

CLASSICAL TRIPOS Part II
Group C History

Monday 5 June 2000 1.30 to 4.30

Paper C 1

HELLENISTIC EGYPT: THE GREEK EXPERIENCE

Answer three questions.

It is important to write good English.

Irrelevance will be penalised.

- 1** **Either** (a) 'The best documented society of its time.' Discuss this view of Hellenistic Egypt.
Or (b) 'The medium of communication determines the message received.' Discuss with reference to Hellenistic Egypt.
- 2** How crucial was Alexander's legacy to Hellenistic Egypt?
- 3** What key elements were involved in the presentation of Ptolemaic monarchy, and how may these have functioned?
- 4** How relevant to the Ptolemaic period is the later description of Alexandria as 'ad Aegyptum'?
- 5** **Either** (a) How innovative were the early Ptolemies in their development of Egypt?
Or (b) 'No economic understanding, no grand design.' Discuss this characterisation of the Ptolemaic rulers' attitude to their kingdom.
- 6** 'The three 'r's: reading, (w)riting and (a)rithmetic.' What more was there to education in Ptolemaic Egypt?
- 7** Who were 'Hellenes' in Ptolemaic Egypt and what was involved in such a designation?
- 8** Discuss the role of **either** Macedonians **or** Jews in Hellenistic Egypt.
- 9** 'Greek woman, Egyptian woman.' Assess the various roles and experiences of women in Hellenistic Egypt.
- 10** 'The unity of the two lands.' How far did the traditional unity of Egypt prevail in the Ptolemaic period?

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11 **Either** (a) Why was the god Dionysus so important in Hellenistic Egypt?
Or (b) How important was religion in defining ethnicity in Hellenistic Egypt?

12 How helpful is a 'Church/State dichotomy' for an understanding of Hellenistic Egypt in the second century B.C.?

13 'dicitur ... regis Alexandri testamento regnum illud [sc. Aegyptus] populi Romani esse factum.' (CICERO, *De lege agraria* 1.1) Why was Rome slow to take up her inheritance?