



**General Certificate of Secondary Education
June 2011**

Classical Civilisation 4020

**Unit 3H: Greece and Rome: Conflict and
Carnage**

Report on the Examination

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Unit 3 Greece and Rome: Conflict and Carnage (40203H)

General Comments

Topic D, Pompeii and Herculaneum, was by far the most popular with almost half of all candidates answering these questions. Topic C, The Ancient Olympic Games and the Panathenaia, and Topic B, Virgil, *Aeneid*, accounted for most of the rest, with a relatively small number of candidates entered for Topic A, Herodotus, *The Persian Wars*.

Many candidates handled the new style of questions and answer booklet well. However, some wrote more than was necessary on the short questions. Candidates should be reminded that the space allocated in the answer booklet gives an indication of the length of answer expected. If candidates do run out of space they should continue on additional paper rather than writing in margins or at the bottom of the page.

Candidates also need to be clear that the three parts of the structured essay questions target separately the three assessment objectives, and that it is unlikely that a considerable amount of information used in one answer will get much credit in another unless candidates meet the requirement, for example, to give a personal response rather than simply identify facts. Some candidates revealed a tendency to write narrative for all parts of the question rather than address the needs of the assessment objectives. This was especially true of the second part of the question, targeting AO2. Most candidates seem to be aware of the need to make a personal response in the third part, targeting AO3.

Topic A Herodotus, *The Persian Wars*

Question 1

Many candidates were unable to identify Damaratus correctly in part (a)(i), and this may have led some to suggest the speaker advised Xerxes not to attack. However most scored at least one mark in part (a)(ii). Candidates answered part (b) well by knowing that Damaratus says different things about the Spartans as individuals and when they fight collectively, whereas points taken from the passage were not rewarded. Part (c) was handled well. There was a useful range of ideas in response to part (d) but better scores came with more specific reference to the size of the two forces, the Spartans' freedom of choice or the dreams of the Persians.

Question 2

While many candidates knew both parts of (a), others suggested Themistocles and Athens or other combinations. Most knew part (b), although a few gave Salamis as the answer. Most who answered part (c) correctly identified the unpopularity of the Athenians. On the whole candidates explained well how triremes were used in part (d), while part (e) proved more difficult: candidates who scored well wrote about the suitability of the site for fighting against a superior force and supporting the Greeks at Thermopylae, as well as briefly discussing Herodotus' motives for his portrayal of Themistocles.

Question 3

There was no clear preference for one essay over the other.

Answer to part (a)(i) contained useful description of the betrayal with plenty of development. However some answers were based on the film *300*, which is misleading here.

Part (a)(ii) proved more difficult, with candidates focusing on the Spartans celebrating Carneia and Leonidas wanting glory and to fulfil the prophecy. The best answers showed awareness of the text and the need to keep the Greeks unified by not abandoning those outside the Peloponnese, while also showing that Xerxes was not invincible.

The main point of comparison in answers to part (a)(iii) was that the Spartans stayed and fought to the death while other Greeks fled. Better answers made this comparison and recognised that the Thespians stayed too while the Thebans were forced to stay and surrendered. The best answers discussed the details of the Spartans' ability and ferocity in battle; the ways in which the Phocians could be praised and criticised and also did not leave out the individuals named by Herodotus.

Answers to part (b)(i) varied in the level of detail known. Better answers had an awareness of the Ionian Revolt and Marathon, but others seemed to think that Darius was still alive.

Answers to part (b)(ii) were often hindered by Mardonius being mistaken for Damaratus. Most candidates understood that Mardonius said what Xerxes wanted to hear, while some compared him to Artabanus and Damaratus. Only the most able candidates actually showed that they knew the details of what he suggested to the King about the Greeks and compared this to what actually happened.

