# AQA

# General Certificate of Secondary Education June 2011

# Classical Civilisation 4020

**Unit 1F:    Greece and Rome: Stories and Histories**

# *Report on the Examination*

# Unit 1F Greece and Rome:  Stories and Histories (40201F)

**General Comments**

Topic A (Homer) proved by far the most popular topic, while only two candidates opted for Livy and three entered for Topic D (History of Roman Britain).  There were very few problems over timing, and all of the candidates appeared to have been entered for the correct tier.  It was particularly pleasing to see that almost 55% scored half marks or better on this paper.
The most valuable lesson for centres to learn from  this examination is the need to teach candidates what is required for each assessment objective.  All too often candidates wrote factual information (AO1) in response to questions requiring AO2 (understanding) and AO3 (evaluation and personal response).  Facts will score very little when explanation and empathy are required.   In particular, for AO3 candidates should be encouraged to give their own opinions.  It should also be emphasised to candidates that they must answer the question set and not simply list facts or reproduce a prepared response.

**Topic A  Homer, *Odyssey***

Question 1(a) and 1(b) were well answered but in Question 1(c), while the majority of candidates knew that Odysseus had to threaten Circe, a considerable number thought he did this so that she would promise to release his men.  Disappointingly, over 10% of candidates did not attempt this question.  There were many excellent answers to Question 1(d), and nearly three-quarters of candidates scored at least two marks.  Responses to Question 1(e) were not as good as candidates found it difficult to use their knowledge of the poem to analyse Odysseus' personality.

Question 2(a) caused very few problems but marks were lost on 2(b) as candidates often knew that Zeus caused a storm or threw a thunderbolt at the ship but failed to say that the ship was destroyed and all of the crew were killed.  Quite a number of candidates had clearly watched the film and used that to answer the question wrongly.  Question 2(c) was one of the best answered questions on the paper, and the vast majority of candidates scored at least one mark on Question 2(d).  Some failed to gain the third mark as they failed to answer the question and simply listed how Athene helped Odysseus or said Poseidon caused many storms and destroyed Odysseus' ships.

Candidates clearly knew the Cyclops story very well and there were plenty of detailed accounts of how Odysseus became trapped in Question 3(a).  Surprisingly, candidates offered more explanation on this tier than on the corresponding Tier H question, and over half of them scored at least three marks.  Question 3(c)  produced many good answers with a fair number of candidates scoring full marks.

Candidates on this tier also seemed more prepared to describe the types of monsters in Question 4(a) but found Question 4(b) more difficult.  However, they wrote enthusiastically about why the *Odyssey* is an exciting story to read in response to Question 4(c) and their personal response was less guarded than on Tier H.

## Topic B  Livy, *Stories of Rome*

As there were only two candidates, it is difficult to write detailed comments on this topic. Neither knew the answer to Question 5(a) and they only scored one mark between them on 5(b) and 5(c).  Detailed knowledge of the text was certainly a problem.  One candidate coped well with Question 5(d), and both produced good answers to Question 5(e).  As on Tier H, they knew the story of the geese and the Gauls better than the triple combat and coped well with Questions 6(a), 6(b) and 6(d).

There were good answers detailing the capture of the Sabine Women in Question 7(a) and some lovely personal responses to Question 7(c).  Question 8 followed a similar pattern, with reasonable knowledge shown in Question 8(a) and a difficulty with explanation in 8(b), while again candidates' personal response shone through in 8(c).

## Topic C  Athens and Sparta

Question 9(a) was very well answered, but 9(b) caused many problems.  Only a third of the candidates knew what was mined at Laurion, but they coped better with Question 9(c)(ii).  A common mistake was to write in very general terms about hard work and long hours, which could apply to many jobs; comments specific to silver mining in ancient times were required for marks.  Most candidates scored marks on Question 9(d) and there were some very good answers.

Social and historical topics are by their very nature broader than the literature ones, but basic knowledge did seem to be lacking.  There were plenty of good answers to Question 10(a) but, even with the choice of only three named areas of the house, it was not uncommon for candidates to think that cooking or weaving took place in the *andron*.  Question 10(b) was not well answered.  Candidates must read questions carefully and answer what is asked as Question 10c asked about furniture, not about houses in general or floors and paintings. Those who did write about furniture often offered AO1 knowledge and failed to mention a modern house at all.  In comparison questions the comparison must be clearly stated and not left for examiner to work out.  Question 10(d) was handled much better and there was some lovely personal response.  A few candidates failed to notice that the question was about house design and wrote about women's lives; this meant that they rarely scored more than one mark.

Over half of candidates scored at least two marks on Spartan women in Question 11(a) but they had less knowledge about the *krypteia* in Question 11(b).  However, when Question 11(c) asked about Spartan schools there were some lovely responses.  Those who wrote largely AO1 responses scored low marks, but most candidates were quite happy to put forth their views on Spartan education.

Question 12(a) was well answered, and candidates displayed plenty of knowledge about Athenian women.  Question 12(b) was more testing as some candidates clearly knew about Athenian weddings but struggled to use the material to answer the question.  Knowledge about women was good, and those who gave their own opinions scored highly on Question12(c) with almost a fifth of candidate scoring full marks.

**Topic D  History of Roman Britain**

Only three candidates offered this topic and so it is difficult to write a detailed report.  Their knowledge was very patchy and they failed to score on Questions 13(a), 13(b), 14(a) and 14(c). They knew more about Claudius' visit to Britain in Question 13(c), but responses to Question 13(d) were mixed.

While candidates knew little about the start of Agricola's governorship, unlike on Tier H, they all scored the mark for Question 14(d).  Only one mark was scored on 14(e) as candidates only knew that Agricola had used auxiliary troops at Mons Graupius.All candidates scored at least two marks on Question 14(f).

Question 15(a) was quite well answered, with all candidates having some knowledge of what Caesar hoped to gain.  Answers to Question 15(b) were even better.  However, candidates found it difficult to work out what the Roman people would have admired about Caesar in Question 15(c).

Similarly no candidate knew how Suetonius Paulinus' troops reached Anglesey and all scored only one mark on Question 16(a).  Answers to Question 16(b) were better, but Question 16(c) saw the best answers with some good personal response; candidates were divided in their support for Boudicca and Suetonius Paulinus.

**Mark Ranges and Award of Grades**
Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the
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