

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION**

A031

ANCIENT HISTORY

The Greeks at war

TUESDAY 7 JUNE 2011: Morning

DURATION: 1 hour 15 minutes

SUITABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES

Candidates answer on the answer booklet.

OCR SUPPLIED MATERIALS:

8 page answer booklet (sent with general stationery)

OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED:

None

READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the answer booklet. Please write clearly and in capital letters.
- Use black ink.
- Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- This paper has TWO options:
Option 1: The Greeks defend themselves, 499-479 BC.
Option 2: Alexander the Great, 356-323 BC.
- Answer questions from ONE option only.
- Answer ALL the questions in Section A and ONE question from Section B.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is 80.
- Marks are awarded in Section B for the quality of written communication of your answer.

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Answer questions from EITHER Option 1 OR Option 2.

**OPTION 1: THE GREEKS DEFEND THEMSELVES,
499-479 BC**

SECTION A

Answer ALL the questions in this section.

- 1 Briefly outline TWO reasons why the Persians did not attack Greece immediately after the defeat at Marathon. [5]**

2 Read the following passage from Herodotus, and answer the questions which follow.

When Xerxes learned this, in his anger at the Hellespont he ordered that it should receive 300 lashes and have a pair of fetters thrown into its waters. I have also heard that in addition he sent people to brand the Hellespont. He ordered the men who were flogging it to say arrogant and barbarous words: ‘O bitter water, your master places this penalty upon you, because you wronged him when you had suffered nothing at his hands. Xerxes the King will cross over you, whether you want him to or not. Rightly no one offers sacrifices to you as you are a muddy and salty river.’ Xerxes gave instructions that the sea should be punished in this way and that the heads of those responsible for the building of the bridge should be cut off.

Herodotus, *The Histories* 7.35

- (a) Outline the orders which Xerxes gives in this passage. [4]**
- (b) Explain what this passage shows about Xerxes’ character. [4]**
- (c) In your opinion, how accurate is Herodotus’ account of the events described in this passage? [5]**

**OPTION 1: THE GREEKS DEFEND THEMSELVES,
499-479 BC**

- 3 Read the following passage from Herodotus, and answer the questions which follow.**

There is a story about Artemisia's involvement which raised her reputation still higher with the king. When the king's fleet had lost formation in the confusion of battle, Artemisia's ship was being pursued by an Athenian one. Since she was unable to escape (there were friendly ships ahead of her and she happened to be very close to the enemy), she decided to do the following (which turned out very well for her): the Athenian ship was still pursuing her, so she rammed a friendly ship from Calynda, commanded by Damasithymus, the king of the Calyndians. I cannot say whether there had been some quarrel with this man while they were in the Hellespont, or if she did it intentionally, or if it was by chance that she chose that direction. She rammed this ship and sank it, and gained a double reward from her good fortune.

Herodotus, *The Histories* 8.87

- (a) In what ways does this passage help us to understand what the Battle of Salamis was like for those taking part? [14]**
- (b) Do you think Herodotus gives a reliable account of the Battle of Salamis? Explain your opinion. You must refer BOTH to this passage AND to other passages of Herodotus which you have studied. [18]**

**OPTION 1: THE GREEKS DEFEND THEMSELVES,
499-479 BC**

SECTION B

Answer EITHER Question 4 OR Question 5.

**MARKS ARE AWARDED IN THIS SECTION FOR THE
QUALITY OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION IN YOUR
ANSWER.**

- 4 ‘The Persian soldiers were no match for the Greeks.’
To what extent do you agree with this view?**

In your answer you should:

- **give a brief account of the strengths and weaknesses of the Persian army;**
- **explain why the Persian army was successful at Thermopylae but unsuccessful at Plataea;**
- **show knowledge of relevant sections of Herodotus;**
- **consider how reliable you think Herodotus is. [30]**

5 'Because of Themistocles, the Greeks won in the end.' Using Herodotus' account, explain how far you agree with this view.

In your answer you should:

- **give an account of the contribution of Themistocles both to the preparation for war and the events of 480/479 BC;**
- **explain whether or not Themistocles' contributed more than anyone else;**
- **show knowledge of relevant sections of Herodotus;**
- **consider how reliable you think Herodotus is. [30]**

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OPTION 2: ALEXANDER THE GREAT, 356-323 BC

DO NOT ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THIS OPTION IF YOU HAVE ALREADY ANSWERED OPTION 1.

SECTION A

Answer ALL the questions in this section.

- 6 Briefly outline TWO reasons why Alexander was successful in battle. [5]**

- 7 Read the following passage from Arrian, and answer the questions which follow.**

The first of the Macedonians who engaged with the Persians were cut down by them, though they were brave men, apart from those of them who were driven back towards Alexander as he approached. Alexander was already near, bringing with him the right wing, and he led the attack against the Persians where the whole mass of cavalry and the leaders of the Persians were stationed. Around him a fierce battle was waged; and in the meantime, wave after wave of Macedonian battalions crossed the river, by now with much less difficulty. The battle was fought on horseback, but it seemed much more like an infantry battle. Horse struggled with horse and man with man; the Macedonians strove to thrust back the Persians completely from the bank and force them into the plain, while the Persians tried to prevent the Macedonians leaving the river and thrust them back into it.

Arrian, *Anabasis of Alexander* 1.15

- (a) Using this passage, outline TWO problems the Macedonians faced at this point. [4]**
- (b) Explain what this passage shows about how the Macedonian army fought in this battle. [4]**
- (c) In your opinion, how accurate is Arrian's account of the events described in this passage? [5]**

OPTION 2: ALEXANDER THE GREAT, 356-323 BC

- 8 Read the following passage from Plutarch, and answer the questions which follow.**

By this time Cleitus was drunk, and being by nature rough in temper and stubborn he became very angry, saying that it was not right that the Macedonians should be insulted in the presence of barbarians and enemies, when they were better than those who were laughing, even though they had had some bad luck. When Alexander claimed that Cleitus was making excuses for himself when he called cowardice misfortune, Cleitus stood up and said, “Yet this cowardice of mine has already saved you, son of a God though you are, when you turned your back on the sword of Spithridates, and you have become so powerful through the blood and wounds of Macedonians that you deny Philip was your father and make yourself the son of Ammon.”

Plutarch, *Life of Alexander* 50

- (a) In what ways does this passage help us to understand Cleitus' behaviour towards Alexander? [14]**
- (b) How far do Arrian and Plutarch help us to understand the character of Alexander? You must refer BOTH to this passage AND to other passages from Arrian and Plutarch which you have studied. [18]**

OPTION 2: ALEXANDER THE GREAT, 356-323 BC

SECTION B

Answer EITHER Question 9 OR Question 10.

MARKS ARE AWARDED IN THIS SECTION FOR THE QUALITY OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION IN YOUR ANSWER.

9 To what extent did the Macedonian army's support for Alexander change during his lifetime?

In your answer you should:

- **give a brief account of the ways the Macedonian army supported Alexander;**
- **explain how and why support from the Macedonian army changed during Alexander's lifetime;**
- **show knowledge of relevant sections of Arrian and Plutarch;**
- **consider how reliable you think Arrian and Plutarch are. [30]**

10 'By the end of his life, Alexander believed that he was a god.'

How far does this opinion explain Alexander's behaviour towards the end of his life?

In your answer you should:

- **give an account of Alexander's behaviour towards the end of his life;**
- **explain the reasons why you think his behaviour changed;**
- **show knowledge of relevant sections of Arrian and Plutarch;**
- **consider how accurate you think Arrian and Plutarch are. [30]**

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