

Wednesday 16 May 2012 – Morning

GCSE ANCIENT HISTORY

A031 The Greeks at war

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

OCR supplied materials:
None

Other materials required:
None

Duration: 1 hour 15 minutes



Candidate forename		Candidate surname	
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Centre number						Candidate number				
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INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes above. Please write clearly and in capital letters.
- Use black ink.
- This paper has **two** options:
Option 1: The Greeks defend themselves, 499–479 BC, starting on page 3.
Option 2: Alexander the Great, 356–323 BC, starting on page 17.
- Answer questions from **one** option only.
- Answer **all** the questions in Section A and **one** question from Section B.
- Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided. If additional space is required, you should use the lined pages at the end of this booklet. The question number(s) must be clearly shown.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

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.
- This document consists of **32** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Option 1: The Greeks defend themselves, 499–479 BC

3 Read Passage 1B from Herodotus, and answer the questions which follow.

Passage 1B

‘You wicked man, do you dare to mention your son, when I am leading this expedition against Greece myself, bringing with me my children and brothers and relatives and friends; you are my slave and should follow with your entire household, including your wife. ... When you did good things for me and promised to do still more, you cannot boast that you outdid me in generosity; now when you have made this shameless request, you will get less than you deserve in punishment. Your hospitality to me saves you and four of your sons; but you will be punished by the death of the eldest, who is the most important to you.’ After he had given this response, Xerxes at once ordered those who were responsible for such things to find the eldest of Pythius’ sons and cut him in half, then to place the two halves of the body on either side of the road, so that the army could march out between them.

Herodotus, *The Histories* 7.39

(a) In what ways does Passage 1B help us to understand the relationship between Xerxes and people under his command? [14]

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Option 1: The Greeks defend themselves, 499–479 BC

Passage 1B repeated, for reference

‘You wicked man, do you dare to mention your son, when I am leading this expedition against Greece myself, bringing with me my children and brothers and relatives and friends; you are my slave and should follow with your entire household, including your wife. ... When you did good things for me and promised to do still more, you cannot boast that you outdid me in generosity; now when you have made this shameless request, you will get less than you deserve in punishment. Your hospitality to me saves you and four of your sons; but you will be punished by the death of the eldest, who is the most important to you.’ After he had given this response, Xerxes at once ordered those who were responsible for such things to find the eldest of Pythius’ sons and cut him in half, then to place the two halves of the body on either side of the road, so that the army could march out between them.

Herodotus, *The Histories* 7.39

(b) How far do you think Herodotus helps us to understand Xerxes’ character? Explain your opinion.

You must refer **both** to Passage 1B **and** to other passages of Herodotus which you have studied. [18]

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Option 1: The Greeks defend themselves, 499–479 BC**Section B**

Answer **either** Question 4 **or** Question 5.

Marks are awarded for the quality of written communication in your answer.

- 4 ‘The Hellenic League showed how determined the Greeks were to resist the Persians.’ Using Herodotus’ account, explain how far you agree with this view.

In your answer you should:

- outline which states joined the Hellenic League to resist the Persians;
- explain why some states resisted the Persians and other states did not;
- show knowledge of relevant sections of Herodotus;
- consider how reliable you think Herodotus is.

[30]

- 5 ‘In the war against Xerxes, the Spartans were the ones who saved the Greeks.’ Using Herodotus’ account, explain how far you agree with this view.

In your answer you should:

- give a brief account of the role of the Spartans in 480–479 BC;
- explain to what extent the Spartans were responsible for the victory of the Greeks;
- show knowledge of relevant sections of Herodotus;
- consider how reliable you think Herodotus is.

[30]

16
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Option 2: Alexander the Great 356–323 BC

Passage 2B repeated, for reference

But he became low-spirited and now had little expectation of divine support and was suspicious of his friends. He was fearful of Antipater and his sons; one of them, Iolas, was his chief cup-bearer, while Cassander had just recently arrived in Babylon. Cassander had seen some barbarians performing obeisance, and as he had been brought up as a Greek and had never seen such a thing before, he laughed out loud rather rashly. Alexander was furious, and grabbing him by his hair with both hands he banged his head against the wall. On another occasion, when Cassander wanted to say something against those who were making accusations against Antipater, Alexander stopped him and said, “What do you mean? Would men come on such a long journey if they did not have real grievances, but were bringing false charges?” When Cassander said that this very thing was a sign that the charges were false, because they were a long way from any proof, Alexander burst out laughing and replied, “These are the famous arguments of the followers of Aristotle which can be used on either side of a question; you will suffer for it, if it appears you have wronged these men in any way.”

Plutarch, *Life of Alexander* 74

- (b) How far do you think Arrian and Plutarch help us to understand the events surrounding the death of Alexander? Explain your opinion. You must refer **both** to Passage 2B **and** to other passages from Arrian and Plutarch which you have studied. [18]

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Option 2: Alexander the Great 356–323 BC**Section B**

Answer **either** Question 9 **or** Question 10.

Marks are awarded for the quality of written communication in your answer.

- 9** To what extent do the sources suggest that Alexander's military successes depended on his closest friends?

In your answer you should:

- give a brief account of how Alexander's friends contributed to his military successes;
- explain how much Alexander **himself** achieved;
- show knowledge of relevant sections of Arrian and Plutarch;
- consider how reliable you think Arrian and Plutarch are.

[30]

- 10** 'Alexander was always aiming at world conquest.' How far do Plutarch and Arrian support this view of Alexander's aims?

In your answer you should:

- give an account of Alexander's aims at the start of his expedition;
- explain to what extent you think his aims changed;
- show knowledge of relevant sections of Arrian and Plutarch;
- consider how accurate you think Arrian and Plutarch are.

[30]



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