



Level 3 Classical Studies, 2006

90513 Explain in essay format an aspect of the classical world

Credits: Six

9.30 am Tuesday 21 November 2006

ANSWER BOOKLET

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

There are five topics:

- Topic One: Alexander the Great
- Topic Two: Augustus
- Topic Three: Socrates
- Topic Four: Greek Science
- Topic Five: Roman Religion

Choose ONE of the five topics. Write the number of the topic you have chosen in the box below.

Each topic has three questions. For the topic that you have chosen, choose ONE of the three questions, and write your answer in this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

For Assessor's use only		Achievement Criteria			
Achievement		Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence		
Explain, with supporting evidence, an aspect of the classical world.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Analyse, with supporting evidence, an aspect of the classical world.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Analyse in detail, with supporting evidence, an aspect of the classical world.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write clearly and relevantly in essay format.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Write a well-structured response in essay format.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Write a logically developed and sustained response in essay format.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall Level of Performance (all criteria within a column are met)					<input type="checkbox"/>

You are advised to spend 50 minutes writing your essay in this booklet.

Tick the box next to the topic you have chosen.

- Topic One: Alexander the Great
 Topic Two: Augustus
 Topic Three: Socrates
 Topic Four: Greek Science
 Topic Five: Roman Religion

Tick the box of the question you have chosen. Choose ONE question only.

- (a) (b) (c)

Plan your essay in the space below. This plan will not be marked.

Signs - Divination - Omina Impetrativa (sought)
 Omina Oblativa (unsought)

Augury - birds

Lightning/thunder - Jupiter

Dreams -

- ① Haruspicy - unofficial priesthood
 Astrology -

- ② Vestal virgins - official

- ③ The Flamens.

P. 3 Notes

The essay has an introduction.

The first paragraph outlines the scope of the question set; the second provides additional background information and an overview of the aspects of divination to be discussed.

Your answer must be in essay format. It must have:

- an introduction
- well-organised paragraphs
- a conclusion.

Begin your essay here.

Religion was a very important part of life for Roman people. They believed that they could communicate with Gods and Goddess and great care was taken to ensure that the gods were kept happy. They also believed however, that if they worshipped and sacrificed in the correct manner, that the Gods owed it to them to fulfil their requests.

The Romans believed that the Gods sent them signs. They could be signs people had sought; *Omina Impetrativa* or signs sent by gods unsought; *Omina Oblativa*. An example of an unsought sign sent by the gods is in The Aeneid book II when Aeneas' son Ascanius' ~~head~~ hair catches on fire. The art of reading these signs is called Divination and there are many forms it can take. These include Augury, Dreams, Astrology, Haruspicy and Lightning and Thunder.

Augury is a form of divination where the birds are analysed and interpreted because they show the will of the gods. In Rome, Augury was a very important form of divination as

P. 4 Notes

Relevant evidence is provided in support of general points.

The material is sometimes accurate and well-informed (e.g. the routines of the augur), although on occasions lacks specificity (e.g. the anecdote about the drowned sacred chickens).

it was the method in which Romulus and Remus founded Rome. Many important state decisions were made through the art of augury. The process involved going to a certain site on the ~~Capo~~ Capitoline hill in Rome, here the Augur (person who reads the signs) would be blindfolded, and the magistrate would close half of the sky. The magistrate would then describe the birds he sees (including the direction of flight, number of birds, and the pitch, tone and intonation of their song) to the Augur, who would then interpret the gods' message.

Birds were also important in other methods of divination. In military or naval campaigns the crew would take with them a birds in a cage. They would feed the birds cake and if they ate it hungrily then the gods approved. A famous story of this method of divination involves a military officer who wanted to start a battle. When he feed the birds (known as sacred fowls) they did not eat, so he threw them overboard and they drowned. He soon after began the battle and promptly lost.

