

AN ROINN OIDEACHAIS
LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 1996
CLASSICAL STUDIES— HIGHER LEVEL
(400 marks)

THURSDAY, 20 JUNE — AFTERNOON 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

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- There are questions on TEN TOPICS.
- The topics are divided into three groups as follows:
 - Group I : Topics 1 to 4.
 - Group II : Topics 5 to 7.
 - Group III : Topics 8 to 10.
- Candidates are required to answer questions on FOUR TOPICS as follows:
One topic must be chosen from *each* of the three groups and the *fourth* topic may be chosen from *any one* of the three groups.
- There are one hundred marks for each topic.
- Photographs required for answering questions on Topics 8 and 10 are provided on an accompanying paper marked X.

GROUP I: Topics 1 to 4

Topic 1. Athens at War.

[100]

Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) (a) In their speech urging Sparta to declare war on the Athenians, what do the Corinthians say about the character of the Athenians?
- (b) To what extent do you think the Athenians showed these characteristics in their conduct of the Peloponnesian War? Give examples from the text.
- (ii) "Both sides, therefore, had cogent reasons for making peace" (Thucydides 5.15).
What were the circumstances which led to both Athens and Sparta being willing to sign the Peace of Nicias?
- (iii) (a) Summarise the main points made on **each** side in the Melian Dialogue.
- (b) Do you approve of the attitude of the Athenians as shown in this dialogue? Give reasons for your answer.
- (iv) (a) Give a brief account of the career of Alcibiades.
- (b) What is your assessment of Alcibiades' character?

Topic 2. Alexander the Great.

[100]

Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) From your reading of Plutarch and Arrian, assess the importance in Alexander's life of his father Philip.
- (ii) (a) How did Alexander manage to cross the river Hydaspes unopposed?
- (b) Briefly describe the battle with Porus which followed.
- (c) What do we learn of Alexander's character from his treatment of Porus after the battle?
- (iii) (a) Outline the events which led to the execution of Philotas.
- (b) Do you find the case made against Philotas convincing? Give reasons for your answer.
- (iv) "That his character and temper grew worse as his power grew greater seems to us clear" (Introduction: Plutarch *The Age of Alexander*).
Discuss this comment with reference to the period between Alexander's return to Babylon from the East and his death.

Topic 3. Life and Thought in the Late Roman Republic.**[100]**Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) What does the career of Clodius show about the state of politics in Rome towards the end of the Republic?
- (ii) Love, in Catullus's case, seems more like an illness than a source of joy. Discuss this comment, with reference to the relevant prescribed poems.
- (iii) (a) In Cicero's dialogue on government, what disadvantages, according to Scipio, attach to each of the three systems of government considered — kingship, oligarchy and democracy?
(b) "But which of these three forms of government do you like best, Scipio?" Summarise briefly Scipio's answer to this question.
- (iv) What were the main factors which led to the break-up of the relationship between Caesar and Pompey and to the outbreak of the Civil War (49 BC)?

Topic 4. Roman Historians.**[100]**Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) In Tacitus's *Annals*, after Augustus's funeral, men discussed the career of the dead emperor.
(a) Summarise the views for and against Augustus.
(b) Do you consider that Tacitus treats Augustus fairly in this debate?
- (ii) "The Senate under Tiberius is made to cut a poor and, ultimately, a contemptible figure" (Dudley). Discuss this comment with reference to Suetonius and Tacitus.
- (iii) (a) Trace the deterioration in the relationship between Nero and his mother, Agrippina.
(b) Show how Tacitus makes Agrippina's death so memorable and dramatic.
- (iv) When the town council of Augustan Veii met in Rome at the Temple of Venus Genetrix, they decided unanimously that until the decree should be put in writing, in the meantime, Gaius Julius Gelos, freedman of Augustus, who not only helped the town of Veii at all times with his advice and influence, but also wanted to make it famous with his resources and through his son, be allowed to be decreed the most fitting honour: that he be ranked among the priests of Augustus just as if he enjoyed that honour, and be allowed to sit on the special seat of honour among the priests of the cult of Augustus at all the games in our town and to take part in all public feasts among the town councillors. They decided likewise that no tax imposed by the town of Augustan Veii should be exacted from him or his children. There were present: Gaius Scaevius Curiatius, Lucius Perperna Priscus, duovirs; Marcus Flavius Rufus, quaestor; Titus Vettius Rufus, quaestor; Marcus Tarquinius Saturninus, Lucius Maecilius Scrupus, Lucius Favonius Lucanus, Gnaeus Octavius Sabinus, Titus Sempronius Gracchus, Publius Acuvius, son of Publius of the tribe *Tromentina*, Gaius Veianius Maximus, Titus Tarquinius Rufus, Gaius Julius Merula. Transacted in the consulship of Gaetulicus and Calvisius Sabinus. (*Lactor 8; extract 24*)
(a) What conclusions do you draw about the position of imperial freedmen under the early emperors from this inscription of AD 26?
(b) Give a brief account of the importance of imperial freedmen during the reign of the emperor Claudius.

