

Wednesday 12 June 2013 – Afternoon

GCSE CLASSICAL GREEK

B405/SB Sources for Classical Greek

INSERT – SOURCES BOOKLET

Duration: 1 hour



INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

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Sources A, B and C give information about ancient Greek houses and the people who lived in them.

Source A An Athenian explains the layout of his house in a defence speech

First, gentlemen, ... my little house is on two floors, with the top floor equal to the ground floor, corresponding to the women's quarters and the men's quarters. When we had the child, its mother breast-fed it, and so that she would not run the risk of falling when she went down the ladder whenever she had to have a wash, I lived upstairs, and the women lived downstairs. And this is what we had got used to, so that often my wife would go downstairs to the child to sleep, to give it her breast so that it wouldn't cry.

from Lysias, *On the Murder of Eratosthenes* 6–10

Source B A husband describes how he showed his house to his new young wife

Obviously I decided first to demonstrate to her the possibilities of the house. For it has been decorated elaborately... but the rooms have been built with one purpose in mind, that as receptacles they be as convenient as possible for the people who are going to live in them. So the rooms themselves invited what was most suitable for them. For the store-room, being in a strong position, invited the most valuable blankets and tools, the dry rooms invited the grain, the cold rooms the wine, and the lighted rooms invited whatever tasks and tools need light. I showed her the rooms that people would live in, all decorated, cool in summer and warm in winter. I showed her that the whole house was spread out to the South, so that it was clear that in winter it was sunny and shaded in summer. I showed her the women's quarters too, separated from the men's quarters by a bolted door, so that nothing could be carried out from inside that should not be, and so that slaves should not breed without our knowledge. For good slaves become more loyal for the most part when they have children, but bad slaves, when they mate, become readier to commit crimes.

from Xenophon, *Oeconomicus* 9. 2–5

Source C A vase painting showing a woman at home



Sources D, E, F, G and H give information about ancient theatre.

Source D The Theatre of Dionysus in Athens



Source E A vase painting showing a scene from a comedy in which a character from tragedy arrives on stage



Source F **Some Athenian prisoners of war, held prisoner in stone quarries, are treated more leniently by their Sicilian captors because they are able to sing extracts from plays by Euripides**

Most of the Athenians perished in the stone quarries of disease and evil fare, their daily rations being a pint of barley meal and a half-pint of water; but not a few were stolen away and sold into slavery, or succeeded in passing themselves off for serving men. These, when they were sold, were branded on the forehead with the mark of a horse — yes, there were some free men who actually suffered this indignity in addition to their servitude.

Some also were saved for the sake of Euripides. For the Sicilians, it would seem, more than any other Hellenes outside the homeland, had a yearning fondness for his poetry. They were forever learning by heart the little specimens and morsels of it which visitors brought them from time to time, and imparting them to one another with fond delight. In the present case, at any rate, they say that many Athenians who reached home in safety greeted Euripides with affectionate hearts, and recounted to him, some that they had been set free from slavery for rehearsing what they remembered of his works; and some that, when they were roaming about after the final battle, they had received food and drink for singing some of his choral hymns.

from Plutarch, *Nicias* XXIX. 2–3

Source G **An Athenian audience reacts badly to a production of a tragedy composed soon after the Persian siege and defeat of the city of Miletus**

When the Persians defeated the Ionians in the sea battle, they besieged Miletus by land and sea, digging under the walls and using all sorts of devices, and they captured the whole city six years after the revolt of Aristagoras. They enslaved the city

The Athenians made it clear that they were greatly distressed by the capture of Miletus in many ways, and in particular, when Phrynichos wrote and produced a play 'The Capture of Miletus', the audience burst into tears and they fined him 1,000 drachmas for reminding them of their own sufferings, and they ordered that no one should produce the play again.

from Herodotus, *Histories* 6.18 & 21

Source H The Spartans' lack of interest in the Arts

The Spartans knew nothing about the arts, for they were concerned with athletics and arms. If they ever needed help from the Muses, when they were ill or suffered mental disturbances or had suffered something similar as a community, they sent for foreigners such as doctors or purifiers suggested by the oracle at Delphi...Thucydides as well agrees that they were not keen on culture...

from Aelian, *Varia Historia* 12.50

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