

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Advanced GCE

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION (JACT)

2750

Greek and Roman Historians

Wednesday

15 JUNE 2005

Morning

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional materials:
Answer booklet

TIME 1 hour 30 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name, Centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the answer booklet.
- You must answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.
- Start your answer to each question on a new page.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.
- All questions are worth 50 marks in total including 5 marks for quality of written communication.

This question paper consists of 4 printed pages.

Answer one question from this section.

A1 Read the translations below and answer the questions at the end.

Passage 1

Meanwhile, as the Greek...

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Details:

Title: The Histories
Author: Herodotus
Translated by: A. de Selincourt

5

10

...the winds for favour

HERODOTUS, The Histories 7.178 (A. de Selincourt; Penguin)

Passage 2

Nero's astrologers had told him that he would one day be removed from the throne, and were given the famous reply:

This referred doubtless to...

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Details:

Title: Life of Nero
Author: Suetonius
Translated by: R. Graves

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...them back to him

15

SUETONIUS, Life of Nero 40 (R. Graves; Penguin)

- (a) In Passage 2, explain the reference to the Oracle at Delphi (line 11). How is Nero eventually removed from power? [10]
- (b) How effectively does Herodotus tell the story in Passage 1? [15]
- (c) Using these passages as a starting point, explain which of the two authors you think shows greater belief in the supernatural. [20]

[Quality of Written Communication: 5 marks]

[Total: 50 marks]

A2 Read the translations below and answer the questions at the end.

Passage 1

And with regard to...

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Details:

Title: History of The Peloponnesian War
 Author: Thucydides
 Translated by: R. Warner

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...to last for ever

THUCYDIDES, History of The Peloponnesian War 1.22 (R. Warner; Penguin)

Passage 2

According to one author...

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Details:

Title: Annals
 Author: Tacitus
 Translated by: M. Grant

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...of taking a holiday

TACITUS, Annals 14:2-3 (M Grant; Penguin)

- (a) What methods of gathering information has Thucydides discussed before Passage 1 opens? What are his conclusions about how useful they are? [10]
- (b) 'I shall write without indignation or partisanship.' To what extent do you agree that Tacitus writes without bias in Passage 2? [15]
- (c) Using these passages as a starting point, compare the way Thucydides and Tacitus make use of sources. [20]

[Quality of Written Communication: 5 marks]
[Total: 50 marks]

Section B

Answer one question from this section.

- B3 'Tacitus' interest in religion gives him less credibility than Thucydides.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? [50]
- B4 Who do you think is the more impartial, Herodotus or Suetonius? [50]
- B5 In your opinion, which of the Classical writers that you have studied is the best historian? In your answer, you should include discussion of at least one Greek and at least one Roman writer. [50]