



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Level and Advanced Level

CLASSICAL STUDIES

9274/03

Paper 3 Classical History – Sources and Evidence

October/November 2011

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.
Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen.
You may use a pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

This paper contains two options.
Answer **one** question.
Every essay is marked out of 50.

You are advised to spend 20 minutes reading and thinking about the three passages on the option you have chosen to answer, and then 10 minutes planning your answer.
Answers need to make use of all three passages given for the question you are answering.
You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answer.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.



1 The changing world of Athens: its friends and enemies

Read the following passage and answer the question which follows:

Two other factors, however, make any view which imputes aggressive intent to Athens unlikely. First, at Potidaea, at least, Athens did not act with unprovoked aggression but was reacting to Corinthian hostility; much the same is probably true of the Megarian Decree: it was the Athenian answer to Megarian provocation. Far more important is the fact that Pericles could not have hoped for anything more than survival in the war he is alleged to have been careless about provoking. It is conceivable that the average Athenian voter was more optimistic; but that Pericles positively welcomed a war in which he had no hope of a victory but only of avoiding defeat defies belief. Athens' offers of arbitration may therefore be taken at their face value: Athens was trying to avoid the war, while at the same time refusing to give way to Spartan pressure. This makes Corinthian responsibility far greater.

J.B. Salmon, *Wealthy Corinth* (1997)

To what extent was the Greek world forced into united opposition to Athens in the fifth century? In your answer you should consider the passage above and your wider reading as well as the two passages below.

People's feelings were generally very much on the side of the Spartans, especially as they proclaimed that their aim was the liberation of Hellas. States and individuals alike were enthusiastic to support them in every possible way, both in speech and action, and everyone thought that unless he took a personal share in things the whole effort was being handicapped. So bitter was the general feeling against Athens, whether from those who wished to escape from her rule or from those who feared that they would come under it.

Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War* 2. 8

But after all – we're all friends talking together here – why do we blame it all on the Spartans? It was some Athenians who started it – *some* Athenians, mind you, not Athens, remember that, not the City – but a bunch of good-for-nothing individuals, worthless counterfeit foreigners, bad coin through and through. They kept denouncing Megarians – first of all their woollen cloaks, and soon, whenever they saw a cucumber or a young hare or a piglet or some garlic or some rock-salt, 'Megarian goods!' they'd say, and had them confiscated and auctioned the same day. Well, that was a minor thing, just normal Athenian behaviour; but then some young roisterers got drunk, went to Megara and kidnapped their tart Simaetha; and this raised the Megarians' hackles, and they stole two of Aspasia's tarts in retaliation. And that was the reason why this war erupted throughout the Greek world: it was on account of three whores.

Aristophanes, *Acharnians* 509–529

2 The Roman Empire: civilisation or submission?

Read the following passage and answer the question that follows:

(In the ancient world) history was regarded merely as a branch of literature ... Content was often distorted by writers' resorting to 'stock' characters and 'stock' descriptions of literary convention, in preference to real facts. Telling a good story within the conventions was the primary aim. Similarly it is important to remember we only get the Roman viewpoint ... Barbarians can be presented in the Roman sources both as 'noble savages', reduced from liberty to slavery by Roman conquest, and as mere 'cannon fodder' for Roman victories.

J.C. Mann & R.G Penman, *Literary Sources for Roman Britain* (LACTOR 11, 1996)

'The bias of Roman writers makes it almost impossible to gain an accurate understanding of opposition to the Romans.' How far do you agree with this view? In your answer, you should consider the passage above and your wider reading as well as the two passages below:

The news of these events soon reached Gaul; and the Gauls, drawing what they thought was the natural inference, invented a story that Caesar was detained by the disturbances in Rome, where political strife was so acute, they said, that he could not rejoin his army. The prospect of such a chance spurred them into action. They were already smarting under the subjection to Rome, and now began to plan war with greater confidence and boldness. The leading men arranged meetings at secluded spots in the woods, where they spoke bitterly of the execution of Acco and pointed out that the same fate might befall them next. They complained of the miserable condition of the whole country, and offered tempting rewards to induce some of their hearers to open hostilities and risk their lives for the liberty of Gaul. The first step, they said, was to contrive means of cutting Caesar off from his army before their plot was divulged ... In any case it was better to die in battle than to resign themselves to the loss of their ancient military glory and the liberty inherited from their ancestors.

Caesar, *Gallic Wars* 7. 1–2

So Caesar now ordered them to raze the whole city and Sanctuary to the ground, leaving the towers that overtopped the others ... to show later generations what a proud and mighty city had been humbled by the gallant sons of Rome. All the rest of the fortifications encircling the City were so completely levelled with the ground that no one visiting the spot would believe it had once been inhabited. This then was the end to which the mad folly of revolutionaries brought Jerusalem, a magnificent city renowned to the ends of the earth.

To guard the site Caesar decided to leave the Tenth Legion with a few troops of horse and companies of foot; and having now settled all the problems arising from the war, he decided to congratulate the whole army on its achievements and to bestow suitable rewards on those whose services were outstanding ... He thanked them heartily for their unflinching loyalty to him, and praised their obedience throughout the war, shown along with personal heroism in many dangerous situations. By their own efforts they had increased the power of their country and had made it plain to all men that neither the number of their enemies, the strength of their defences, the size of their cities, nor the reckless daring and brutal savagery of their warriors could ever hold out against Roman valour, even if some of them had found in fortune a constant ally.

Josephus, *The War of the Jews* (Penguin, chapter 22)

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