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AN ROINN OIDEACHAIS AGUS EOLAÍOCHTA

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LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2002

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**CLASSICAL STUDIES – HIGHER LEVEL**  
(400 marks)

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WEDNESDAY, 19 JUNE – AFTERNOON 2.00 to 5.00

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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 1: 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) Describe how the Spartans on the island of Sphacteria were defeated, and how they surrendered to the Athenians. (40)
- (b) Why was the capture of these Spartans of great strategic importance to the Athenians? (10)
- (ii) "His incompetence, his incredible bungling, ruined the expedition and led to the downfall of Athens." (Bury and Meiggs)
- Discuss this judgement of the leadership of Nicias during the Sicilian Expedition. (50)
- (iii) In your view, what are the qualities which make Thucydides a great historian? Support your answer by reference to the text. (50)
- (iv) (a) Give an account of the Battle of Mantinea. (35)
- (b) What were the consequences of the Spartan victory at Mantinea? (15)
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**Topic 2. Alexander the Great. [100]**

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

- (i) (a) Give an account of Alexander's capture and destruction of Thebes. (35)
- (b) Why do you think Alexander treated Thebes so harshly? (15)
- (ii) (a) How did it happen that Issus became the site of the battle between Alexander and Darius? (15)
- (b) Explain why Darius lined up his forces as he did. (15)
- (c) Briefly outline the course of the battle. (20)
- (iii) (a) Outline the part played by Hephaestion in the life of Alexander. (25)
- (b) How did Alexander react to the death of Hephaestion, and what is your opinion of his behaviour at that time? (25)
- (iv) What do you think were the factors that contributed to the fall of the Persian Empire? Support your answer by reference to the texts on your course. (50)
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**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) In 60 B.C., Caesar, Pompey and Crassus came together to form an alliance known as the First Triumvirate.
- (a) Describe the circumstances which led to the formation of the First Triumvirate. (15)
- (b) What did **each** of the three men hope to gain from the alliance? (15)
- (c) What caused the alliance eventually to break up, and to end in civil war between Caesar and Pompey? (20)

- (ii) (a) From the poems on your course, trace the course of Catullus' love affair with Lesbia. (35)
- (b) What do these poems reveal to you about the character of Catullus? (15)
- (iii) In a career which included politics, public speaking, the law, and writing on a wide variety of topics, what do you consider to have been Cicero's greatest achievements? Give reasons for your answer. (50)
- (iv) (a) What were the factors which led Brutus, Cassius and the other conspirators to murder Caesar in 44 B.C? (25)
- (b) How does Plutarch make his account of Caesar's death so memorable and dramatic? (25)

**Topic 4. Roman Historians. [100]**

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

- (i) (a) Outline the career of Tiberius before he became emperor in A.D. 14. (35)
- (b) What do you think were the effects of these earlier experiences on Tiberius' later behaviour as emperor? (15)
- (ii) (a) Give an account of the revolt against the Romans by the tribe of the Iceni, under their queen Boudicca, in Britain in A.D. 61. (40)
- (b) Why do you think this revolt failed? (10)
- (iii) "Tacitus believed that ...emperors had been corrupted by power. It was not just power but the desire for power that Tacitus found dangerous." (Mellor)
- Discuss this statement with reference to any **two** of the emperors on your course. (50)
- (iv) (a) Give an account of the life, and character, of Agrippina, mother of the emperor, Nero. (40)
- (b) Why did Nero have her killed? (10)

**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) "... the seriousness that underlies this brilliantly funny play may be one factor in its greatness." (Introduction, *Frogs*).
- Discuss this view of Aristophanes' *Frogs*. (50)
- (ii) In the play *Prometheus Bound*, compare the reaction of Prometheus to the tyranny of Zeus with the reaction of Oceanus and Hermes to the tyranny of Zeus. (50)
- (iii) "Sophocles' tragedy presents us with a terrible affirmation of man's subordinate position in the universe, and at the same time with a heroic vision of man's victory in defeat." (Knox)
- Discuss this statement about Sophocles' play, *Oedipus the King*.
- (iv) In Euripides' play, *Medea*, what aspects of Jason's character contribute to his miserable end? Give reasons for your opinion. (50)

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

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

- (i) From Odysseus' return to Ithaca in Book 13 of the *Odyssey* to the outbreak of the fighting in the hall in Book 22, Homer slows the pace of the story considerably; yet he still contrives to hold our interest and gradually to build up the tension.

