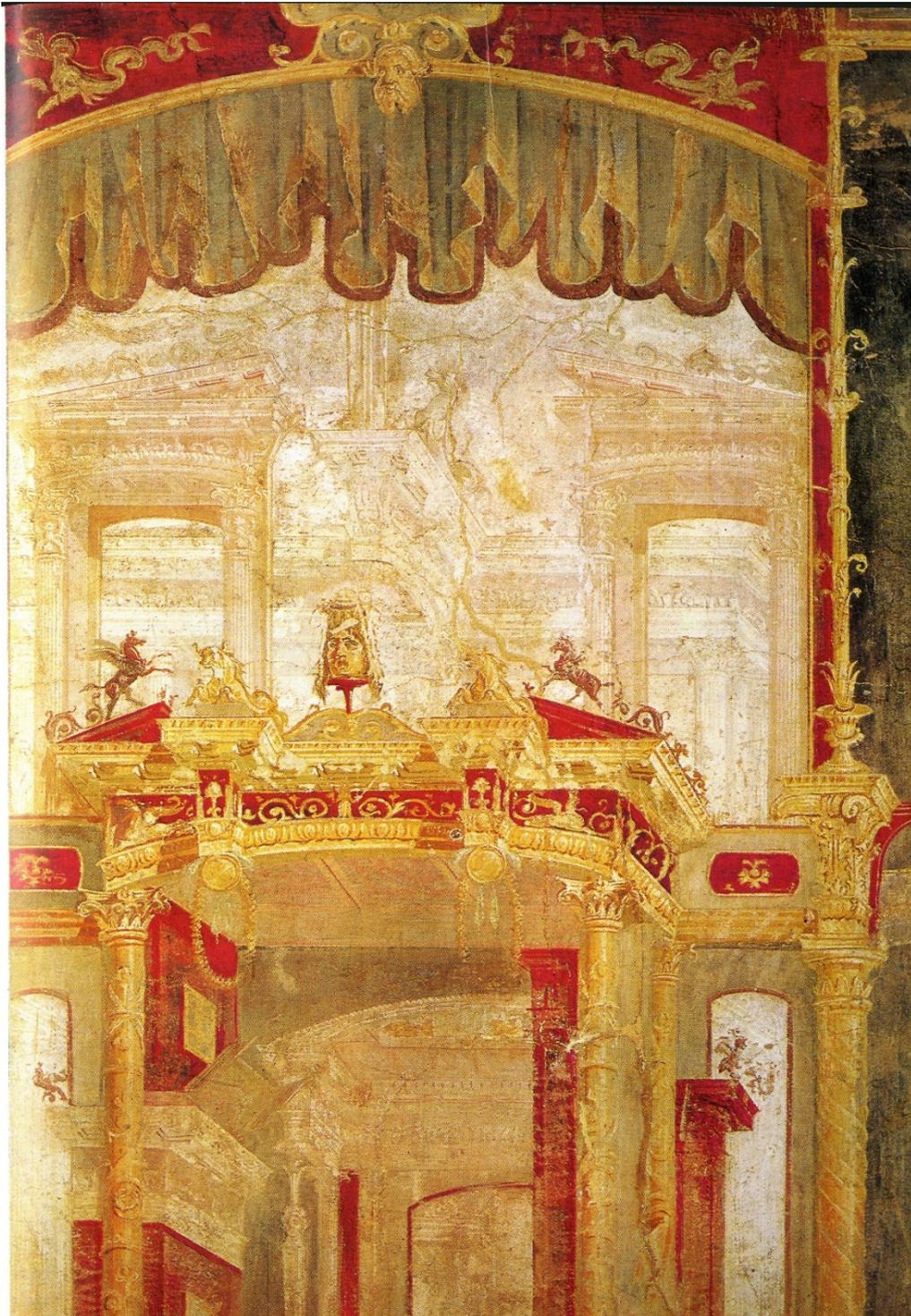
H.



I.



J.



Photographs A, B, C, D, E and F are taken from *A Handbook of Greek Art*, G. Richter, Phaidon Press.  
Photographs G, H, I and J are taken from *Roman Art and Architecture*, M. Wheeler, Thames & Hudson.

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