GROUP II: Topics 5 to 7**Topic 5. Greek Drama.****[100]**Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) Show how Aeschylus creates the atmosphere of a 'police state' throughout the play *Prometheus Bound*.
- (ii) "In comedy, there is an ingrained tendency for the norms of 'ordinary' life to be suspended, subverted or even turned on their heads. Aristophanes' Dionysus in *Frogs* exploits this tendency to the utmost" (Cartledge). Discuss this statement.
- (iii) To what extent is the fact that Medea is a foreign woman from a strange and distant background central to the play *Medea*?
- (iv) Compare and contrast the characters of Oedipus and Creon in Sophocles' play *Oedipus the King*.

Topic 6. Ancient Epic.

[100]

Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) "In the *Aeneid*, Virgil makes skilful use of a range of devices to remind his fellow Romans of the greatness of their past and of their mission in the future."
Discuss this comment, with reference to the *Aeneid*.
 - (ii) From your reading of the *Odyssey*, what is your opinion of Odysseus as leader of his men?
 - (iii) "Virgil's tenderness and sympathy are nowhere more apparent than in the way he treats the untimely deaths of young and brave warriors."
Discuss this statement with reference to the events of *Aeneid*, Books 9, 10 and 11.
 - (iv) Compare the attitudes to warfare in the *Táin* with those in **either** the *Odyssey* **or** the *Aeneid*.
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Topic 7. Writers of Augustan Age.

[100]

Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) "The Firstborn of the New Age is already on his way from high heaven down to earth" (Virgil, *Ecl.* IV).
 - (a) What, according to Virgil, will the world be like when the New Age dawns?
 - (b) Why does the poet show longing for such an age?
 - (c) Mention *one* theory about the identity of the child in *Eclogue* IV.
 - (ii) What are the qualities of the early Romans that stand out in the Livy extracts dealing with the early history of the City?
 - (iii) (a) Summarise the themes in Horace's poem *Ode to Spring*.
(b) How typical of Horace's poetry do you find these themes? Refer to other prescribed poems of Horace in your answer.
 - (iv) Compare and contrast the poetry of Ovid and Propertius.
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GROUP III: Topics 8 to 10

Topic 8. Art and Architecture in Greek Society.

[100]

Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) Illustration A on Paper X shows a plan of the Temple of Apollo Epikourios at Bassae (c. 430 BC).
 - (a) Give a brief description of the temple.
 - (b) What was unusual about the columns inside the *cella*?
 - (c) Mention **one** other unusual decorative feature of this temple.
 - (ii) (a) Identify the sculpture in Illustration B on Paper X.
(b) What are the main characteristics of the period in Greek sculpture to which this statue belongs?
(c) Write a brief note on the developments in the portrayal of movement in sculpture from the Archaic period to the period of this statue.
 - (iii) (a) To what period does the figure in Illustration C on Paper X belong?
(b) Give your reasons for placing it in that period.
(c) Compare briefly the treatment of male and female figures in that period.
 - (iv) (a) To what period of vase-painting would you assign the pot in Illustration D on Paper X?
(b) For what purpose were such vases made?
(c) Comment on the style of decoration on this vase.
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Topic 9. The Philosopher in Society: A Study of Socrates and Plato.

[100]

Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) (a) Summarise briefly the advice Plato gives to the adherents of Dion in his *Seventh Letter*.
(b) Why did Plato himself withdraw from political life in Athens?
 - (ii) "There are few more vivid condemnations of the ways of democratic politicians than the similes of the sea-captain and of the 'large and powerful animal'" (Introduction, Plato's *Republic*).
(a) Explain the point of the simile of the sea-captain.
(b) Do you agree with Plato's views on democracy as exemplified by these similes? Give reasons for your answer.
 - (iii) (a) Outline Socrates' views on wealth and the ownership of property among the classes in his ideal state.
(b) How does Socrates justify these views?
 - (iv) What were the flaws in the characters of Dionysius the Elder and Dionysius the Younger which led to the failure of Plato's efforts in Syracuse?
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Topic 10. Roman Art and Architecture.

