

Paper Reference(s)

9278/02

London Examinations GCE

Ancient History (Greece)

Advanced Level

Paper 2

Greek History – Special Subject:

Herodotus and the Persian Wars, 490–478 BC

Wednesday 11 June 2008 – Morning

Time: 3 hours

Materials required for examination
Answer book (AB16)

Items included with question papers
Nil

Instructions to Candidates

In the boxes on the answer book, write the name of the examining body (London Examinations), your centre number, candidate number, the subject title (Ancient History (Greece)), the paper reference (9278/02), your surname, other names and signature.

Answer QUESTION 1 and THREE other questions.

Answer the questions in the answer book.

Additional answer sheets may be used.

Information for Candidates

The total mark for this paper is 100.

The marks for parts of questions are shown in round brackets: e.g. (2).

This paper has 10 questions. Page 8 is blank.

Question 1 carries 34 marks and is compulsory. Questions 2–10 each carry 22 marks.

Advice to Candidates

Write your answers neatly and in good English.

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Turn over

Answer Question 1 and THREE other questions.

1. Select any **TWO** of the following passages (a)–(e) and answer the questions set.

Either

- (a) There is no need for me to mention all the other subordinate officers, but there is one name which I cannot omit – that of Artemisia. It seems to me a most strange and interesting thing that she – a woman – should have taken part in the campaign against Greece. On the death of her husband the sovereign power had passed into her hands, and she sailed with the fleet in spite of the fact that she had a grown-up son and that there was consequently no necessity for her to do so. Her own spirit of adventure and manly courage were her only incentives. 5

(Herodotus, *Histories* 7, ch. 99)

- (i) Why do you think Herodotus is so interested in Artemisia? (4)
- (ii) Do you feel that his description shows admiration or criticism? (4)
- (iii) What did the Greeks think about having a female commander opposing them? (4)
- (iv) What else does Herodotus tell us about Artemisia? (5)

(Total 17 marks)

Or

- (b) These, then, were the states which sent ships to Artemisium, and I have given the number which each contributed. The total strength of the fleet, excluding the small galleys, was thus 271 ships of war. The general officer in command, Eurybiades, the son of Eurycleides, was provided by Sparta.

(Herodotus, *Histories* 8, ch. 2)

- (i) Where was Artemisium and what was its strategic significance? **(3)**
- (ii) How does this Greek fleet compare with the invading Persian fleet? **(4)**
- (iii) Why was a Spartan in command? **(4)**
- (iv) The Sicilians had been asked to help. What had been their response to the plea for help? **(3)**
- (v) What reason does Herodotus give for the Athenians not pressing their claim? **(3)**

(Total 17 marks)

Or

- (c) The Persians found Athens itself abandoned except for a few people in the temple of Athene Polias – temple stewards and needy folk, who had barricaded the Acropolis against the invaders with planks and timbers. It was partly their poverty which prevented them from seeking shelter in Salamis with the rest, and partly their belief that they had discovered the real meaning of the Priestess' oracle that 'the wooden wall would not be taken'. The wooden wall, in their minds, was not the ships but the barricade, and that would save them.

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(Herodotus, *Histories* 8, ch. 51)

- (i) Why was Athens largely abandoned and where had everyone else gone? (3)
- (ii) Explain the oracle referred to here. (3)
- (iii) How did the Persians attempt to capture, and the Athenians attempt to defend, the Acropolis? (5)
- (iv) What happened to the Athenians when the Acropolis was finally captured? (3)
- (v) Do you feel Herodotus takes oracles seriously? (3)

(Total 17 marks)

Or

(d) 'It occurred to us', the Athenians replied, 'long ago – ever since we saw that your section would have to face the Persian thrust – to make the very suggestion which you have now been the first to put forward; but we were afraid of offending you. Now, however, that you have mentioned it yourselves, we willingly accept, and will do what you ask.' The matter being settled to the satisfaction of both parties, at the first signs of dawn the Athenian and Spartan contingents changed places.

5

(Herodotus, *Histories* 9, ch. 46–47)

- (i) To whom did the Athenians reply? (1)
- (ii) Explain the suggestion which they say they will willingly accept. (5)
- (iii) How might offence have been caused? (2)
- (iv) What happened after the Athenian and Spartan contingents changed places? (4)
- (v) How did Mardonius react to all this? (5)

(Total 17 marks)

Or

- (e) From the bodies of the dead they stripped anklets and chains and golden-hilted scimitars, not to mention richly embroidered clothes which, amongst so much of greater value, seemed of no account. Everything which the helots could not conceal – and that was a great deal – they declared to their superiors; but there was a great deal, too, which they stole and sold afterwards to the Aeginetans.

5

(Herodotus, *Histories* 9, ch. 80)

- (i) Which dead are referred to here? (3)
- (ii) Who had ordered the collection of all this wealth and why collection by the helots? (4)
- (iii) Explain how the Aeginetans gained an unfair advantage. (5)
- (iv) What happened to everything that was not stolen by the helots? (5)

(Total 17 marks)

TOTAL FOR QUESTION 1: 34 MARKS

Answer any **THREE** of questions 2–10.

All questions carry equal marks.

2. Why, in your opinion, did the Persians lose the battle of Marathon?

(Total 22 marks)

3. What lessons do you think both the Persians and the Greeks learned from the events of 490 BC?

(Total 22 marks)

4. ‘A successor wholly unworthy of his father!’ Assess the respective strengths and weaknesses of Darius and Xerxes.

(Total 22 marks)

5. Why did the Greeks not simply fall back within the Peloponnese at once, as the Spartans wanted? Could such a strategy have worked?

(Total 22 marks)

6. Assess the character of **two** of the following: Miltiades; Themistocles; Leonidas; Pausanias.

(Total 22 marks)

7. Do you feel that the Greek strategy was correct:

(a) after the battle of Salamis and (b) after the battle of Plataea?

(Total 22 marks)

8. How convincing is Herodotus’ portrayal of minor characters? Give appropriate examples.

(Total 22 marks)

9. ‘He never let historical accuracy stand in the way of a good story.’ How far do you feel Herodotus was more concerned to entertain than to inform?

(Total 22 marks)

10. To what extent, if at all, do you feel Herodotus shows bias in his *Histories*? Give appropriate examples.

(Total 22 marks)

TOTAL FOR PAPER: 100 MARKS

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