

AN ROINN OIDEACHAIS AGUS EOLAÍOCHTA
LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 1999

1503

CLASSICAL STUDIES— HIGHER LEVEL
(400 marks)

THURSDAY, 24 JUNE — AFTERNOON 2.00 to 5.00

- 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) The Corcyraeans came to Athens before the outbreak of the Peloponnesian War seeking an alliance with the Athenians. The Corinthians also sent envoys to Athens to oppose this alliance.
 - (a) Outline the main arguments put forward by the Corcyraeans and by the Corinthians.
 - (b) What was the final decision of the Athenians in this matter? Do you think the Athenians were right to decide as they did?
- (ii)
 - (a) What is your assessment of the character and abilities of Cleon?
 - (b) Do you consider that Thucydides treats Cleon fairly?
- (iii) "While these preparations were going on, it was found that in one night nearly all the stone Hermae in the city of Athens had had their faces disfigured by being cut about." (Thucydides 6, 27).
 - (a) Outline the events which followed the mutilation of the Hermae up to the desertion of Alcibiades to Sparta.
 - (b) What does this whole episode tell us about the character of Alcibiades? Support your answer with reference to the prescribed material.
- (iv) In your opinion, what are the qualities which make Thucydides a great historian, and his *History of the Peloponnesian War* a work "to last for ever"?

Topic 2. Alexander the Great.

[100]

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

- (i)
 - (a) Briefly describe how Cleitus met his death at the hands of Alexander, and how Alexander behaved afterwards.
 - (b) What does this event tell us of the atmosphere among the officers of Alexander's inner circle at that time?
 - (c) Whom would you consider more to blame: Alexander or Cleitus?
- (ii) Give an account of the main units in Alexander's army (infantry and cavalry), and the uses to which Alexander put them in his campaigns.
- (iii) From your reading of Plutarch and Arrian, what influence would you say that **each** of the following people had on Alexander: his mother Olympias; his father Philip; his teacher Aristotle?
- (iv) In your opinion, how serious was Alexander in his "policy of fusion" (i.e. his policy of integrating Persians and Macedonians in his empire)?

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 an account of the part played by Crassus in the politics of the late Republic up to his death in 54 B.C.
(b) Why do you think his achievements failed to match those of Pompey and Caesar?
- (ii) (a) Outline the main themes in the poetry of Catullus.
(b) In what ways is Catullus different from the other writers of the Late Roman Republic on your course?
- (iii) What would you consider to be the main reasons for the fall of the Roman Republic? In your answer, refer to your study of Plutarch.
- (iv) "For if we each of us propose to rob or injure one another for our personal gain, then we are clearly going to demolish what is more completely natural than anything else in the world: the link that unites every human being with every other." (Cicero, *How to Make the Right Decisions*).
(a) How does Cicero develop this argument?
(b) How does he then deal with possible objections?

Topic 4. Roman Historians.

[100]

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

- (i) (a) Give a brief account of the period from the death of Julius Caesar to Augustus' defeat of Antony and Cleopatra at the Battle of Actium.
(b) Why do you think Augustus succeeded in emerging victorious from these years of struggle?
- (ii) "The Praetorian Guard and its Prefects played a role of paramount importance in the Rome of the early Empire."
Discuss this statement with reference to the prescribed material.
- (iii) (a) Outline the career of Seneca during the reign of the Emperor Nero.
(b) What does Seneca's death tell us of his character, and of the character of Nero?
- (iv) "Tacitus is fascinated by the Senate. His picture of this once mighty body is a depressing one." (Introduction, Tacitus, *The Annals of Imperial Rome*).
Discuss this statement in the light of the behaviour of the Senate during the reign of Tiberius.

