

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY GCE**

F383

CLASSICS: CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Roman Society and Thought

THURSDAY 26 MAY 2011: Afternoon

DURATION: 1 hour 30 minutes

SUITABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet.

OCR SUPPLIED MATERIALS:

**16 page Answer Booklet
(sent with general stationery)**

OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED:

None

READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- **Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the answer booklet. Please write clearly and in capital letters.**
- **Use black ink.**
- **Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.**
- **Answer ONE question from Section A and ONE question from Section B.**

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- **The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.**
- **The total number of marks for this paper is 100.**

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Answer ONE question from Section A and ONE question from Section B.

SECTION A: COMMENTARY QUESTIONS

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

MARKS ARE AWARDED IN PARTS (b) AND (c) OF QUESTIONS 1 AND 2 FOR THE QUALITY OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION IN YOUR ANSWER.

1 Read the passage and answer the questions.

We were very much obliged to him for this favour; and when we did enter the dining-room, that same slave whose cause we had pleaded ran up to us and, to our utter confusion, covered us with kisses and thanked us for our kindness. 5

‘And what’s more,’ he said, ‘you’ll know right away who it is you have been so kind to. “The master’s wine is the waiter’s gift.”’

Finally we took our places. Boys from Alexandria poured iced water over our hands. Others followed them and attended to our feet, removing any hangnails with great skill. 10

But they were not quiet even during this troublesome operation: they sang away at their work. I wanted to find out if the whole 15

staff were singers, so I asked for a drink. In a flash a boy was there, singing in a shrill voice while he attended to me – and anyone else who was asked for something did the same. It was 20
more like a musical comedy than a respectable dinner party.

Some extremely elegant hors d'oeuvres were served at this point – by now everyone had taken his place with the exception of Trimalchio, for whom, strangely enough, the place at the top was reserved. The dishes for the first course included an ass of Corinthian bronze with two panniers, white olives on one side and black on the other. Over the ass were two pieces of plate, with Trimalchio's name and the weight of the silver inscribed on the rims. There were some small iron frames shaped like bridges supporting dormice sprinkled with honey and poppy seed. There were steaming hot sausages too, on a silver gridiron with damsons and pomegranate seeds underneath.

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Petronius, *Dinner with Trimalchio* 31

- (a) 'the whole staff were singers' (lines 16-17): briefly describe the other types of entertainment provided at Trimalchio's dinner party. [10]
- (b) How does Petronius make this passage a vivid piece of narrative? In your answer you should refer to Petronius' use of language. [20]
- (c) In your opinion, why were food and dinner parties such a popular topic for Roman satirists? Your answer should include discussion of Petronius' *Dinner with Trimalchio* and the work of Horace and Juvenal. [25]

Do NOT answer this question if you have already answered Question 1.

MARKS ARE AWARDED IN PARTS (b) AND (c) OF QUESTIONS 1 AND 2 FOR THE QUALITY OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION IN YOUR ANSWER.

2 Read the passage and answer the questions.

14 To Publius (?) Acilius

This horrible affair demands more publicity than a letter – Larcius Macedo, a senator and ex-praetor, has fallen a victim to his own slaves. Admittedly he was a cruel and overbearing master, too ready to forget that his father had been a slave, or perhaps too keenly conscious of it. He was taking a bath in his house at Formiae when suddenly he found himself surrounded; one slave seized him by the throat while the others struck his face and hit him in the chest and stomach and – shocking to say – in his private parts. When they thought he was dead they threw him on to the hot pavement, to make sure he was not still alive. Whether unconscious or feigning to be so, he lay there motionless, thus making them believe that he was quite dead. Only then was he carried out, as if he had fainted with the heat, and received by his slaves who had remained faithful, while his concubines ran up, screaming frantically. Roused by their cries and revived by the cooler air he opened his eyes and made some movement to show that he was alive, it being now safe to do so. The guilty slaves fled, but most of them have been arrested and a search is being made

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for the others. Macedo was brought back to life with difficulty, but only for a few days; at least he died with the satisfaction of having revenged himself, for he lived to see the same punishment meted out as for murder. There you see the dangers, outrages, and insults to which we are exposed. No master can feel safe because he is kind and considerate; for it is their brutality, not their reasoning capacity, which leads slaves to murder masters.

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Pliny, *Letters* 3.14

- (a) Explain how people became slaves in Roman society and describe how and why they might have been made free. [10]**
- (b) How does Pliny show his horror at the event described in the passage? In your answer you should refer to Pliny's use of language. [20]**
- (c) 'Pliny is more interested in himself than in the characters he describes.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? In your answer you should refer to this letter and other letters of Pliny which you have read. [25]**

[Section A Total: 55]

SECTION B: ESSAYS

Answer ONE question.

Start your answer on a new page.

MARKS ARE AWARDED FOR THE QUALITY OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION IN YOUR ANSWER.

- 3 ‘Roman writers never seemed to respect their emperors.’ To what extent do you agree with this statement?**

In your answer, you should:

- **include discussion of specific emperors;**
- **analyse different writers’ attitudes towards emperors;**
- **use evidence from your knowledge of Roman society and your study of AT LEAST TWO of Horace, Petronius, Juvenal and Pliny. [45]**

- 4 Would you rather have been a Stoic or an Epicurean in Roman society?**

In your answer, you should:

- **include an explanation of both Stoicism and Epicureanism;**
- **compare the two philosophies;**
- **use evidence from your knowledge of Roman society and your study of Horace and Pliny. [45]**

5 How far do you agree that cruelty in Roman satire is essential for its success?

In your answer, you should:

- **include an analysis of how important cruelty is to the success of Roman satire;**
- **consider a range of themes found in Roman satire;**
- **use evidence from the work of AT LEAST TWO of Horace, Petronius and Juvenal. [45]**

[Section B Total: 45]

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