Most candidates who attempted part (b)(iii) commented on a few of Xerxes' actions: the treatment of Pythius' son, the engineers of the first bridge across the Hellespont and Leonidas' body were the most popular. There were fewer references to his more civilised behaviour which provided opportunities for a more balanced discussion. However, the best answers did address a range of specific actions and even commented on his motives for sparing the Greek spies or ordering the sacrifice on the Acropolis.

Topic B Virgil, *Aeneid*

Question 4

Both parts of part (a) were well answered, but in part (ii) some suggested that Juno had made Aeneas a god. Similarly, part (b) was well done, with most candidates focusing on the idea of an honourable death in battle at Troy with a burial. Most knew that Neptune helped Aeneas in part (c) and could give at least one way in which he ended the storm. Some candidates believed that Neptune saw the ships safely to shore rather than simply dislodging some of them with his trident. In part (d) there was a good range of points made on the positive side, but few commented on negative aspects. Most candidates avoided the trap of being descriptive and not directly answering the question.

Question 5

While most candidates correctly identified Dido in part (a)(i), part (ii) saw many mistake Diana, usually for Juno or Venus. Similarly, the vast majority of candidates correctly stated that Aeneas was about to take part in a hunt in part (b). Several candidates mentioned the meeting in the cave, but this was not allowed as it was not Aeneas' intention and there is a

slight delay as Virgil describes some hunting taking place. Part (c) proved to be a challenging question: many candidates wrote general responses focusing on Aeneas' and Apollo's power, leadership and looks and Aeneas' suitability to be the founder of the Roman people. Better answers made direct comparisons between the god and Aeneas with reference to their skills and qualities as seen in the text and knowledge of the god's roles. Many candidates correctly understood the significance of the weather, the cave and Virgil's personal comment in part (d). Part (e) was answered well with many candidates scoring full marks. Some lost a mark for offering sound opinion without specific supporting evidence.

Question 6

Candidates were evenly divided in their choice between Essays A and B.

There was some good detail in the answers to part (a)(i), particularly on the horse, the men inside and the role of Sinon outside Troy. Less well covered was the retreat of the fleet to Tenedos, and subsequent return and Sinon's role inside Troy.

Most answers to part (a)(ii) dealt with Laocoon and Sinon; some dealt with Fate and the role of the gods and the horse jolted at the gates of Troy; few mentioned Cassandra and the Trojans' initial discussions about what to do with the horse.

In part (a)(iii) there was plenty of general discussion with some personal response to the appearance of Hector, Aeneas' actions and the loss of Creusa. The death of Priam was the most frequently discussed. There was some discussion of Virgil's use of imagery. The best answers maintained a good varied range of supporting detail. Some answers strayed from the scope of the question by referring to Laocoon and events outside Troy.

Many answers to part (b)(i) contained some sound knowledge of the good reception received by the Trojans. Better answers showed awareness of the initial hostility, the willingness to search for Aeneas, and that Dido first meets Aeneas' men while he observes them unseen. Likewise, from the end of the book, the detail of the arrangements for the banquet and food sent down to the shore was seen in the best answers.

On the whole, answers to part (b)(ii) displayed some clear understanding of the goddesses' roles in Dido's love for Aeneas and the subsequent 'marriage' and betrayal of Sychaeus' memory. This extended to Dido's reaction when Aeneas is obliged to leave Carthage. The best answers also took into account Juno's role in bringing Aeneas to Africa and Venus agreeing to the 'marriage' as opposed to her son pursuing his fate.

Answers to part (b)(iii) contained some good response to material from all four books studied. However, not surprisingly, Books 2 and 6 were handled least well. Many answers did attempt a balanced discussion, although this was not a requirement for scoring highly: Venus seems to have her son's best interest at heart despite appearing rather cold or self-absorbed at times.