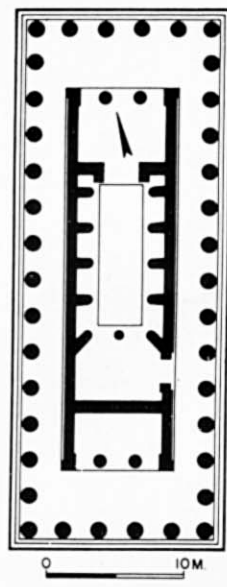
[100]

Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

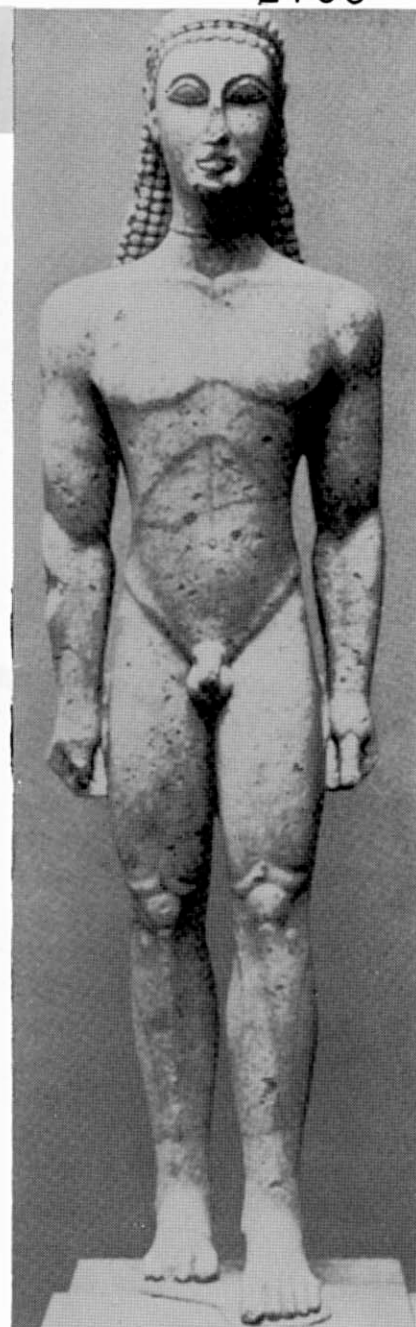
- (i) "... it is understandable that the site should have been developed as the first priority of the new province" (Wheeler).
(a) Discuss the military and commercial advantages of the site of London (*Londinium*), referring to the plan shown in Illustration E on Paper X.
(b) Why, in your opinion, does Wheeler state that "the general story of the town plan of Londinium is a familiar one"?
 - (ii) Illustration F on Paper X shows the Pantheon at Rome.
(a) Which emperor was responsible for the Pantheon and to whom was it dedicated?
(b) Comment on the way the rotunda and the portico fit together.
(c) Give a brief description of the interior.
 - (iii) "The reliefs of the Ara Pacis represent the early climax of Roman portraiture" (Wheeler).
(a) Discuss this statement with reference to Illustration G on Paper X.
(b) Show how the Ara Pacis and the Arch of Titus (Illustration H on Paper X) reflect the changing attitude in Roman society towards the cult of the Emperor's personality.
 - (iv) (a) To which style of Pompeian painting does the picture in Illustration I on Paper X belong?
(b) What are the main features of **any two** of the four 'Pompeian' styles?
(c) Which style do you find the most attractive as a wall-painting? Give reasons for your answer.
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PAPER X