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) "As the great debate proceeds – and it is conducted with the utmost fairness, thrust for thrust – we perceive that on the moral issues the points are steadily mounting up in Aeschylus' favour."
Discuss this statement with reference to Act 2 of Aristophanes' *Frogs*.
- (ii) (a) Outline Prometheus' grievances against Zeus in Aeschylus' *Prometheus Bound*.
(b) Do you think that Prometheus is justified in his grievances, or is there anything to be said in Zeus' favour? Give reasons for your answer.
- (iii) (a) Examine Medea's conduct in her three encounters with Jason in Euripides' *Medea*.
(b) Do you agree that it is the second encounter which ensures her final victory over Jason?
- (iv) Oracles and prophecies are central to Sophocles' *King Oedipus*.
Analyse the attitude to oracles and prophecies of **each** of the following: Oedipus; Jocasta; the Chorus.

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

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

- (i) Analyse the relationship between Odysseus and the goddess Athena in Homer's *Odyssey*.
- (ii) Compare the magical and superhuman elements of the *Táin* with those of Homer's *Odyssey*.
- (iii) (a) What makes *Aeneid* Book 2 (*The Fall of Troy*) so dramatic and moving?
(b) Would you agree that Aeneas' behaviour in the crisis shows confusion and uncertainty? Briefly give reasons for your answer.
- (iv) (a) In the *Odyssey*, how does Homer build his case against the Suitors and make us feel that they deserved their terrible punishment?
(b) Do you have any sympathy for the Suitors? Briefly give reasons for your answer.

Topic 7. Writers of the Augustan Age.**[100]**

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

- (i) (a) Discuss the range of interests that Ovid shows in his poetry.
(b) In what ways is Ovid's poetry different from that of **either** Virgil or Horace?
- (ii) "... it will give me satisfaction to have done my part, to the best of my ability, in contributing to the record of the greatest people in the world." (Livy's Preface).
With reference to your text, show that all Livy's writing is inspired by his patriotism.
- (iii) What evidence do you find in Horace's poetry of:
(a) his capacity for friendship;
(b) his sense of humour?
- (iv) (a) Summarize the tale of Hercules and Cacus as told by Virgil.
(b) What makes the story colourful and dramatic?
(c) How seriously do you think Virgil wants us to take this tale? Briefly give reasons for your answer.

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) Photograph A on Paper X shows the plan of the temple of Zeus Olympios in Athens.
(a) To which period of Greek architecture does it belong?
(b) State the order of architecture in which the temple was built.
(c) Give a brief description of the temple.
(d) Comment on Richter's statement that aspects of this temple "indicate the change of taste that had taken place since the time of the Parthenon."
- (ii) Photograph B on Paper X shows a scene from a volute krater.
(a) What is a volute krater?
(b) What scene is shown here, and who painted it?
(c) Briefly explain the difference between black-figure and red-figure vases.
- (iii) Study Photograph C on Paper X.
(a) To what period of Greek sculpture does this figure belong?
(b) What features of the sculpture are typical of that period?
(c) What were the main developments in the subsequent (following) period of Greek sculpture?
- (iv) Photograph D on Paper X shows the West pediment of the temple of Zeus at Olympia. Photograph E on Paper X shows a metope from the same temple.
(a) Identify the scenes depicted in each of the two photographs.
(b) Comment on Richter's remark about the pedimental sculpture in Photograph D: "The whole forms a subtly interrelated design."
(c) Comment on the artistic achievement of the sculptor of the metope in Photograph E.

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) Why does Plato disapprove so strongly of the telling of traditional stories about gods and heroes to children?
 - (ii) (a) Outline the Simile of the Cave in Plato's *Republic*.
(b) What is the point of the simile?
(c) How does Plato answer the objection that he is not being fair to the philosophers in requiring them to return to help those still in the cave?
 - (iii) "I concluded that it was difficult to take part in public life and retain one's integrity." (Plato's *Seventh Letter*).
(a) Give an account of the events that Plato experienced which led him to this conclusion.
(b) Do you think that these experiences helped shape any of the views on the state which Plato puts forward in the *Republic*? Give reasons for your answer.
 - (iv) (a) According to Plato, why should men and women be treated equally in his ideal state?
(b) Does he think that women are equal to men in every respect? Do you agree with his view?
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Topic 10. Roman Art and Architecture.

