



# Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

---

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2013

---

## CLASSICAL STUDIES – HIGHER LEVEL (300 marks)

---

FRIDAY, 14 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.
- Candidates are required to answer **SIX QUESTIONS** drawn from the **FOUR** chosen topics as follows:  
Candidates must answer **two** questions from two of their chosen topics and **one** question from **each** of the remaining two of their chosen topics.
- There are fifty marks for each question. The total marks for the paper are 300.
- Photographs required for answering questions on Topics 8 and 10 are provided on an accompanying paper marked **X**.

<b>Group I: Topics 1 to 4</b>
-------------------------------

**Topic 1. Athens at War.**

- (i) (a) Describe how it came about that the Athenians occupied and fortified Pylos in 425 BC. (15)
- (b) Give an account of how the Athenians defeated the Spartans on the island of Sphacteria. (25)
- (c) What were the effects of this victory on the course of the Peloponnesian War? (10)
- (ii) The Plataeans were loyal allies of Athens. Outline what happened to the Plataeans during the course of the Peloponnesian War. (50)
- (iii) In 416 BC an Athenian army landed on the island of Melos. Before they attacked, the Athenians tried to negotiate the Melians' surrender.
- (a) What arguments did the Athenians use to convince the Melians to give in? (20)
- (b) What were the Melians' counter arguments? (20)
- (c) Do you think that the Athenians' arguments were valid? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- (iv) In 415 BC Nicias and Alcibiades debated before the Athenian Assembly about sending an armed expedition to Sicily.
- (a) From your reading of the debate, what opinion did you form of the characters of Nicias and Alcibiades? Give reasons for your answer. (40)
- (b) Outline the arguments put forward by Nicias at the debate, against an expedition to Sicily. (10)
- 

**Topic 2. Alexander the Great.**

- (i) (a) In 335 BC Alexander besieged the city of Thebes. Give an account of the siege. (20)
- (b) How did Alexander treat the inhabitants of Thebes after he captured the city? (15)
- (c) What does this episode tell us about the character of Alexander? (15)
- (ii) In 333 BC at the river Issus, the armies of Alexander and Darius met for the first time.
- (a) Describe the course of the battle. (35)
- (b) What do you learn about Alexander from his conduct during and after the battle? (15)
- (iii) (a) Explain why the Macedonians mutinied at Opis in 324 BC. (10)
- (b) Give an account of the speech made by Alexander to his troops at Opis. (25)
- (c) What does this episode tell you about Alexander's relationship with his Macedonians? (15)
- (iv) (a) In your opinion, what were Alexander's main faults? (20)
- (b) Do you agree that both Plutarch and Arrian were too lenient in their treatment of Alexander's faults? Support your answer by reference to **both** texts on your course. (30)
-

**Topic 3. Life and Thought in the Late Roman Republic.**

- (i) (a) In your opinion, why did civil war break out in Rome in 49 BC? Support your answer with reference to Plutarch's *Lives*. (25)
- (b) Analyse the reasons why Caesar won the Civil War. (25)
- (ii) From your reading of his poems, what did you learn of Catullus' attitudes to love, friendship and family? (50)
- (iii) (a) Describe the part played by Cato in the political life of the late Roman Republic. (35)
- (b) Do you find Cato an admirable person? Give reasons for your answer. (15)
- (iv) In the Cicero extract *Government*, Scipio discusses monarchy, oligarchy and democracy.
- (a) Outline Scipio's criticism of **each** of these forms of government. (35)
- (b) Which form of government does Scipio prefer and what are the reasons for his preference? (15)
- 

**Topic 4. Roman Historians.**

- (i) (a) In your opinion, why did Augustus regard the provision of games and public entertainments as important? (15)
- (b) Describe the games and entertainments provided by Augustus for the people of Rome. (35)
- (ii) "The first news of his death caused so much joy in Rome that people ran around yelling, 'to the Tiber with Tiberius'." (Suetonius, *The Twelve Caesars*)
- From your reading of the prescribed texts, do you think that the Romans were justified in their response to his death? Give reasons for your answer. (50)
- (iii) (a) Describe the circumstances in which Claudius became Emperor of Rome. (15)
- (b) Do you think that Claudius' rule was good for Rome and the Empire? Support your answer by reference to the prescribed texts. (35)
- (iv) In 64 AD much of Rome was destroyed by fire.
- (a) Give an account of the Great Fire of Rome. (30)
- (b) What is your opinion of Nero's behaviour throughout this episode? (20)
-

**GROUP II: Topics 5 to 7**

**Topic 5. Greek Drama.**

- (i) Though *Frogs* is funny, it is also a serious play.  
Discuss this view of Aristophanes' play *Frogs*, supporting your answer with reference to the text. (50)
- (ii) Discuss the role of the Chorus in Aeschylus's play *Prometheus Bound*. (50)
- (iii) The role of women in society is central to Euripides' play *Medea*.  
Discuss this statement with reference to the play. (50)
- (iv) (a) What are the circumstances which lead Oedipus to send for Tiresias in Sophocles' play *Oedipus The King*? (10)  
(b) Describe the encounter between Tiresias and Oedipus in Sophocles' play *Oedipus The King*. (25)  
(c) What does the encounter reveal about Oedipus's character? (15)
- 