A



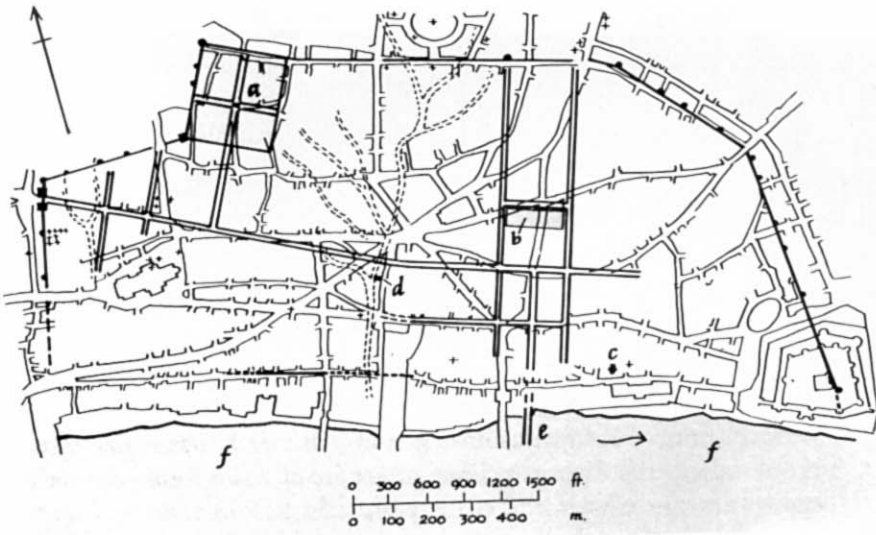
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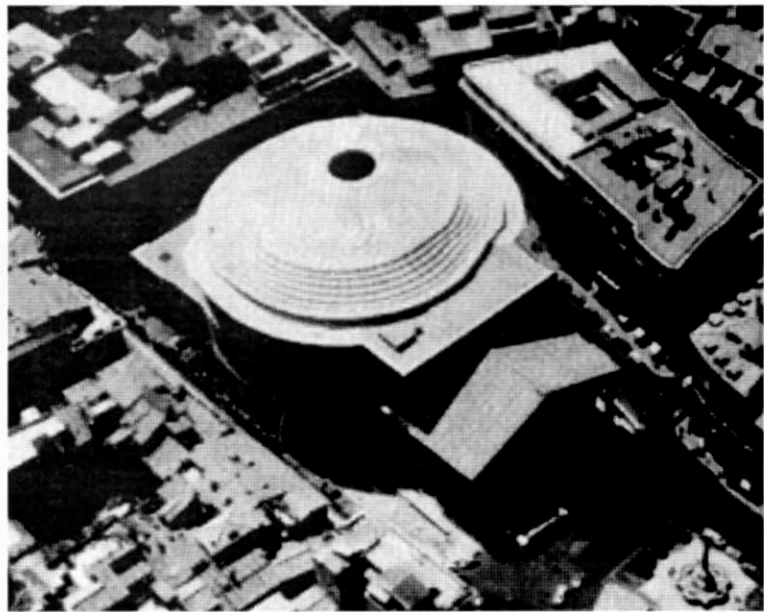
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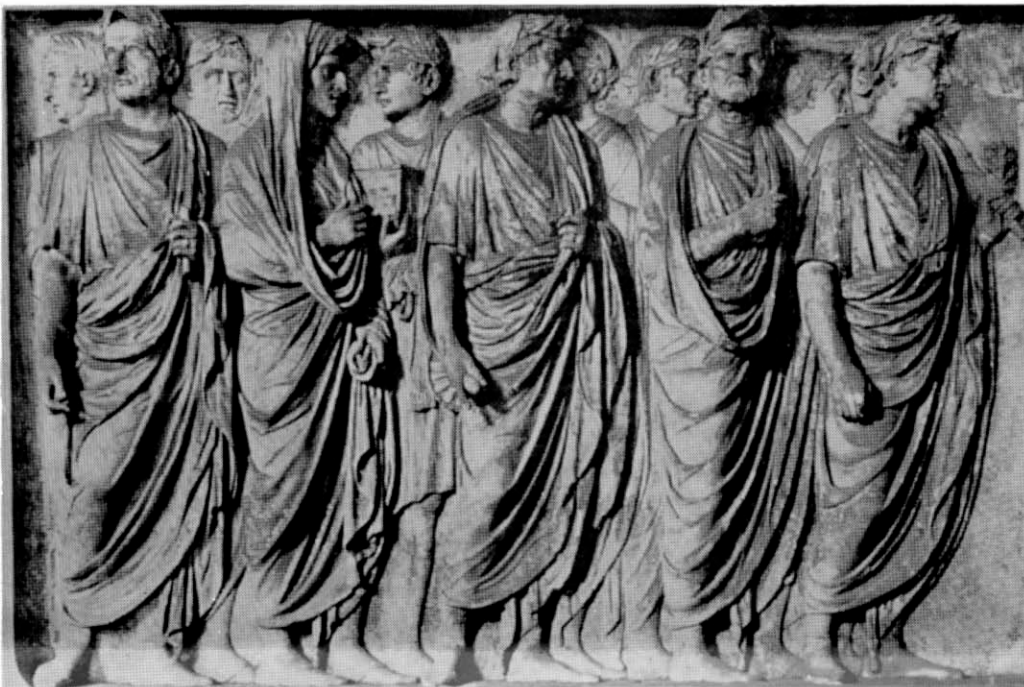




