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**EXAMINATION
REPORT**

Classical Greek

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1998 Higher School Certificate

CLASSICAL GREEK EXAMINATION REPORT

2/3 Unit (Common)

Written Examination

Section I — Aristophanes, *Frogs* and Thucydides, *Book VII* (48 marks)

Question 1

Translation of four passages from the prescribed texts (two from each) — Aristophanes, *Frogs* and Thucydides, *Book VII*. Each passage was marked on a 20 point scale and subsequently reduced to 10 marks. Objective criteria were used to determine what proportion of each answer was correct. Most students were well prepared and performed the translation with few errors.

Common errors included:

- $\kappa\acute{\alpha}\iota$ in $\kappa\omicron\upsilon\delta\epsilon\iota\varsigma$ was omitted and the meaning of $\epsilon\acute{\iota}\ \kappa\alpha\acute{\iota}\ \tau\omicron\upsilon\tau'$ ἄρα was not precisely expressed;
- the names the plays were given with wrong endings and the future tense of ἔξει was missed;
- the unusual meaning of ὥστε plus infinitive = 'on condition that' was missed.

Question 2

Comment on one passage (chosen from two alternatives) from each of the two prescribed texts. Each passage was marked on an 8 point scale and subsequently reduced to 4 marks. Objective criteria were used to determine what proportion of each answer was correct. Good understanding of the passages was shown by most students.

Part (a) (i) All students but one chose this passage. The context was accurately identified, but some wrote at excessive length. A few incorrectly described the priest of Dionysius as one of the judges.

Part (b) (i) All students but two chose this passage. Some wrote too much on less directly relevant points. Only one student noted the point of 'three times nine days' (ie the period to the next full moon).

Section II — Unseen Translation (28 marks)

Question 3

Unseen (ie unprepared) translation of (a) a passage of poetry, to which a 24 point scale was allocated and subsequently reduced to 12 marks and (b) a passage of prose, to which a 32 point scale was allocated and subsequently reduced to 16 marks. Objective criteria were used to determine what proportion of each answer was correct.

Part (a) Most students managed this passage quite well. Common errors included:

- κάποφάνῳ which was not recognised as future;
- τουτὶ ωηιχη which was mistaken for a dative;
- τοῖν λόγοιν which was not recognised as dual.

Part (b) The level of difficulty proved to be appropriate and some students managed it well. Common errors included:

- ξυνεπαγόντων, 'jointly inviting', was confused with ξυναγόντων 'gathering';
- ἐπετίθεντο, 'attacked', was taken as passive in meaning, 'were attacked'.

Section III — Prose Composition (24 marks)

Question 4

Prose composition, (ie unprepared translation from English into Classical Greek) offered as an alternative to the essay question. The passage was marked on a 48 point scale and subsequently reduced to 24 marks. Objective criteria were used to determine what proportion of each answer was correct.

Five students, chose this question. The answers ranged from satisfactory to very good. Common errors included:

- δὲ used to link subordinate and main clauses;
- the conditional statement 'they would have been defeated' which was not translated with aorist indicative in both clauses.

Section IV — Essays (24 marks)

Question 5

A short essay on each of the two prescribed texts, with a choice between two questions in each case. Each essay was marked on a 24 point scale and subsequently reduced to 12 marks per essay. Two markers independently awarded marks on overall impression and in all cases, differences, if

any, were well within the critical discrepancy of one third of the total range of marks.

Part (a) Aristophanes — three students chose 5 (a)(i) on parody, and they tended to confuse it with other aspects, especially satire. Four chose 5 (a)(ii) on stage effects, and most displayed quite good knowledge of the relevant techniques.

Part (b) Thucydides — all students chose 5 (b)(i). Most answers suffered by not clearly distinguishing between the possibility of the expedition's success and the avoidance of complete disaster, concentrating only on factors relevant to the latter.

3 Unit (Additional)

Written Examination

Section I — Homer, *Odyssey IX* (26 marks)

Question 1

Translation of two passages, (a) and (b), from the prescribed text, Homer, *Odyssey IX*, with brief questions appended to each. Translation in each passage was marked on a 22 point scale and subsequently reduced to 11 marks. The appended questions were marked on a 4 point scale and subsequently reduced to 2 marks. Objective criteria were used to determine what proportion of each answer was correct. Students were mostly well prepared and translated and commented with few errors or omissions.

Section II — Essays (12 marks)

Question 2

An essay on one of the prescribed texts, a choice of one of three questions. Essays were marked on a 24 point scale and subsequently reduced to 12 marks. Two markers independently awarded marks on overall impression and in all cases but one, differences, if any, were well within the critical discrepancy of one third of the total range of marks. Two students chose part (a) on Aristophanes, one chose part (b) on Thucydides and five chose part (c) on Homer. In summary:

part (a) the importance of political comment in the parabasis was correctly emphasised

part (b) was poorly attempted

part (c) the better answers linked responsibility to Odysseus' characterisation in general.

Section III — Unseen Translation (12 marks)

Question 3

Unseen (ie unprepared) translation of a passage of Homer. The translation was marked on a 24 point scale and subsequently reduced to 12 marks. Objective criteria were used to determine what proportion of each answer was correct. Most students managed quite well, but some showed deficient vocabulary.

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