[100]

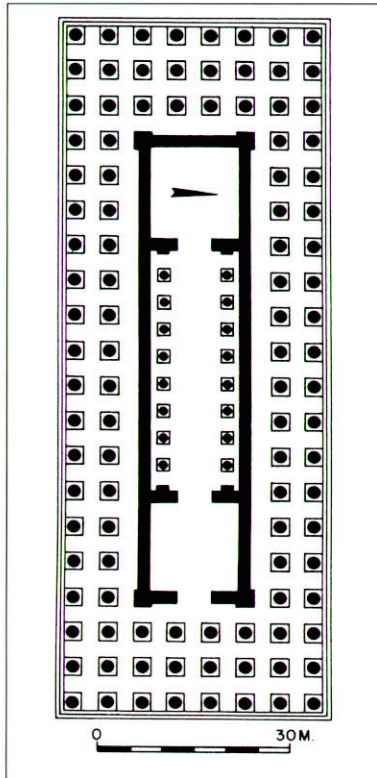
Answer **any two** of the following questions. (Each question is worth fifty marks):-

- (i) Photograph **F** on Paper **X** shows the plan of Trier (Augusta Treverorum) in Roman Gaul.
(a) Identify the features at c, e, l and n.
(b) What evidence is there that Trier was a very important and wealthy city?
(c) Give a brief description of the Aula Palatina which may still be seen in Trier today.
 - (ii) Study Photograph **G** on Paper **X** which shows the Roman theatre at Orange.
(a) Comment on the *scaenae frons* (back wall of the stage).
(b) How does this (and other Roman theatres) illustrate Wheeler's remark that "the Roman theatre ... conformed ... with the Roman trend towards enclosed interiors"?
(c) Mention **one** way in which the Roman theatre differed from the traditional early Greek theatre.
 - (iii) (a) Identify the wall-painting in Photograph **H** on Paper **X**.
