

CLASSICAL TRIPOS Part II
Group C History

Monday 4 June 2001 9 to 12

Paper C1

HELLENISTIC EGYPT: THE GREEK EXPERIENCE

Answer three questions.

It is important to write good English.

Irrelevance will be penalised.

**You may not start to read the questions
printed on the subsequent pages of this
question paper until instructed that you
may do so by the Invigilator**

- 1 **Either** (a) What is the distinctive value of papyrological evidence?
Or (b) What can coins tell us of importance for Ptolemaic history?
- 2 Would you choose 332 or 323 B.C. as the more important date for the history of Ptolemaic Egypt, and why?
- 3 'For the rest of the Hellenistic world Egypt was synonymous with Alexandria.' Discuss.
- 4 How innovative in any **one or more** spheres were the Macedonian rulers of Hellenistic Egypt?
- 5 **Either** (a) How far did the Ptolemies manage their economy?
Or (b) How important were counting the people and measuring the land for the success of Ptolemaic control?
- 6 How and with what success did the Ptolemies present themselves to those both inside and outside Egypt?
- 7 **Either** (a) 'The policy of the Ptolemies was chiefly a personal and dynastic policy.' (ROSTOVITZ) Was ethnicity ever involved?
Or (b) How Greek were the Greeks of Hellenistic Egypt?
- 8 What can be learned from **either** the Canopus decree (*OGIS 56*) **or** the Rosetta stone (*OGIS 90*) of the strengths and weaknesses of the Ptolemaic monarchy?
- 9 Assess the importance of temples in Hellenistic Egypt.
- 10 'Haronnophris and Chaonnophris: the last Egyptian pharaohs.' How far were the troubles of Egypt in the second century B.C. nationalistic in character?
- 11 How do you account for the popularity of Isis and Sarapis in Egypt and the wider Hellenistic world?
- 12 **Either** (a) 'The historical Kleopatra (VII) is ultimately unknowable.' Is this really the case?
Or (b) What in terms of historical understanding may be lost or gained in the mounting of an exhibition **and/or** the making of a TV documentary on any aspect of Ptolemaic Egypt?
- 13 Why was it not until Octavian that Egypt became a Roman province?