

AN ROINN OIDEACHAIS
LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 1997
CLASSICAL STUDIES— HIGHER LEVEL
(400 marks)

THURSDAY, 26 JUNE — AFTERNOON 2.00 to 5.00

1532

- 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) Democracy at Athens, according to Thucydides, involved “committing the conduct of state affairs to the whims of the multitude.”
 In your opinion, did democracy serve Athens well or badly during the Peloponnesian War?
- (ii) (a) Give a brief account of how the Athenians defeated the Spartans at Pylos and Sphacteria.
 (b) What effect did this victory have on the course of the war?
- (iii) Thebes, acting alone or as a leading member of the Boeotian Confederacy, played an important part in the first ten years of the Peloponnesian War.
 (a) Give an account of that involvement.
 (b) Why was it important?
- (iv) (a) What circumstances led to the Oligarchic Coup of 411 B.C.?
 (b) Why did it fail?

Topic 2. Alexander the Great. **[100]**

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

- (i) “In military matters, he was the feeblest and most incompetent of men”. (Arrian, *The Campaigns of Alexander*, Book 3, Ch. 22)
 Do you agree with this assessment of Darius from your reading of the prescribed texts?
- (ii) (a) Give an account of Alexander’s visit to the Shrine of Zeus-Ammon at Siwah, based on your reading of Arrian and Plutarch.
 (b) What is Arrian’s attitude to the claim that Alexander was the son of Zeus?
- (iii) (a) “Alexander showed outstanding leadership during the nightmare march through the Gedrosian desert.” Discuss.
 (b) What caused the failure of Alexander’s plan to keep in contact with the fleet under Nearchus?
- (iv) Discuss the view that Callisthenes brought about his own downfall by his self-importance and lack of common sense.

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) (a) Give a brief account of the conspiracy of Catiline.
(b) What is your opinion of the way in which Cicero handled this crisis?
 - (ii) What impression have you formed from your reading of the relevant prescribed material of the status of women in Roman society during the Late Republic?
 - (iii) Caesar, surveying the dead lying on the battlefield of Pharsalus after his victory over Pompey, remarked of his senatorial opponents (the *Optimates*): "They made this happen; they drove me to it."
(a) Explain what he meant by these words.
(b) Do you agree with him?
 - (iv) What opinion have you formed of Pompey's character from your reading of the prescribed material?
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Topic 4. Roman Historians.

[100]

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

- (i) Write an essay on the relationship between Augustus and Tiberius, based on your reading of the prescribed texts.
 - (ii) (a) Outline the events surrounding the death of Germanicus, paying particular attention to the part played by Cn. Calpurnius Piso up to and including Germanicus' death.
(b) Is Tacitus fair to Tiberius in his treatment of this episode?
 - (iii) What are the differences that you find in the approaches of Tacitus and Suetonius to their subjects?
 - (iv) From your reading of the prescribed material, what do you think were the dominant traits in Nero's personality?
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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) "Certain of Oedipus' past actions were fate-bound; but everything he does on the stage from first to last he does as a free agent." (Dodds).
Discuss.
 - (ii) Comment on the significance of the Io scene in Aeschylus' *Prometheus Bound*.
 - (iii) Write an essay on the importance of children in Euripides' play *Medea*.
 - (iv) Aristophanes' *Frogs* was first staged when Athens' war against Sparta was at a critical juncture. What advice to his fellow-citizens about the war does Aristophanes put into the mouths of his characters and chorus?
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PAPER X



