

Thursday 24 May 2012 – Afternoon

AS GCE CLASSICS: CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

F385 Greek Historians

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet.

OCR supplied materials:

- 16 page Answer Booklet
(sent with general stationery)

Other materials required:

None

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the Answer Booklet. Please write clearly and in capital letters.
- Use black ink.
- Answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.
- Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **100**.
- This document consists of **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.

Section A: Commentary Questions

Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.

Marks are awarded in parts (b) and (c) of Questions 1 and 2 for the quality of written communication in your answer.

1 Read the passage and answer the questions.

For the story goes that Xerxes, who was watching the battle, observed the incident, and that one of the bystanders remarked: ‘Do you see, my lord, how well Artemisia is fighting? She has sunk an enemy ship.’ Xerxes asked if they were sure it was really Artemisia, and was told that there was no doubt whatever – they knew her ensign well, and of course supposed that it was an enemy ship that had been sunk. She was, indeed, lucky in every way – not least in the fact that there were no survivors from the Calyndian ship to accuse her. Xerxes’ comment on what was told him is said to have been: ‘My men have turned into women, my women into men.’ 5

Amongst the killed in this struggle was Ariabignes, the son of Darius and Xerxes’ brother, and many other well-known men from Persia, Media, and the confederate nations. There were also Greek casualties, but not many; for most of the Greeks could swim, and those who lost their ships, provided they were not killed in the actual fighting, swam over to Salamis. Most of the enemy, on the other hand, being unable to swim, were drowned. The greatest destruction took place when the ships which had been first engaged turned tail; for those stationed behind fell foul of them in their attempt to press forward and do some service before the eyes of the king. In the confusion which resulted, some Phoenicians who had lost their ships came to Xerxes and tried to make out that the loss was due to the treachery of the Ionians. But the upshot was that it was they themselves, and not the Ionian captains, who were executed for misbehaviour. 10 15 20

Herodotus, *The Histories* 8.88–90

- (a) Briefly outline what Herodotus has described in Book 8 from the Battle of Artemisium to where this passage begins. [10]
- (b) How typical is the passage of Herodotus’ style of writing? In your answer you should include discussion of the way that he presents characters and events, and the language that he uses. [20]
- (c) ‘Herodotus is too interested in making the Persians seem sympathetic for his *Histories* to be useful for us today.’ Using this passage as a starting point, explain how far you agree with this statement. [25]

Do **not** answer this question if you have already answered Question 1.

Marks are awarded in parts (b) and (c) of Questions 1 and 2 for the quality of written communication in your answer.

2 Read the passage and answer the questions.

In the period when the disease was at its height, the body, so far from wasting away, showed surprising powers of resistance to all the agony, so that there was still some strength left on the seventh or eighth day, which was the time when, in most cases, death came from the internal fever. But if people survived this critical period, then the disease descended to the bowels, producing violent ulceration and uncontrollable diarrhoea, so that most of them died later as a result of the weakness caused by this. For the disease, first settling in the head, went on to affect every part of the body in turn, and even when people escaped its worst effects, it still left its traces on them by fastening upon the extremities of the body. It affected the genitals, the fingers, and the toes, and many of those who recovered lost the use of these members; some, too, went blind. There were some also who, when they first began to get better, suffered from a total loss of memory, not knowing who they were themselves and being unable to recognize their friends. 5

Words indeed fail one when one tries to give a general picture of this disease; and as for the sufferings of individuals, they seemed almost beyond the capacity of human nature to endure. Here in particular is a point where this plague showed itself to be something quite different from ordinary diseases: though there were many dead bodies lying about unburied, the birds and animals that eat human flesh either did not come near them or, if they did taste the flesh, died of it afterwards. Evidence for this may be found in the fact that there was a complete disappearance of all birds of prey: they were not to be seen either round the bodies or anywhere else. But dogs, being domestic animals, provided the best opportunity of observing this effect of the plague. 10 15 20

Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War* 2.49–50

- (a) Briefly describe the events of the Peloponnesian War from the beginning of the war to the outbreak of the plague. [10]
- (b) How does Thucydides make this passage shocking and vivid? In your answer you should include discussion of the description of the plague and the language that he uses. [20]
- (c) 'Thucydides was an eye-witness to events that he describes, which makes his writing totally accurate and reliable.' Using this passage as a starting point, explain how far you agree with this statement. [25]

[Section A Total: 55]

Section B: Essays

Answer **one** question.

Start your answer on a new page.

Marks are awarded for the quality of written communication in your answer.

- 3** ‘Thucydides’ style of writing makes his work dull to read.’ Explain how far you agree with this statement.

In your answer you should:

- consider the characters and events he describes;
- include an analysis of the quality of his writing;
- use evidence from *History of the Peloponnesian War*. [45]

- 4** Which do you think better portrays its subject, the *Life of Themistocles* or the *Life of Pericles*?

In your answer you should:

- consider the way in which Plutarch portrays each man;
- include an analysis of which *Life* you think is the better portrayal, and why;
- use specific details from the *Life of Themistocles* and the *Life of Pericles*. [45]

- 5** Which of the works you have studied do you think would make the best material for a film, Herodotus’ *Histories*, Thucydides’ *History of the Peloponnesian War* or Plutarch’s *Lives*?

In your answer you should:

- consider how the historical characters are presented by each author;
- include an analysis of how dramatic each work is;
- use specific evidence from Herodotus’ *Histories*, Thucydides’ *History of the Peloponnesian War* and Plutarch’s *Lives*. [45]

[Section B Total: 45]

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