(b) Comment on the use of colour in this painting.
(c) How has the artist created an illusion of depth?
(d) What are the main themes in Roman landscape paintings?
 - (iv) Photograph **I** on Paper **X** shows a relief sculpture from the Arch of Titus.
(a) What does this relief sculpture commemorate?
(b) Comment on the artist's use of high and low relief.
(c) Compare the portrayal of Titus in this relief with that of the emperor Augustus in the *Ara Pacis*. What does this comparison tell us about the growth of the personality-cult of the emperors in the years between Augustus and Titus?
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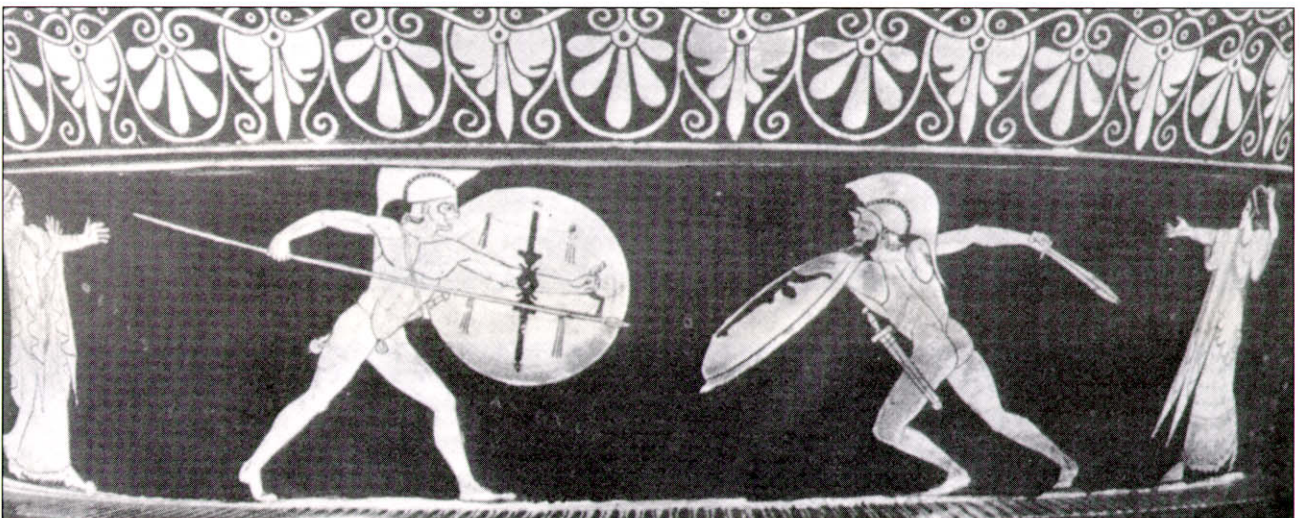
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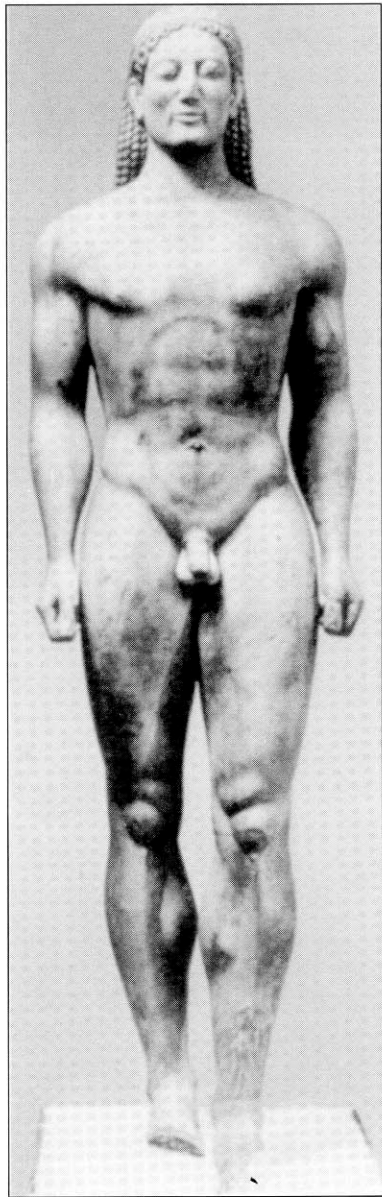
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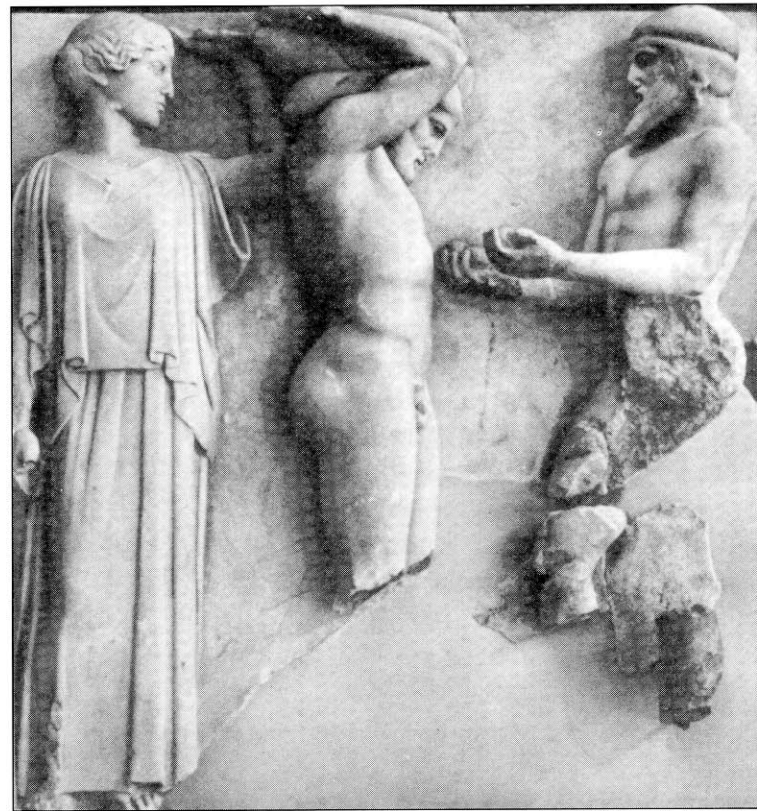
A