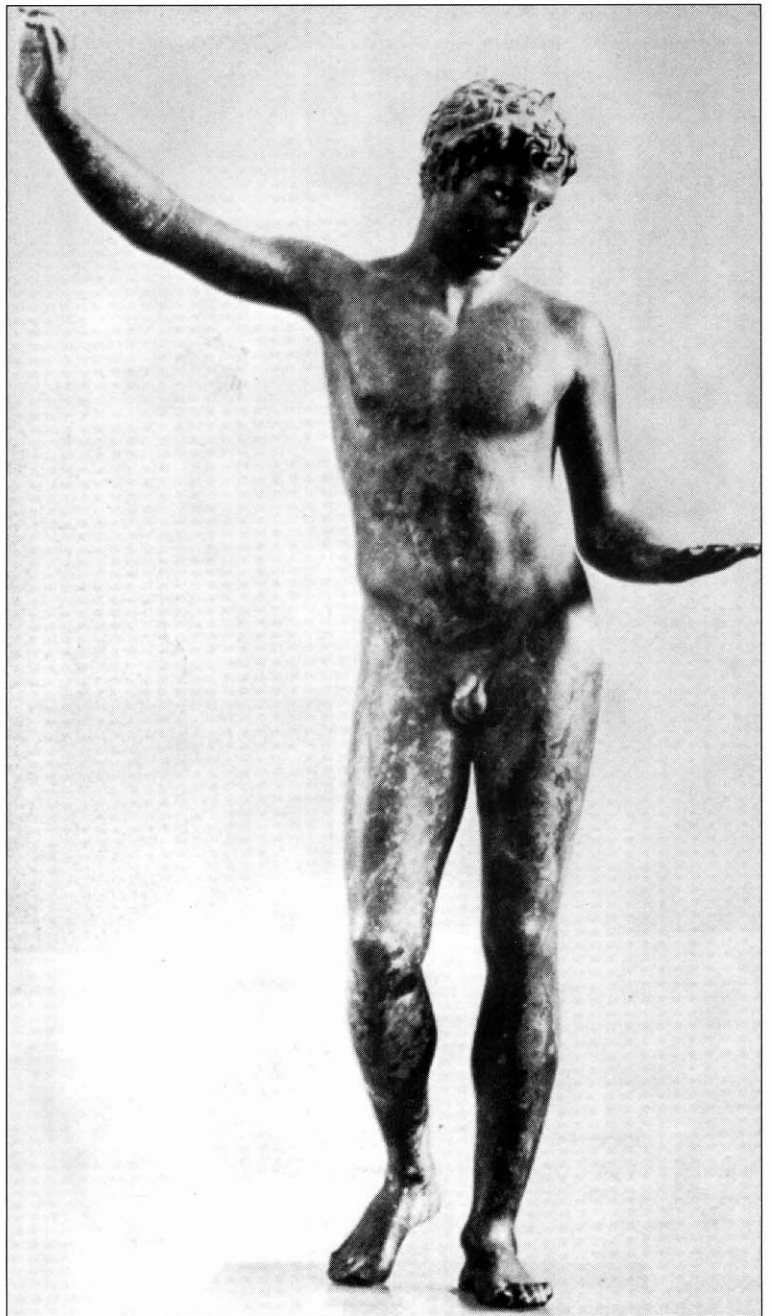
A



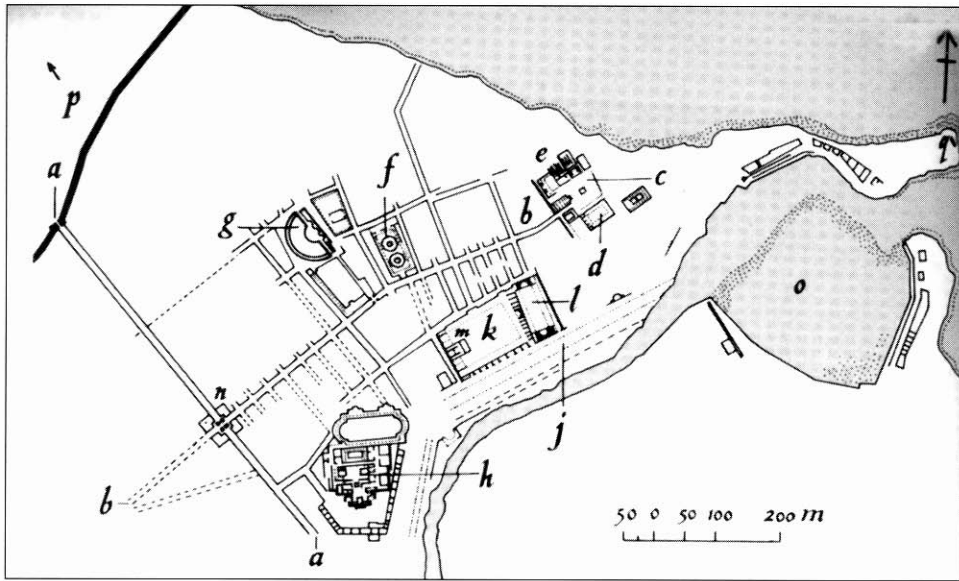
B



C



D



E



F



G



H

Baineadh Fótagraif A, B, C agus D as *A Handbook of Greek Art*, G. Richter, Phaidon Press.

