



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2020

CLASSICAL STUDIES – HIGHER LEVEL (300 marks)

3 hours

- 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) In 427 BC the Athenian Assembly debated a motion to cancel the death sentence imposed on the people of Mytilene.
 - (a) Outline the arguments made in the debate by Cleon. (20)
 - (b) Outline the arguments made in the debate by Diodotus. (20)
 - (c) What was the outcome of the debate for the citizens of Mytilene? (10)
 - (ii) The Battle of Amphipolis took place in 422 BC.
 - (a) Give an account of the Battle of Amphipolis. (35)
 - (b) How did the outcome of this battle affect the course of the war? (15)
 - (iii) Compare the leadership shown by Gylippus, the Spartan general and Nicias, the Athenian commander in the defeat of the Athenians at Syracuse. (50)
 - (iv) In the introduction to his *History of the Peloponnesian War*, Thucydides wrote that the Peloponnesian War was, "more worth writing about than any of those which had taken place in the past".
 - (a) How did Thucydides justify this view of the Peloponnesian War? (30)
 - (b) Do you find his arguments convincing? Give reasons for your answer. (20)
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Topic 2. Alexander the Great.

- (i) In 331 BC Alexander fought his final battle against Darius at Gaugamela.
 - (a) Describe the preparations of both leaders for the battle. (15)
 - (b) Explain how Alexander won the battle. (25)
 - (c) What were the immediate consequences of the battle? (10)
 - (ii)
 - (a) Why was Alexander so eager to visit the shrine of Zeus Ammon at Siwah in Egypt? (10)
 - (b) Describe what happened during Alexander's time at the shrine.
(Refer to the prescribed texts in your answer.) (30)
 - (c) What does this episode reveal about Alexander's character? (10)
 - (iii)
 - (a) Give an account of the events which led to the death of Cleitus. (30)
 - (b) What advice did Anaxarchus give Alexander after Cleitus's death? (5)
 - (c) What is your view of the attempts made by Arrian and Plutarch to excuse Alexander's killing of Cleitus? Support your answer by reference to the texts. (15)
 - (iv) "Perhaps in the scale of his achievements Alexander was great but in his nature he was terrible." (J. D. Romm)
Discuss this view of Alexander with reference to the prescribed texts. (50)
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Topic 3. Life and Thought in the Late Roman Republic.

- (i) (a) Outline Catullus's treatment of **two** principal themes in his poetry. (25)
(b) From your reading of his poems what did you learn about the character of Catullus? (15)
(c) In your opinion do his poems have any appeal for today's reader?
Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- (ii) In his description of the treatment of Cicero by Mark Antony and Octavian (Augustus), Plutarch says that, "No wild beast is more savage than man when his passions are armed with power." (Plutarch, *Life of Cicero*)
Discuss this statement with reference to the downfall of Cicero. (50)
- (iii) (a) According to the writings of Sallust on your course, what was his attitude towards the Rome of his day? (20)
(b) Analyse the factors that led to the decline of Rome, according to Sallust. (30)
- (iv) In 56 BC Cicero wrote a letter to Lucceius.
(a) Outline the contents of this letter. (35)
(b) What does this letter reveal about Cicero's character? (15)
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Topic 4. Roman Historians.

- (i) "Then there was much discussion of Augustus himself." (Tacitus, *The Annals of Imperial Rome*)
(a) Explain the views of those who praised **and** those who criticised the recently dead emperor after his funeral. (40)
(b) Do you think Tacitus was fair in his account of the discussion? Explain your answer. (10)
- (ii) Soon after Tiberius came to power, mutinies broke out in the Roman army in Pannonia and in Germany.
(a) Outline the principal grievances and demands of the mutineers. (30)
(b) Describe **either** how Drusus handled the mutiny in Pannonia **or** how Germanicus handled the mutiny in Germany. (20)
- (iii) (a) What factors made the early years of Nero's reign successful for Rome? (15)
(b) What aspects of Nero's character made the latter years of his reign so disastrous for Rome? In your answer refer to specific events. (35)
- (iv) Tacitus is a serious writer who has made an accurate contribution to history. Suetonius is purely entertaining.
Do you agree with this assessment of the two historians on your course? Support your answer by reference to the prescribed texts. (50)
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GROUP II: Topics 5 to 7

Topic 5. Greek Drama.

- (i) (a) Describe Aristophanes' portrayal of Aeschylus in *Frogs*. (30)
(b) Why do you think Euripides was not chosen to save the city? (20)
 - (ii) Discuss the view that in Aeschylus' play, *Prometheus Bound*, Prometheus is a flawed hero. (50)
 - (iii) (a) Describe the role of Jocasta in Sophocles' *Oedipus the King*. (40)
(b) What does the reaction of Oedipus to Jocasta's death tell us about their relationship? (10)
 - (iv) From your reading of Euripides' *Medea*, analyse the view that Medea's capacity to manipulate others makes her both fascinating and horrible. (50)
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Topic 6. Ancient Epic.