Topic C The Ancient Olympic Games and the Panathenaia

Question 7

Part (a) was answered correctly by the vast majority of candidates, although some spellings came close to being disallowed: if in doubt it is better to avoid the Greek term. The majority of candidates scored 2 marks in part (b), but some lost a mark by offering the marathon. Again, candidates risked losing marks when using Greek terms. Part (c) was also done well, but some lost a mark by failing to explain clearly as required by AO2. In part (d) the identification of the torch race from the Panathenaia proved more difficult, as did the explanation that the torch needed to be alight at the end of the race. Answers to part (e) contained a good range of comparisons between the ancient and modern games, and most answers contained clear good development through clear personal response and detailed reference to aspects of the games.

Question 8

The statue of Zeus was easily recognised in part (a), and most knew the materials used for his skin and clothing in (b), although a few offered the timber used for the frame. It was pleasing to see the level of detail in part (c) that was rewarded by 3 or 4 marks in over half the answers. The best answers compared the differences in use of facilities inside and outside the Altis and were aware of details such as athletes finishing their races by running towards the sanctuary. Part (d) elicited good references to religious events (processions, sacrifices, swearing of oaths and victory presentations) and the best answers provided range along with positive and/or negative emotional responses.

Question 9

Few candidates attempted Essay A with its focus on the new element of the specification. Most opted for Essay B with more familiar questions on the Olympic Games.

Answers to part (a)(i) contained some very good lists of the people involved in the procession. It was good to see the recognition of the presence of a variety of women, but the bearers of holy water and the old men with olive branches were less well known.

Part (a)(ii) caused candidates more problems, with few candidates recognising that the purpose of the Olympic procession was for competitors and judges to move the 60km or so from Elis, where they had been training, to Olympia for the festival. On the other hand, the Great Panathenaic procession was short as it stayed within the city of Athens, where the citizens celebrated their city and patron goddess. As a result answers could be rather disjointed.

Part (a)(iii) produced more pleasing answers, with candidates being able to draw on a wide range of evidence to illustrate their personal response. There were some particularly good examples which demonstrated candidates' understanding of Athens' greatness: entering the Acropolis through the Propylaia, the boat race highlighting Athens' powerful fleet, the value of the olive oil prizes, and the beauty of a *peplos* perhaps made for Pheidias' statue in the Parthenon stood out.

Answers to part (b)(i) were expected to be good and, while mention was made of boxing, wrestling, javelin, and long jump, there were fewer references to discus and the individual events in the ancient and modern pentathlon. Also, many answers referred to a limited range of events. The best covered the technicalities of each event and also compared the facilities, particularly for the combat events.

Many candidates in answering part (b)(ii) showed some awareness of the preparations in Elis and the role of the *Hellanodikai*. However there was some confusion over the length of time

spent in training under their supervision, and some feeling that this period of training took place at Olympia. Clearer was the role of the judges in administering the oath and judging of the competitions. Again, there was a tendency towards AO1 description that needs to be avoided in part (ii) answers.

Candidates were able to offer a range of personal response to using the facilities at Olympia in part (b)(iii), but knowledge of the specific detail of, for example, the *gymnasium* and *palaestra* was limited: only a few candidates were aware of the double practice track with the same dimensions as the stadium, the colonnade for sheltered training and the oiling room. While many candidates believed that the *Leonidaion* was available for all athletes, some showed good awareness of the development of the site's facilities over time.

Topic D Pompeii and Herculaneum

Question 10

While most candidates correctly identified the palaestra in part (a)(i), many found it difficult to score 2 marks for part (ii): explanation of the requirement for space for many people to exercise, or for specific activities that required space such as bowling on the alley, or for lots of people doing lots of things simultaneously, proved more challenging. Most candidates were able to explain the fundamentals of the hypocaust system and also the method of heating the water used in the baths, although some candidates confused the two systems. Part (c) produced some good answers, but many scored only one mark: there were some suggestions here of seating for customers. A few candidates also misidentified the room as part of the bathing complex. Part (d) produced lots of good answers with plenty of personal response, and the best answers were aware of much specific archaeological evidence to support candidates' views.