B

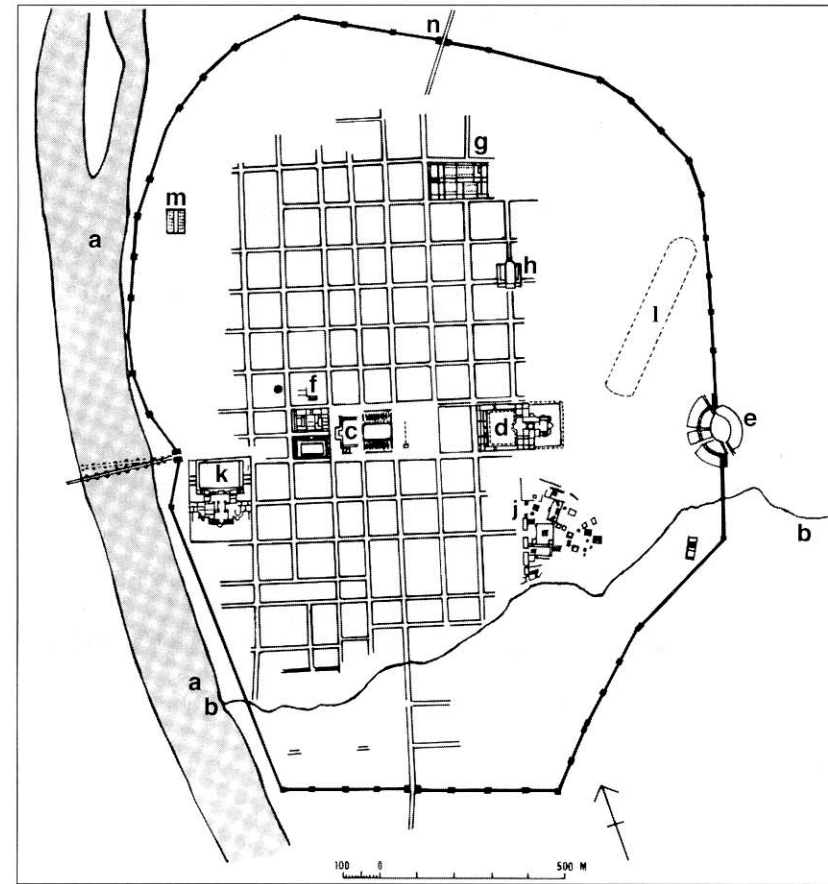




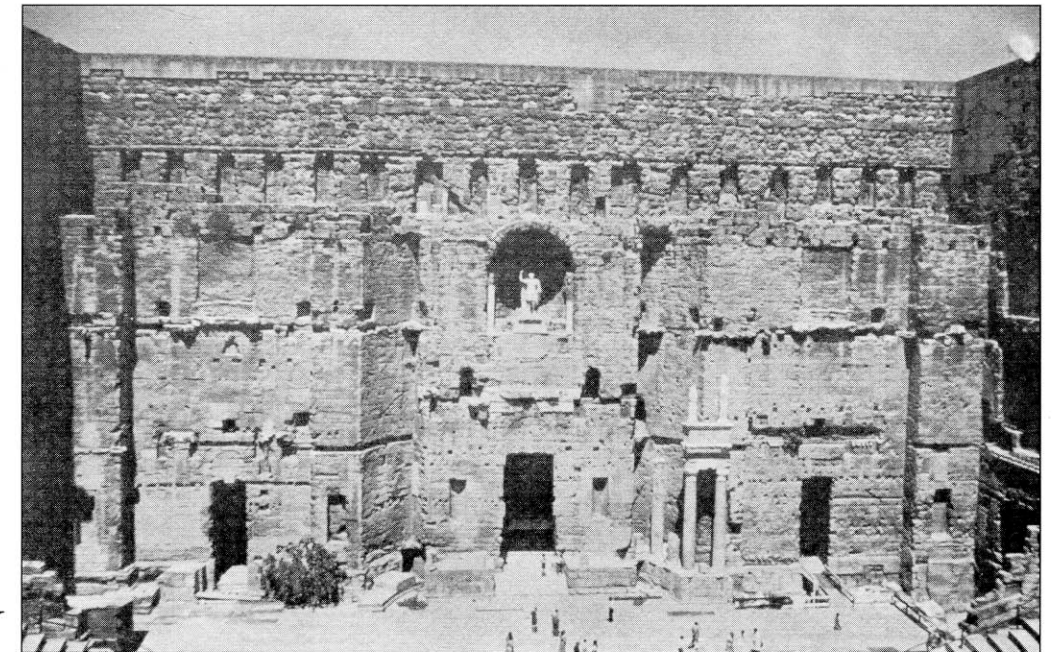
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E