Comment on this assessment of Books 13 to 22 of the *Odyssey*. (50)

- (ii) Discuss the view that Queen Medb in the *Táin* is a more powerful and dominant figure than any woman in **either** the *Odyssey* or the *Aeneid*. (50)

- (iii) "The *Aeneid* is in a real sense the poet's tribute to his country." (Camps)

Discuss this statement, supporting your views by reference to Virgil's *Aeneid*. (50)

- (iv) (a) Discuss the importance in the *Odyssey* of Agamemnon, his death, and the revenge gained by his son Orestes. (40)

(b) Why do you think Homer makes so much use of this story? (10)

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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) (a) What attitudes to death, and to war, do you find in the poetry of Propertius on your course? (40)

(b) What is your opinion of Propertius' attitude to death? (10)

- (ii) (a) Discuss the range of themes treated by Virgil in the extracts on your course. (40)

(b) Which is your favourite extract from Virgil? Give reasons for your choice. (10)

- (iii) (a) What do you find attractive about Horace's poems *The Bore* and *Journey to Brundisium*? (40)

(b) What do these poems reveal about Horace himself? (10)

- (iv) (a) In Livy's account of the Battle of Cannae, what picture emerges of Hannibal as a leader, and as a man? (40)

(b) Do you get the impression that Livy admires Hannibal? Support your opinion with reference to the text. (10)

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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) **Photograph A** on **Paper X** shows the plan of the Temple of Apollo at Corinth. **Photograph B** shows the plan of Temple 'C' at Selinus.

(a) To which period of Greek architecture do these two temples belong? (10)

(b) In which order of Greek architecture were they built? (10)

(c) Using the correct architectural terms, explain the differences between the two temples. (30)

(ii) Study **Photograph C** on **Paper X**.

- (a) What shape of vase is this, and for what purpose would such vases be used? (15)
- (b) What figure is shown on the vase? (10)
- (c) Give a description of the different parts of the vase. (25)

(iii) **Photograph D** on **Paper X** shows the statue of a dying Gaul.

- (a) In what ways is this statue typical of Hellenistic sculpture? (30)
- (b) Explain how Hellenistic sculpture differs from sculpture of the Classical period. (20)

(iv) **Photograph E** on **Paper X** shows a section of the Parthenon frieze.

- (a) Where in the Parthenon was the frieze to be found? (5)
- (b) What is the theme of the sculptures on the Parthenon frieze? (10)
- (c) How has the sculptor achieved variety in the section shown here? (20)
- (d) What is distinctly Classical about the sculpture shown here? (15)

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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) “ ‘.... there are two things that can ruin and corrupt the rest of our workers’  
‘What are they?’  
‘Wealth and poverty,’ I said.” (Plato, *The Republic*)
  - (a) According to Socrates, how do wealth and poverty ruin the workers? (30)
  - (b) How does Socrates go on to deal with the objection that, if the state has no wealth, it will not be able to fight a war against a large and wealthy enemy? (20)
- (ii) (a) Based on your reading of the prescribed texts, give your assessment of the character of Dion. (35)
  - (b) To what extent do you think he contributed to his own downfall? (15)
- (iii) (a) From your reading of the simile of the ship’s Captain, and the simile of the large and powerful animal, what are Plato’s objections to democracy? (40)
  - (b) Do you consider his objections valid? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- (iv) Discuss the view that in the organisation of his ideal state, Plato makes little allowance for human nature. (50)

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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) “But the most extravagant of all Roman country-palaces was Hadrian’s great villa which stretched for a mile across the slopes below Tivoli, 15 miles from Rome.” (Wheeler)

**Photograph F** on **Paper X** shows the plan of part of Hadrian’s villa.

- (a) Write a description of the main features of this plan. (25)

**Photograph G on Paper X** shows a reconstructed model of the whole villa.

- (b) Comment on any **one other** part of the villa. (15)
- (c) What does this villa tell us about the emperor Hadrian? (10)
- (ii) Study the plan of Ostia shown in **Photograph H on Paper X**.
- (a) Identify the features marked aa, d, e, f. (16)
- (b) Write a brief description of the forum in Ostia. (20)
- (c) From Wheeler's account, what evidence is there that Ostia was once the port of Rome? (14)
- (iii) **Photographs I and J** are of wall-paintings from the House of Julia Felix at Pompeii.
- (a) Describe these two paintings. (15)
- (b) Which of these two paintings do you prefer? Give detailed reasons for your choice. (20)
- (c) Comment briefly on any **one other** style of wall-painting favoured by the Romans. (15)
- (iv) (a) Identify the structure shown in **Photograph K on Paper X**, and say why it was built. (10)
- (b) "The screens are carved externally with life-size figures." (Wheeler)  
What figures do the screens represent? (10)
- (c) "The reliefs have been described as 'frigid'." (Wheeler)  
What reasons does Wheeler give for disagreeing with the criticism that the reliefs are 'frigid'? (30)
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