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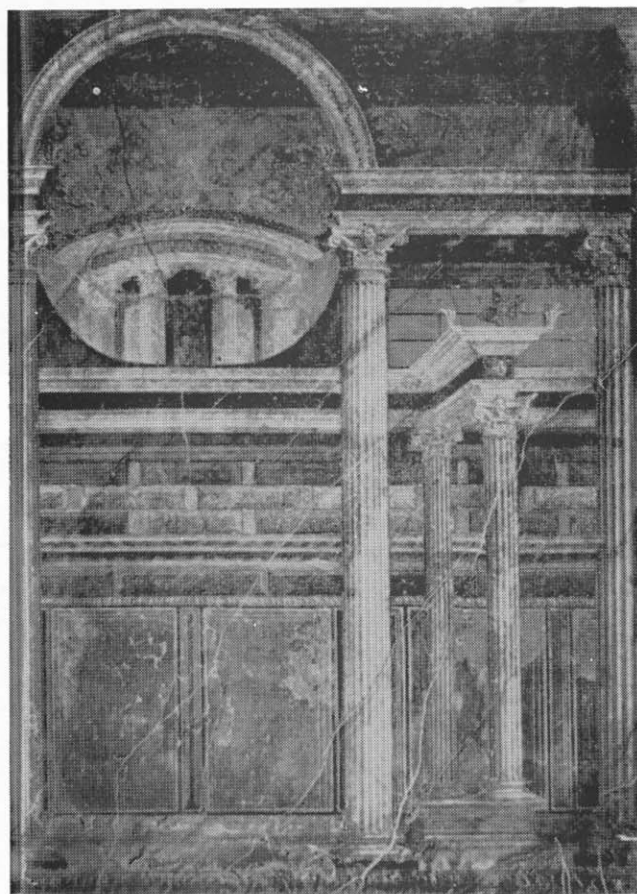
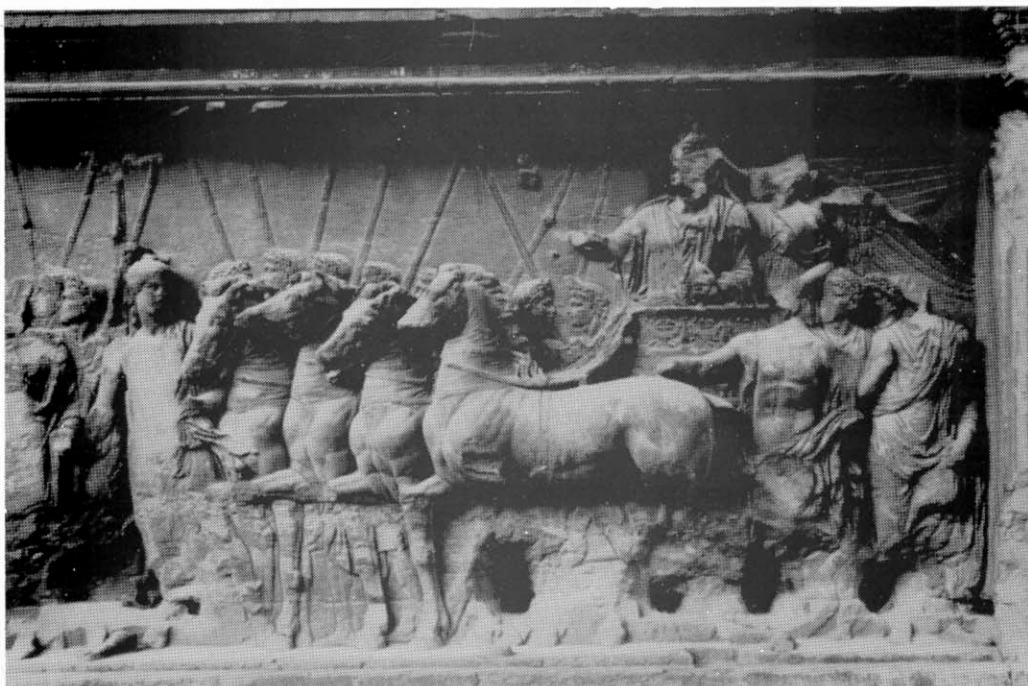


F



G

H



I

Photographs A, B, C and D are taken from *A Handbook of Greek Art*, G. Richter, Phaidon Press, 4th Edition 1995

Photographs E, F, G, H and I are taken from *Roman Art and Architecture*, M. Wheeler, Thames and Hudson, London 1964