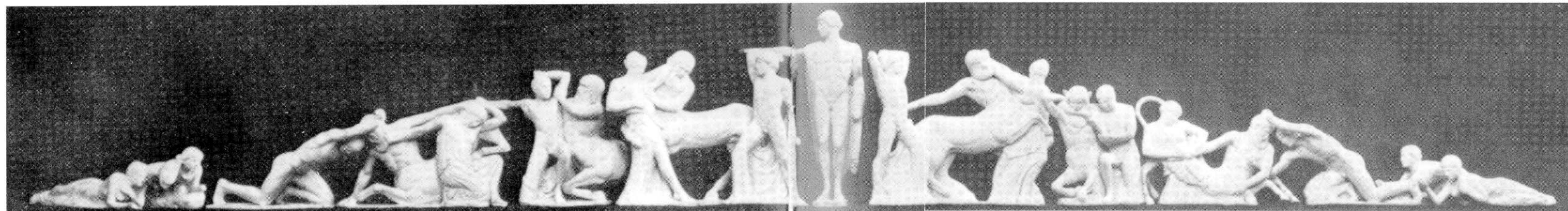


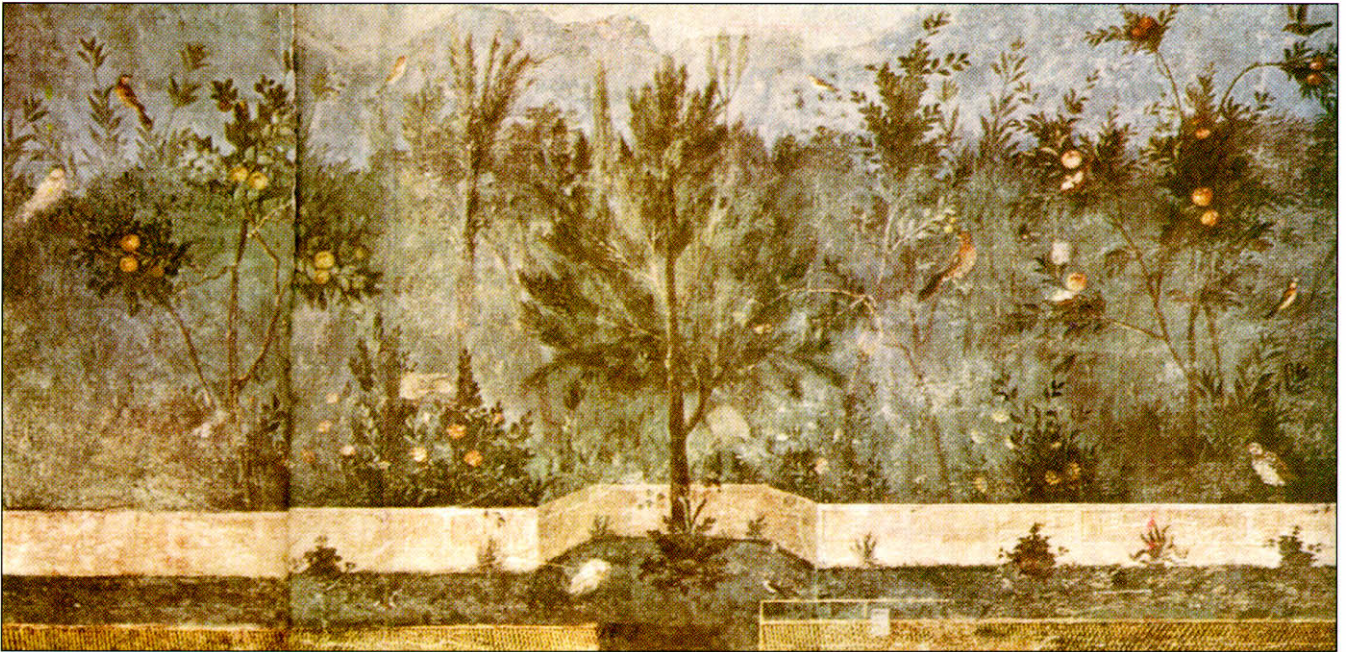
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