- (i) (a) Describe how the goddess Athene helps Odysseus in Homer's *Odyssey*. (35)
(b) In your opinion, is Odysseus less heroic because he receives her help? Give reasons for your answer. (15)
 - (ii) "It is easier to admire Aeneas than to like him." Discuss this view of the hero of Virgil's *Aeneid*. (50)
 - (iii) (a) Give an account of the role of Aeneas's father, Anchises in Virgil's *Aeneid*. (35)
(b) Would you agree that the devotion between fathers and sons is a theme that is central to the *Aeneid*? Explain your answer with reference to the text. (15)
 - (iv) Compare the character of Turnus in the *Aeneid* with the character of Ferdia in the *Táin*. (50)
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Topic 7. Writers of the Augustan Age.

- (i) (a) From your reading of Livy's account of the Battle of Cannae, explain how Hannibal defeated the Romans. (30)
- (b) From this account, what are the leadership qualities that Livy most admires? Explain your answer with reference to the text. (20)
- (ii) Ovid's poem *Baucis and Philemon* is both a touching love story and a highly moral tale. Discuss this statement with reference to the poem. (50)
- (iii) Despite the fact that there is dark intensity in many of the poems of Propertius, there is also considerable humour in them. Discuss this view of the poetry of Propertius. (50)
- (iv) (a) From your reading of the poems by Horace on your course, what, in your opinion, is his attitude to death? (25)
- (b) Does Horace seem like a person who enjoyed life? Explain your answer with reference to the prescribed poems. (25)
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GROUP III: Topics 8 to 10

Topic 8. Art and Architecture in Greek Society.

- (i) (a) Identify the type of vase shown in **Photograph A** on **Paper X** and say what it was used for. (10)
- (b) Describe the scenes depicted on the vase. (20)
- (c) To which period of vase painting does it belong? Give reasons for your answer. (20)
- (ii) **Photograph B** on **Paper X** shows the reconstruction of a famous building in Athens. **Photograph C** shows the building's floor plan.
- (a) Identify the building and say where it is located in Athens. (10)
- (b) Describe the design and decoration of the building using the correct architectural terms. (30)
- (c) What materials were used in the building and decoration of this structure? (10)
- (iii) **Photographs D** and **E** on **Paper X** show two relief sculptures.
- (a) What is relief sculpture? (10)
- (b) Who are the figures in the sculpture in **Photograph D**? (10)
- (c) To which two eras do the two sculptures belong? (10)
- (d) Describe the developments in sculpture which have occurred between **Photograph D** and **Photograph E**. (20)
- (iv) **Photograph F** on **Paper X** shows a sculpture from the Hellenistic period.
- (a) What scene is shown in this sculpture? (5)
- (b) Where was the sculpture made? (5)
- (c) Explain how this sculpture is typical of the Hellenistic period. (25)
- (d) Do you prefer the Classical or Hellenistic style of sculpture? Give reasons for your answer. (15)
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Topic 9. The Philosopher in Society: A Study of Socrates and Plato.

- (i) (a) Outline the Simile of the Cave in Plato's *Republic*. (30)
- (b) What, in your opinion, is the meaning of the simile? (20)
- (ii) From your reading of Plutarch's *Life of Dion*, what is your impression of the character of Plato? (50)
- (iii) (a) How does Socrates justify the equal treatment of men and women in his ideal state? (25)
- (b) Does Socrates think that men and women are equal in every respect? Explain your answer. (15)
- (c) Do you agree with Socrates' views on men and women? Explain your answer. (10)
- (iv) (a) Outline Socrates' views on the importance of physical education in his ideal state. (30)
- (b) What types of food does Socrates recommend for those in training? (10)
- (c) Do you think that Socrates' views on physical education have any relevance in today's world? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
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Topic 10. Roman Art and Architecture.

- (i) **Photograph G on Paper X** shows the plan of Lepcis Magna in North Africa.
- (a) Identify the features shown at **bb, c, g, f** and **n**. (15)
 - (b) Use this plan to trace the development of Lepcis Magna from the time of the Emperor Augustus to the reign of Septimius Severus. (30)
 - (c) Write a brief comment on the harbour shown at **O** on the plan. (5)
- (ii) **Photograph H on Paper X** shows the reconstructed interior of the Basilica Nova in Rome.
- (a) Name the emperor whose colossal statue is located in the apse. (5)
 - (b) Give a full description of the Basilica Nova. (25)
 - (c) What was the function of a basilica? (10)
 - (d) What was distinctive about the basilicas in British towns? (10)
- (iii) **Photograph I on Paper X** shows a wall painting from Pompeii.
- (a) Describe what is going on in this painting. (15)
 - (b) Discuss Wheeler's comment that, "the scene is little more than a sketch, but it vividly displays the episode." (25)
 - (c) Identify **one** other example of Greek subject matter in Roman painting. (10)
- (iv) **Photograph J on Paper X** shows a relief from the Ara Pacis of Augustus in Rome. (13 BC)
Photograph K on Paper X shows a relief from the Arch of Septimius Severus in Lepcis Magna. (200 AD)
- (a) In what ways is the Ara Pacis relief more naturalistic than the scene from the Arch of Septimius Severus? (20)
 - (b) Comment on the attempt at perspective in the relief from the Arch of Septimius Severus. (15)
 - (c) What do these sculptures reveal about the difference in the way the Emperor is portrayed between the time of Augustus and the time of Septimius Severus? (15)
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