**Topic 6. Ancient Epic.**

- (i) Queen Medb in the *Táin*, is more dominant and powerful than Penelope in *The Odyssey*.  
Discuss this view, supporting your answer by reference to both epics. (50)
- (ii) Aeneas is a hero whom we find easy to admire but hard to like.  
Discuss this statement with reference to the *Aeneid*. (50)
- (iii) Discuss the view that the descriptions of violence and death in Virgil's *Aeneid* have an element of tenderness that is absent in Homer's *Odyssey*. (50)
- (iv) From your study of the *Odyssey* do you agree that Odysseus was a great leader of men?  
Support your answer with reference to the text. (50)
-

**Topic 7. Writers of the Augustan Age.**

- (i) (a) In Virgil's *Underworld*, how does the poet create an atmosphere of horror and bleakness? (35)
- (b) Do you find Virgil's description of the souls at the River Styx moving? Give reasons for your answer. (15)
- (ii) One of the qualities we most admire in Horace's *Satires* is his sense of humour. Discuss this statement supporting your answer with reference to *The Journey to Brundisium*, *The Bore* and *The Town Mouse and The Country Mouse*. (50)
- (iii) Compare and contrast the attitudes of Ovid and Propertius to love. (50)
- (iv) (a) From Livy's account, describe how Horatius and his two companions saved Rome in *Horatius on the Bridge*. (30)
- (b) In your opinion, what was Livy's purpose in telling this story? (10)
- (c) Using *Horatius on the Bridge*, comment on Livy's qualities as a storyteller. (10)

---

**GROUP III: Topics 8 to 10**

**Topic 8. Art and Architecture in Greek Society.**

- (i) (a) What type of vase is shown in **Photograph A** on **Paper X**? (5)
- (b) What were vases such as this used for? (10)
- (c) From which centre of pottery does this vase come? (10)
- (d) What features of this vase are typical of vases from this centre? (25)
- (ii) **Photograph B** on **Paper X** shows a reconstruction of a famous building in Athens.
- (a) Name the building shown and say where it is located in Athens. (10)
- (b) Describe the design and decoration of the building using the correct architectural terms. (30)
- (c) What materials were used in the building and decoration of this structure? (10)
- (iii) (a) Describe what is happening in the sculpture shown in **Photograph C** on **Paper X**. (10)
- (b) Name the period of Greek sculpture to which this relief belongs. (5)
- (c) Comment on the composition and sense of perspective in this relief. (20)
- (d) Comment on the treatment of drapery in this relief. (15)
- (iv) (a) Identify the statue shown in **Photograph D** on **Paper X**. (5)
- (b) What incident in the Trojan War is depicted here? (10)
- (c) To which period of Greek sculpture does this statue belong? (5)
- (d) What features of this statue are typical of this period of Greek sculpture? (30)

**Topic 9. The Philosopher in Society: A Study of Socrates and Plato.**

- (i) (a) Give a brief account of the similes of the Sea Captain and of the Large and Powerful Animal. (30)
- (b) What do these two similes tell us about Plato's views on democracy? (20)
- (ii) In the Introduction to Plato's *Republic*, Socrates asks Cephalus if old age is difficult or not.
- (a) Outline the reply of Cephalus to Socrates' question. (20)
- (b) According to Cephalus, what is the advantage of being rich as one approaches death? (15)
- (c) What is your opinion of Cephalus' views on the advantage of being rich as one approaches death? (15)
- (iii) (a) Outline the reasons Plato gives in his *Seventh Letter* for going to Syracuse for the first time. (30)
- (b) Summarise the advice that Plato gives in this letter to the followers of Dion. (20)
- (iv) "Then we are left with the varieties of song and music to discuss." (Plato, *The Republic*)
- (a) Outline Plato's views on the role of music in his ideal education. (40)
- (b) Do you agree with Plato's rejection of certain types of music? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- 

**Topic 10. Roman Art and Architecture.**

- (i) **Photograph E** on **Paper X** shows the plan of the town of Ostia.
- (a) Identify the features marked at aa, d, e, f and g. (15)
- (b) From Wheeler's account, what evidence is there that Ostia was the port of Rome? (15)
- (c) Describe the types of housing to be found in Ostia. (10)
- (d) Give a description of the forum at Ostia. (10)
- (ii) **Photograph F** on **Paper X** shows the plan of the Stabian Baths at Pompeii. **Photograph G** on **Paper X** shows the plan of Hadrian's Baths at Leptis Magna.
- (a) Using the two plans compare the Stabian Baths with Hadrian's Baths. (30)
- (b) Describe the typical heating system used in a Roman baths. (10)
- (c) Comment on the function of the baths in Roman social life. (10)
- (iii) **Photograph H** on **Paper X** shows a bust of Pericles the Athenian leader. **Photograph I** on **Paper X** shows a bust of Philip the Arabian, Emperor of Rome.
- (a) Comment on the differences in style between these two sculptures. (20)
- (b) With reference to the portrait sculptures on your course, discuss what Wheeler describes as, "the realistic interest of the Romans in the personality". (30)
- (iv) **Photograph J** on **Paper X** shows a painting from the House of the Dioscuri at Pompeii.
- (a) Describe what is happening in this painting. (15)
- (b) According to Wheeler, what is interesting about the head of Achilles in this painting? (10)
- (c) How has the painter conveyed the action and drama of the scene? (25)
-

Blank Page

Blank Page