



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2025

Classical Studies

Ordinary Level

Monday 23 June Afternoon 2:00 - 4:30

400 marks

Examination Number

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Date of Birth

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For example, 3rd February
2005 is entered as 03 02 05

Centre Stamp

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 1-6 and Questions 8 and 9 in Section A are on **Paper X** which accompanies this examination paper.

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

Where appropriate, you may include drawings, diagrams, etc., in the blank answer space on page 21 in Section B.

Section A	Stimulus Questions	300 marks
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Answer all **ten** of the following questions. Each question carries thirty marks.
Refer to the images on **Paper X** as indicated for Questions 1-6 and Questions 8 and 9.

Question 1 **(30 marks)**

Image A shows a statue of an ancient Greek god.

(a) Complete the grid below with information about the god in Image A.

Greek Name	Roman Name	Symbol

(b) Give **three** other facts about the god in Image A.

(c) Write about a myth that involves **any** ancient Greek or Roman god/goddess. You may write about the god in Image A.

Question 2**(30 marks)**

Image B and Image C show two different temples.

(a) Give the name of each temple **and** its location.

	Name	Location
Image B		
Image C		

(b) Comment on the unusual shape of **one** of these temples, using details shown in the image.

Chosen Image:

(c) Which temple do you consider more beautiful? Give reasons for your answer.

Question 3**(30 marks)**

Image D, Image E and Image F show figures who are all associated with ancient Greek afterlife.

(a) Choose **two** images and complete the grid below.

Chosen Image	Name of figure	Role associated with the afterlife

(b) Outline the key elements of ancient Greek **or** Roman funerals.

(c) Mention **two** ways that ancient Greek and Roman funerary practices are similar to funerary practices today.

1.
2.

Question 4

(30 marks)

Image G shows Aeneas sailing away from Carthage, based on Book 4 of Virgil's *Aeneid*.

(a) Who is the woman shown in the top left of Image G?

--

(b) Do you think that Image G illustrates the drama and emotion of the scene in Virgil's *Aeneid*?
In your answer refer to Image G **and** your knowledge of the *Aeneid*.

(c) Give a brief account of Aeneas' time in Carthage.

Question 5**(30 marks)**

Image H shows Athena, Penelope and her maids in a scene from Homer's *Odyssey*.

(a) Answer these True **or** False questions by putting a tick in the correct box for each one.

	True	False
(i) Penelope is happy that Odysseus has not come home.	☐	☐
(ii) Penelope is often called wise, prudent, or intelligent in Homer's <i>Odyssey</i> .	☐	☐
(iii) Penelope is weaving a funeral shroud for Odysseus' father, Laertes.	☐	☐

(b) How can you identify Athena in Image H?

(c) How does Athena support Penelope in Homer's *Odyssey*?

(d) Do you consider Penelope to be heroic? Give reasons for your answer.

Question 6**(30 marks)**

Image I shows the expansion of Alexander the Great's empire.

Image J shows the expansion of Roman territory by Julius Caesar.

Answer **(a)** or **(b)**. Tick the box next to the question you have chosen.

- (a)** Explain **two** strategies that Alexander the Great used to expand his empire.
In your answer refer to military, political or diplomatic strategies. ☐

OR

- (b)** Explain **two** strategies that Julius Caesar used to expand his power in Rome.
In your answer refer to military, political or diplomatic strategies. ☐

1.
2.

Question 7

(30 marks)

Read the extract from Plutarch's *The Age of Alexander*.

It is the life of Alexander the king, and of Caesar, who overthrew Pompey, that I am writing in this book. The multitude of the deeds to be treated is so great that I shall make no other request of my readers than not to complain if I do not tell all the famous actions of these men.

(a) In your own words, explain what these lines mean.

(b) Describe **one** famous deed or action done by Alexander the Great **or** Julius Caesar.

(c) In your opinion, why is Alexander the Great **or** Julius Caesar such a famous historical figure? Give reasons for your answer.

Question 8**(30 marks)**

Image K and Image L show different types of Roman entertainment.

- (a)** Give the name of the events shown in Images K and L **and** the buildings where they took place in ancient Rome.

	Name of event	Name of building
Image K		
Image L		

- (b)** Were the audience experiences at these two events different? Explain your answer.

- (c)** Do you think that these types of entertainment were popular in ancient Rome?
Give reasons for your answer.

