



**General Certificate of Education
January 2012**

Classical Civilisation 2020

CIV1A: Greek Architecture and Sculpture

Report on the Examination

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CIV1A Greek Architecture and Sculpture

Many students seemed not to have used the time effectively. Answers to the 30-mark questions in Section 2 tended to be short, completed with bullet points rather than argument, or abandoned in mid-sentence. Spending time on a brief plan was often useful, whereas copying out the question or writing an opening paragraph that merely restated the question was not.

Section 1

Option A

The questions on the Erechtheion and Parthenon were considerably less popular than those in Option B on freestanding sculpture. The short factual questions were generally answered well but there was often uncertainty in Question 01 about the date of the Erechtheion and in Question 03 about the way the contest between Athena and Poseidon was commemorated in or outside the building.

In Question 05, most students were able to identify some differences from a standard Greek temple – fewer students pointed out similarities – but the main weakness was a failure to give reasons for the differences, such as the changes in ground level. A very common error was the belief that the Erechtheion mixed the orders.

The best answers to Question 06 assessed the main qualities of the sculpture illustrated in Photograph B and then developed their argument by moving logically from west to east pediments, discussing the male figures and then the female ones and including judgements on the relief sculptures of the metopes and Ionic frieze. Some students failed to take into account the full range of sculptural decoration; indeed, several restricted themselves to describing the photograph. Some gave too much attention to the central figures of each pediment, which are not extant, in preference to the pieces that do survive, and others found it difficult to distinguish the figures on the Parthenon from those on the Temple of Zeus at Olympia.

Option B

In Question 07 students were generally able to identify the Charioteer from Delphi, but in Question 08 fewer gained all 3 marks, many thinking that Nike was Athena or by Praxiteles.

In Question 09 there was a disappointing lack of detailed observation as a basis for evaluating the use of the two materials in the examples illustrated. Bronze was often praised for the opportunity it provided to add other materials and for its durability, but the extent to which the Charioteer made use of its higher tensile strength and the ways in which the Nike exploited the marble to provide balance and support were less well understood. Better answers, however, demonstrated some pleasing personal judgements, which were effectively justified by reference to visible details.

The overall performance in Question 10 was higher than that in the corresponding Question 06, but the majority of answers nevertheless tended to be descriptive with the addition of some comments, rather than an evaluative analysis supported by relevant details. Consequently, there was often inadequate explanation of the reasons why the use of bronze was successful. Some students were confused because they did not realise that the Tyrannicides, Diskobolos and Doryphoros are marble copies of bronze originals.

Section 2

Option C

Answers were spread very evenly between Questions 11 and 12. In Question 11 there were some interesting answers that effectively utilised much of the prescribed evidence. However, very few students began by defining what a typical temple was, and a surprising number used the Temple of Zeus at Olympia as an example of innovative architecture, sometimes in terms of its general appearance, and frequently because of its chryselephantine statue (even though it was added later, in fact after the one in the Parthenon). Indeed, many answers concentrated on the decoration rather than the architecture *per se*, and so missed the chance to discuss the differing plans, for example the distinctive layouts of the first Temple of Hera at Paestum and the Temple of Apollo at Bassae. Some students went outside the specification and discussed the Temple of Aphaia on Aegina and the Temple of Hephaistos in Athens, which was acceptable if they used these examples tellingly to amplify the argument rather than as substitutes for the prescribed examples. Many essays were short.

Option D

The overall standard of answers to Question 12 was slightly higher than to Question 11. Nevertheless, there was much description, which was sometimes very good but often not sufficiently well evaluated – these students knew the material but didn't understand what to do with it. In weaker answers, misattribution of the statues was a common problem, as well as a failure to ensure strict relevance to the question, which did not invite discussion of funerary *stelai*. Brevity was again an issue.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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