Baineadh Fótagraif E, F, G agus H as *Roman Art and Architecture*, M. Wheeler, Thomas and Hudson.

Topic 6. Ancient Epic.**[100]**

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

- (i) "No single detail in the life of the heroes receives so much attention in the *Odyssey* as gift-giving." (Finley).
Comment on the practice of gift-giving and its significance in the world of Odysseus.
 - (ii) It is sometimes objected that Aeneas "lacks warmth of feeling, is exempt from ordinary human emotions." (Camps).
Discuss this claim in the light of your reading of the *Aeneid*.
 - (iii) Analyse Penelope's behaviour towards her Suitors.
 - (iv) Compare the status of women in the *Táin* with the status of women in either the *Odyssey* or *Aeneid*.
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Topic 7. Writers of the Augustan Age.**[100]**

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

- (i) What attitudes to city life have you found in your reading of the prescribed poets?
 - (ii) (a) Contrast the behaviour of the two consuls Terentius Varro and Aemilius Paulus in Livy's account of the Battle of Cannae.
(b) Explain briefly Hannibal's successful strategy at Cannae.
 - (iii) In the extract *The Underworld*, show how Virgil creates (a) an atmosphere of gloom and dread and (b) pity for the souls.
 - (iv) Augustus was patron to some of the writers on your course.
(a) What evidence of his patronage have you seen in the extracts?
(b) Do you think that patronage was a bad influence on these writers?
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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 detail from the François Vase.
 - (a) What scene is shown here?
 - (b) Who was the potter and who was the chief painter of the François Vase?
 - (c) How does this vase exemplify the interest in story-telling among vase painters of that period?
 - (d) Write a brief note on the artistic quality of the detail shown in Illustration A.
 - (ii) (a) Identify the theatre in Illustration B on Paper X.
(b) Explain Richter's remark "its form owes much to its origin."
(c) Write notes on the various parts of this theatre.
 - (iii) (a) Identify the figure in Illustration C on Paper X.
(b) Where was it originally situated?
(c) To what period of sculpture does it belong?
(d) In what ways is it typical of sculpture of this period?
 - (iv) Illustration D on Paper X shows a statue of a boy, from the Bay of Marathon.
 - (a) Write a brief note on the artistic quality of this statue.
 - (b) How does it show a change from the Classicism of the 5th century?
 - (c) Describe the method of "hollow casting" used in making bronze statues.
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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) "The next stage in the training of our young men will be physical education." (Plato, *The Republic*).
 - (a) Give a summary of Socrates' views on healthy living and physical education in his ideal state.
 - (b) Do you find his views on these topics sensible?
 - (ii) "So, under cover of this reasoning, I set out, full of apprehension and expecting, as you may easily suppose, no very happy outcome." (Plato, *The Seventh Letter*).
 - (a) What was the reasoning which persuaded Plato to set out for Syracuse for a third and final time?
 - (b) What opinion have you formed of Plato's character from your reading of his letters?
 - (iii) Would you agree with the accusation levelled against Plato that in his ideal state "the individual seems to count for very little"? (Introduction, Plato's *Republic*).
 - (iv)
 - (a) How does Socrates answer the charge that his state is an ideal and would never work in practice?
 - (b) What would you see as the main obstacles to its working as Socrates would like?
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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) "... the Roman problem was, above all, to create and adorn interiors." (Wheeler).
 - (a) What developments enabled the Romans to create spacious interiors?
 - (b) Name and describe two such interiors.
 - (ii) Study the plan in Illustration E on Paper X, which shows the town of Lepcis Magna in North Africa.
 - (a) Identify the features marked *aa*, *bb*, *f*, *g*, *n*.
 - (b) Give a brief history of the development of the town using the plan to illustrate the two main stages of development.
 - (c) Describe briefly the harbour (*o* on the plan) and explain why, as Wheeler says, "the whole scheme was still-born."
 - (iii) Examine Illustration F on Paper X (the Pericles of Cresilas, 5th century BC) and Illustration G on Paper X (bust of the Emperor Commodus, AD 180).
 - (a) What are the main ways in which the Roman's approach to his subject differs from that of the Greek?
 - (b) How has the sculptor succeeded in capturing the vain and sadistic character of Commodus?
 - (iv) Illustration H on Paper X shows a wall painting from Pompeii.
 - (a) What is the subject of the painting?
 - (b) Comment on the artist's use of colour.
 - (c) What do you think Wheeler means when he says that paintings like this "are not altogether lacking in the vital spark"?
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