- (d)** In your opinion, which type of event was more dangerous? Give a reason for your answer.

Question 9**(30 marks)**

Image M shows a selection of ancient Greek theatre masks.

(a) Give **two** reasons why ancient Greek actors wore masks like those shown in Image M.

(b) Describe **two** other features of ancient Greek theatre that would have had a dramatic impact on the audience's experience.

(c) Who was Dionysos **and** what was his connection to Greek Tragedy in ancient Athens?

Question 10**(30 marks)**

Extract A is from Euripides' *Medea*. Extract B is from Sophocles' *Philoctetes*.

Answer the questions about **either** Extract A **or** Extract B.

Tick the box to indicate which extract you have chosen.

Extract A: Euripides' *Medea* ☐

This blow that has fallen on me was not to be expected. It has crushed my heart. Life has no pleasure left, dear friends. I want to die. Jason was my whole life; he knows that well. Now he has proved himself the most contemptible of men.

Extract B: Sophocles' *Philoctetes* ☐

Do not be frightened and shrink
Away because of my wild appearance. No,
Pity a miserable wretch – alone, abandoned,
Severely injured, without a friend to help.
I think you have come as friends. Say something to me.

(a) Give the name of the character who is speaking in your chosen extract.

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(b) What do you learn about this character from your chosen extract? Explain your answer.

(c) Name a theme or message in your chosen extract **and** explain why it is important in the play.

Theme/ Message:
Importance:

- (d) Do you feel sympathy for any character in Euripides' *Medea* **or** Sophocles' *Philoctetes*? Support your answer with examples from your chosen text **and/ or** other scenes in the play you studied.

Section B – Extended Answers – begins on page 14.

Question 11 **(50 marks)**

Answer **(a)** and **(b)** on the following pages.
 Read the following extract from Horace’s *Odes* 3.29.

God foresees all future time and hides what is to come in mist and darkness. He smiles if mortals fret too much. Make sure to deal calmly with what is here. Everything else flows by like a river ...	5
A man will be happy and in control of his life if he can say at each day’s end, ‘I have lived’. Tomorrow Father Jupiter can fill the sky with dark cloud.	10

- (a)** Which lines in this extract do you think describe Horace’s views on **one** of the following points? Explain your answer.
- divine will and fate
 - human decision and responsibility

Lines:
Explanation:

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

- (i) What did you learn about the importance of 'living well' from studying Horace's poetry? Explain your answer with reference to **at least one** poem you have studied.

OR

- (ii) In your opinion, what is the most important message of Plato's *Crito*? Give reasons for your answer.

OR

- (iii) Whose views on 'living well' do you relate to more, the views of Horace **or** Socrates? Explain your answer with reference to Horace's poetry **or** Plato's *Crito*.

Optional Planning Space:

Answer for Question 11 (b), part

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

Question 12 (50 marks)

Based on your study of drama and spectacle, which form of entertainment, Greek or Roman, would you have preferred to attend? In your answer, discuss **at least one** type of entertainment.

OR

Question 13 (50 marks)

Discuss what you learned from Classical Studies about religion in ancient Greece and Rome. Support your answer with examples from **any** Strand(s) on your course.

OR

Question 14 (50 marks)

In your opinion, which hero, Aeneas **or** Odysseus, makes a better role model? Support your answer with examples from the *Aeneid* **or** the *Odyssey*.

OR

Question 15 (50 marks)

Discuss how Alexander the Great treats the Persians **or** how Julius Caesar treats the Gauls. Support your answer with examples from your study of Alexander **or** Caesar.

OR

Question 16 (50 marks)

Do you think that the Chorus played an important role in Euripides' *Medea* **or** Sophocles' *Philoctetes*? Support your answer with examples from the play **and/or** its performance.

Optional Planning Space:

Answer for Question

Optional Answer Space for drawings, diagrams, etc:

[illegible]

[illegible]

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Acknowledgements:

Texts

Page 9: Plutarch. *The Age of Alexander*. Trans. I. Scott-Kilvert, Ed. G. T. Griffith. London: Penguin Books, 1973. [adapted]

Page 12: Euripides. *Medea*. Trans. P. Vellacott. London: Penguin Books, 1963.

Page 12: Sophocles. *Philoctetes*. Trans D. Raeburn. London: Penguin Books, 2008.

Page 14: Horace: *The Complete Odes and Epodes*. Trans D. West. Oxford 1997.

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Classical Studies

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