

**ADVANCED GCE**  
**CLASSICAL CIVILISATION (JACT)**

Greek and Roman Historians

**THURSDAY 5 JUNE 2008**

**2750**

Afternoon  
Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

**Additional materials (enclosed):** None

**Additional materials (required):**  
Answer Booklet (8 page)



**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Write your name in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided on the Answer Booklet.
- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- You must answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.
- Start your answer to each question on a new page.
- Use an 8 page answer booklet followed by a 4 page booklet if extra paper is required.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

- The number of marks for each question 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.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **100**.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.

## Section A

Answer **one** question from this section.

**A1** Read the following translations and answer the questions at the end.

**PASSAGE 1**

Xerxes was furiously angry. 'You miserable fellow,' he cried, 'have you the face to mention your son, when I, in person, am marching to the war against Greece with my sons and brothers and kinsmen and friends – *you*, my slave, whose duty it was to come with me with every member of your house, including your wife? Mark my words: it is through the ears you can touch a man to pleasure or rage – let the spirit which dwells there hear good things, and it will fill the body with delight; let it hear bad, and it will swell with fury. When you did me good service, and offered more, you cannot boast that you were more generous than I; and now your punishment will be less than your impudence deserves. Yourself and four of your sons are saved by the entertainment you gave me; but you shall pay with the life of the fifth, whom you cling to most.'

HERODOTUS, *The Histories* 7.39 (A. de Sélincourt; Penguin)

**PASSAGE 2**

To insure against delays he made doctors 'take care' of any who were found still alive – which, in Nero's vocabulary, meant opening their veins. He was eager, it is said, to get hold of a certain Egyptian – a sort of ogre who would eat raw flesh and practically anything else he was given – and watch him tear live men to pieces and then devour them. These 'successes', as Nero called them, went to his head and he boasted that no previous sovereign had ever realized the extent of his power. Often he hinted broadly that it was not his intention to spare the remaining senators, but would one day wipe out the entire Senatorial Order, and let knights and freedmen govern the provinces and command the armies, instead. He certainly gave no senator a kiss when he set out on a journey or returned from one, and never bothered to answer the Senate's greetings. In his announcement of the Isthmus Canal project, to a huge crowd, he loudly voiced the hope that it might benefit himself and the Roman people, but made no mention of the Senate.

SUETONIUS, *Life of Nero* 37 (R. Graves; Penguin)

- (a) What events since the death of Claudius has Suetonius described before Passage 2 opens? [10]
- (b) In Passage 1, analyse how Herodotus presents Xerxes' behaviour. [15]
- (c) Using these passages as a starting point, explain who you think creates more interesting 'villains', Herodotus or Suetonius. [20]

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

**A2** Read the following translations and answer the questions at the end.

**PASSAGE 1**

‘Certainly you Spartans, in your leadership of the Peloponnese, have arranged the affairs of the various states so as to suit yourselves. And if, in the years of which we were speaking, you had gone on taking an active part in the war and had become unpopular, as we did, in the course of exercising your leadership, we have little doubt that you would have been just as hard upon your allies as we were, and that you would have been forced either to govern strongly or to endanger your own security. 5

‘So it is with us. We have done nothing extraordinary, nothing contrary to human nature in accepting an empire when it was offered to us and then in refusing to give it up. Three very powerful motives prevent us from doing so – security, honour, and self-interest. And we were not the first to act in this way. Far from it. It has always been a rule that the weak should be subject to the strong; and besides, we consider that we are worthy of our power. Up till the present moment you, too, used to think that we were; but now, after calculating your own interest, you are beginning to talk in terms of right and wrong. Considerations of this kind have never yet turned people aside from the opportunities of aggrandizement offered by superior strength. Those who really deserve praise are the people who, while human enough to enjoy power, nevertheless pay more attention to justice than they are compelled to do by their situation. 10 15

THUCYDIDES, *History of the Peloponnesian War* 1.76 (R. Warner; Penguin)

**PASSAGE 2**

‘But we have both filled the measure – you, of what an emperor can give his friend, and I, of what a friend may receive from his emperor. Anything more will breed envy. Your greatness is far above all such mortal things. But I am not; so I crave your help. If, in the field or on a journey, I were tired, I should want a stick. In life’s journey, I need just such a support. 5

‘For I am old and cannot do the lightest work. I am no longer equal to the burden of my wealth. Order your agents to take over my property and incorporate it in yours. I do not suggest plunging myself into poverty, but giving up the things that are too brilliant and dazzle me. The time now spent on gardens and mansions shall be devoted to the mind. You have abundant strength. For years the supreme power has been familiar to you. We older friends may ask for our rest. This, too, will add to your glory – that you have raised to the heights men content with lower positions.’ 10

TACITUS, *Annals* 14.54 (M. Grant; Penguin)

- (a) What have the Athenian ambassadors already said to the meeting before Passage 1 opens? [10]
- (b) In Passage 2, discuss how Seneca tries to appeal to Nero in his speech. [15]
- (c) Using these passages as a starting point, explain which author makes more effective use of speeches. [20]

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

## Section B

Answer **one** question from this section.

Start your answer on a new page.

- B3** Explain who you think describes military conflict more effectively, Thucydides or Tacitus. [50]
- B4** Explain who you think is the better storyteller, Herodotus or Suetonius. [50]
- B5** Explain which of the four authors that you have read you have found the most interesting to read. [50]

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