

CLASSICAL TRIPOS Part II
Group C History

Thursday 29 May 2003 9 to 12

Paper C1

SOCIETIES AND ECONOMIES OF THE ANCIENT GREEK WORLD

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 How valuable are Aristotle's *Ethics* and *Politics* for our understanding of the social organisation of Greek cities?
- 2 'The economic and social position of those at the top of the heap changed radically between c. 650 and c. 350, but for those at the bottom of the heap life remained much the same.' Discuss.
- 3 What are the advantages and what are the problems with writing social history on the basis of surviving laws?
- 4 'What we make of the ancient Greek evidence for agricultural practices depends entirely on what modern comparative data we choose to privilege.' Discuss.
- 5 In what ways, to what extent, and for what reasons were craftsmen less esteemed than those who worked the land?
- 6 For whom were wars profitable?
- 7 What, apart from political rights, did citizenship entail in a Greek city?
- 8 To what extent is the distinction between the archaic and the classical Greek economies a matter of the replacement of a system dominated by gift exchange with a system dominated by market exchange?
- 9 Is it purely a matter of chance that so much of the surviving literary, epigraphic, and archaeological evidence for trade relates to trade in wine?
- 10 'It is men that make the polis, not walls.' Did it matter where the citizens of a Greek polis lived?
- 11 'In my opinion, the Lacedaimonian lawgiver was right in ordaining the avoidance of pleasure.' (PLATO *Laws* 636e) What pleasures did Greek cities ordain that their citizens should avoid, and why?
- 12 To what extent and in what ways did Greek cities rely on the generosity of individual citizens?
- 13 'The only rôles restricted to women in the Greek city were the rôles assigned to them by nature.' Discuss.
- 14 What does the existence and nature of dowry payments tell us about women's status within the Greek city?
- 15 How different was life in Gortyn from life in Athens? To what extent does an answer to this question depend on whether the life involved was that of a man or a woman, of a free or of an unfree person?
- 16 What can we learn about the lives of real slaves from the way slaves are portrayed in ancient Greek works of fiction?