Question 11

The best answers to part (a) simply identified two features of this well known painting, such as the arena wall and the external staircases. Some candidates tried to explain other features and, while this usually scored marks, it was not possible to credit features not visible in the painting. Although most candidates identified the riot ('battle' or 'rebellion' was not allowed) in part (b)(i), many were unable to identify Nuceria in part (ii). In answering part (c) most candidates scored by explaining the difference in scale between the theatres. Some candidates were not helped by mistaking the large theatre for the amphitheatre, while others were unclear about the roofing arrangements of each: there is evidence for awning masts in the large theatre, and the square plan of the Odeon that truncates the D-shaped seating area indicates the ability to roof this building, along with the inscription which records the building of a roofed theatre. Better answers to part (d) compared the quantities of material remains showing support for each type of entertainment as well as the seating capacities of each structure. Good answers could demonstrate the popularity of theatrical shows with little or no reference to the amphitheatre. Many candidates failed to score full marks as their answers were sometimes focussed on the survival of theatrical masks and costumes rather than their frequent depiction in mosaics, painting and sculpture.

Question 12

Essay A was more popular than Essay B.

Answers to part (a)(i) frequently covered small high windows, locks, bars and props, strongboxes and '*cave canem*' mosaics implying the use of guard dogs. Heavy front doors and shutters used in shops were less frequently seen. It was pleasing to see specific reference being made to evidence from houses named in the specification.

Parts (a)(ii) and (iii) were designed to focus on the more formal front and private rear parts of houses. However, answers did not need to make this differentiation to score well: a notable reference to a designated house recognised the absence of a *tablinum* in the House of the Vettii in part (a)(iii).

The better answers to part (a)(ii) recognised how spaces were used by the paterfamilias, patron, client and business/political associate and how status was displayed through the size and decoration of rooms. Answers understandably focussed on the *atrium* and *tablinum*, and the decoration and furnishing of these rooms. There was some reference to the most modern third and fourth styles of painting, though candidates might like to consider the use of the conservative first style alongside lavish polychrome mosaics in the House of the Faun. There was also useful discussion of intimidating social inferiors, but there seemed to be a strong belief that the owner of the house would have his shop(s) either side of the front door, rather than them being occupied by tenants living above the shop.

Part (a)(iii) answers contained a better range of evidence to support candidates' personal views. Good answers made reference to the planting and garden furniture in the House of the Vettii and the double peristyle of the House of the Faun. The best answers also had a sound coverage of both the layout and furnishing of town houses with knowledge of wooden furniture carbonised in Herculaneum and the painting of the dinner party, whereas mid-level answers had a tendency to refer to gardens and dining rooms in rather general terms.

Question (b)(i) expected candidates to refer to the typical pediment, columns, podium and steps, and external altar of Roman temples. Unexpectedly this was not seen very often. The temples of Apollo and Jupiter were known reasonably well, but the temple of Isis is too far from the forum to be creditworthy. The temple of Venus was also excluded, as much due to its poor state of preservation as to its distance from the forum. Fortuna Augusta is much better preserved and close to the Forum Baths, which are allowed in discussion of the forum.

While candidates were aware of a good range of reasons for visiting the forum in (b)(ii), they were expected to refer to the archaeological remains in their explanations. References to the fish scales found in the *macellum* were common, as were the weights and measures table and the basilica, but less frequently the tribunal. A common error included reference to bars in the forum, while the Building of Eumachia was often seen as a working *fullonica* (stretching rather too far the urine collection point).

Answers to (b)(iii) had a tendency to cover the same material as those for (b)(ii) rather than focus on what made the forum an impressive place that showed civic pride. There was some good personal response to the imposing temple of Jupiter, the white colonnade and buildings such as the basilica and the Eumachia building. Some candidates clearly knew the value of the wall painting from the Praedia of Julia Felix showing the forum in use (reproduced in part in line drawings in earlier editions of the Cambridge Latin Course). Again, there was a tendency for candidates to move away from the forum and discuss bars, places of entertainment and the state of the roads. Similarly, some candidates believed that the forum was grassed as presented to the modern visitor for some years.

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