



General Certificate of Secondary Education
Specimen Paper

Classical Civilisation

XXXX

Controlled Assessment

XXXX

GCSE Classical Civilisation: Controlled Assessment

Exemplar Tasks

These titles show the variety of approaches which will be taken. Some or all of these titles **may** be taken forward for the 2010 exam series.

Topic A Homer, *Iliad*

Imagine you are Achilles. Write your diary for the final year of the Trojan War.

You might like to consider the following in your answer

- your part in the events in Books 1, 9, 16, 18, 22 and 24
- how you became involved in the Greek expedition to Troy
- your relationships with other heroes on both sides in the war
- how major events in the final year of the war determined your behaviour
- your reactions to the intervention of gods and goddesses in events
- your responsibilities to your own soldiers and the rest of the Greek army and how well have you discharged them
- the techniques you could use in your diary to create atmosphere and interest.

Topic B Greek comedy (Aristophanes and Menander)

You have the opportunity to **either** see **or** direct a Greek comedy. Would you choose a comedy by Menander or one by Aristophanes? Explain your answer.

You might like to consider the following in your answer

- the characters, including stock characters
- the use of prologue
- the plot
- visual impact
- degrees of fantasy or realism
- staging
- the role of the Chorus
- the impact of contemporary references.

Topic C Athenian Pottery

Consider all the vases you have studied. Which is your favourite vase? Explain why you have chosen this vase and compare it to at least three other vases you have studied in your answer.

You might like to consider the following in your answer

- the shapes of the vases
- the themes of the vases' decoration
- the suitability of the decoration for the shapes and purposes of the vases
- the techniques used: black-figure, bi-lingual or red-figure
- the painters' artistic ability
- other reasons why you prefer your chosen vase to other named vases.

Topic D Athenian Democracy

To what extent was Pericles justified in being proud of Athenian democracy?

You might like to consider the following in your answer

- what a citizen might think about being involved in the running of Athens
- what a non-citizen might think about the advantages and disadvantages of Athenian democracy

- what a person today might think about Pericles' speech.

Topic E Ovid, *Metamorphoses*

The BBC is making a series of three dramas based on Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Which three transformations would you choose to include in the series, and why?

You might like to consider the following in your answer

- whether your stories should have a linking theme, in addition to metamorphosis, or not
- how you would adapt the stories to make them appeal to a contemporary audience
- the size of cast you would need, who you would cast in the main roles and why
- the sorts of costumes, special effects and soundtrack you would need to do Ovid justice
- the reasons you chose these stories and not others you have read.

Topic F Catullus

You have been asked to be the classical consultant for a television play about Catullus. The play will be based on a selection of Catullus' poems. Which poems would you choose to base the play on and why?

You might like to consider the following in your answer

- what the poems you have chosen tell us about Catullus' life
- what they tell us about Catullus's relationships with women, family and friends
- what they tell us about contemporary life
- how the poems might be put together to make a play
- reasons why you have chosen these poems and not others
- any lessons these poems might teach a modern audience.

Topic G Nero

Write a performance management review of Nero's reign.

You might like to consider the following in your answer

- the way Nero treated his family
- the good and bad ways in which Nero behaved
- the way he governed Rome and looked after the city and its people
- the way he caused and dealt with opposition to himself
- a summary of his strengths and weakness and targets for improvement.

Topic H Archaeology of Roman Britain

To what extent did the lives of ordinary Britons change during the Roman occupation?

You might like to consider the following in your answer

- the housing and settlements of the Britons before the invasion
- the extent to which living in a new Roman town, or a villa in the countryside, would have been different
- how easy trade and travel would have been before and during the occupation
- changes in religious practices in Britain as a result of the occupation
- new opportunities, products and customs brought by the Romans
- the extent to which these changes would have affected the life of an ordinary Briton.