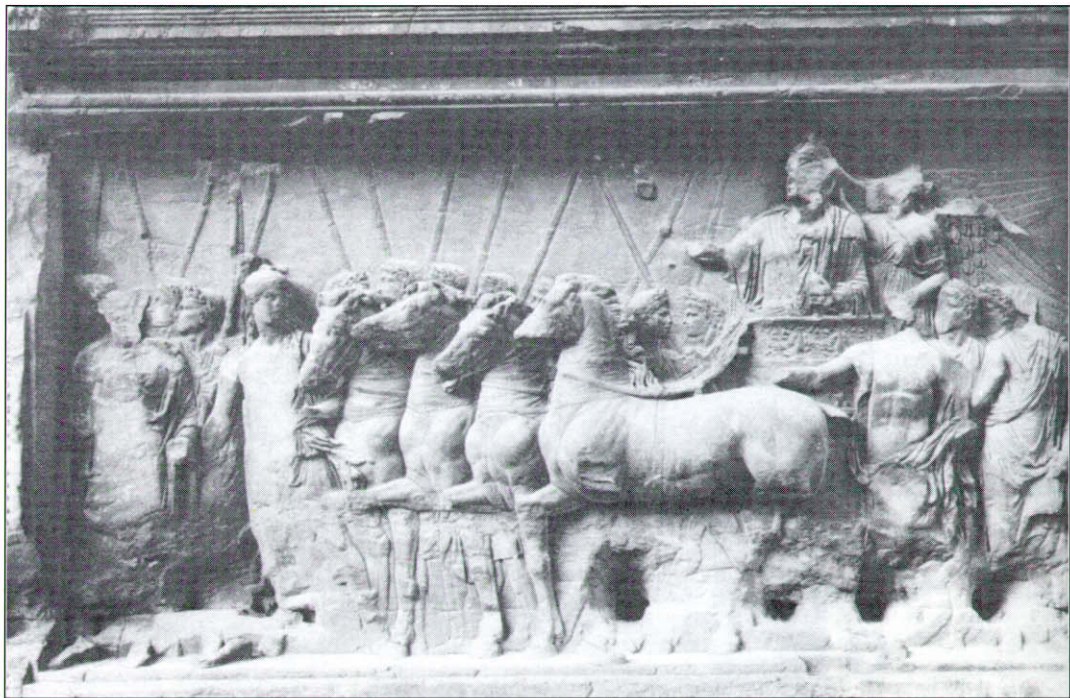
G

D





H



I

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

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