Lightning and thunder were also considered to be signs from the gods (in particular, from Jupiter). If a site was hit by lightning then it was considered sacred, also all ~~state~~ state decisions/work had to be put off for the day. This type of divination was often manipulated

P. 5 Notes

A logical progression of ideas is evident for much of the essay, and the discussion is supported by reference to specific historical evidence. Latin terms are generally well used, although citation of literary sources is quite sparse.

as seen when a man named Bibulus wanted to stop Julius Caesar from making ~~many~~ state decisions. He stayed at home for a year looking for lightning. Thunder heard on the left is said to be good luck. An example of this is in The Aeneid, book II when Anchises hears thunder and sees a shooting star.

Dreams were another form of divination. They were considered to not only represent the will of the gods but to also foretell the future. A famous incident of ~~an~~ a future foretold by a dream is the story of ^{a dream} Julius Caesar, ~~had~~ before he began his military career. He ~~dreamed~~ ~~dreamt~~ dreamed that he had raped his mother. At first he was upset but then the dream was interpreted to mean that the word 'conquer' the earth, the 'mother' of all. * Bottom of page pto.

Haruspicy was the art of reading the entrails of sacrificial animals. When animals were sacrificed they would be cut open and the internal organ would be examined (especially the liver). A Haruspex (the priest who read the signs) ^{this was an unoffical priesthood.} would have the bronze liver of an animal that was divided into 16 sections which corresponded with 16 sections of the sky and also with specific deities. This meant that if a certain part of the liver

P. 6 Notes

Towards the end of the essay, the candidate strays away from the question set, including some irrelevant material on the Vestal Virgins and flamines. This loss of focus weakens the coherency of the argument, but does not contradict information presented elsewhere.

was damaged, then they could identify which deity was displeased. In AD 40 the emperor Caligula made a sacrifice of an animal to the gods. When the Haruspex inspected the liver he found a piece missing. This was a very bad sign. Not long after the incident, Caligula was ~~assassinated~~ assassinated.

Astrology was the final way that men communicated with the gods. It was believed that ~~the~~ at the time of a person's birth, the way the planets were aligned with the earth, the time of day/year and the person's zodiac sign all signified the will of the gods. People believed that the earth was at the centre of the universe and around the earth, heavenly bodies moved and ~~was~~ orbited. Augustus Caesar believed in astrology and his son and heir, Titus, ~~was~~ loved it. ~~Tacitus~~ Tacitus said that Titus believed in astrology too much and was neglecting his responsibilities to the traditional Roman Gods.

The Vestal ~~was~~ Virgins (the only full time priesthood) were responsible for the worship of the goddess Vesta. The Virgins were in the priesthood for 30 years. 10 years learning, 10 years working, 10 years teaching. Their main responsibility was to keep the fire of Vesta burning. If they let it go out unintentionally they would be whipped.

P. 7 Notes

The candidate proves a
relevant, if abrupt, conclusion.

The fire was put out once a year in a special ceremony and then relit. These priestesses also believed that they communicated with Vesta.

The final priesthood who communicated with the Gods were the Flamines. At any one time there were 15 Flamen priests, each designated to a certain god. They were responsible for the worship of this deity and they each communicated ~~with their~~ and found out the wills of their god. The highest Flamen priest was responsible for the worship of ~~the~~ the King of Gods, Jupiter Optimus Maximus. This priest had a very unusual way of life and had many restrictions forced upon him. He had to be married, if his wife died he had to resign as head priest. He had to wear a cone shaped hat on his head at all times, even at home. He was not allowed to touch a corpse or beans or have his hair cut by a slave. His job was very important but also hard to follow.

* The art of interpreting dreams was an unofficial priesthood but it became increasingly popular during Augustus' Era.

Although the Romans only had a business-like relationship with their gods, they strongly believed in ~~these~~ them and attached a great importance to the signs and omens that

P. 8 Notes

The essay is analytical, rather than merely descriptive in its approach, and covers all parts of the question.

A good range of information is presented in a clear, concise manner. Although some irrelevant material is included, this does not spoil the general impression of sound knowledge and understanding of the processes and significance of Roman divination.

they gave. Many Romans believed in fate and most believed in the power of the gods over their lives. Being able to communicate with the Gods allowed people the assurance of their (the gods) existence and of their roles in Roman people lives.