

Friday 17 May 2013 – Morning

AS GCE CLASSICS: CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

F385/01/I Greek Historians

INSERT – QUESTION BOOKLET

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.

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.

INSTRUCTION TO EXAMS OFFICER/INVIGILATOR

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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.

The Persians were delighted at this, and bowed low before their master; but the following night Xerxes dreamed that the same figure as before stood by his bed and spoke to him. ‘Son of Darius,’ it said, ‘so you have openly, in the presence of your subjects, renounced the campaign and made light of what I said to you, as if it had never been said at all. Now let me tell you what the result will be, if you do not at once undertake this war: just as in a moment you rose to greatness and power, so in a moment will you be brought low again.’ 5

Terrified by the dream Xerxes leapt out of bed and sent for Artabanus. ‘Artabanus,’ he said, ‘when you first gave me your good advice, I lost control of myself and answered wildly and foolishly. But I soon thought better of it and realized that I ought to do as you suggested. Now, however, I cannot do so, much as I should like it; for since I changed my mind I have been haunted by a dream which will not allow me to act as you advised. The last time I saw the vision, it left me with threats of disaster. Now if God sent the dream, and it is God’s pleasure that we should invade Greece, the same vision will appear to you and will give you the same commands as it gave to me. And this, I think, is most likely to happen if you put on my clothes, take your seat on my throne, and then go to sleep in my bed.’ 10 15

Herodotus, *The Histories* 7.14–15

- (a) What has happened between the battle of Marathon and the start of this passage? [10]
- (b) In what ways is this passage typical of Herodotus’ style of writing? In your answer you should include discussion of what he says and the way he says it. [20]
- (c) Using this passage as a starting point, explain how Herodotus uses the supernatural and oracles in his work. [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.

Soon after this it appears that Pericles himself caught the plague. In his case it was not a violent or acute attack such as others had suffered, but a kind of dull, lingering fever, which persisted through a number of different symptoms and gradually wasted his bodily strength and undermined his noble spirit. At any rate Theophrastus in his *Ethics* discusses the problem of whether men's characters change according to their circumstances and whether they may be so deranged by physical suffering as to lose their former virtues. As an example he quotes a story that Pericles, as he lay sick, showed one of the friends who had come to visit him a charm which the women had hung round his neck, so much as to say that he was very far gone to allow such a piece of folly. 5

As he was now on his death-bed, some of the leading men of Athens and the survivors among his friends were sitting around him, praising his virtues and the extent of his power and recounting his famous exploits and the number of trophies he had set up, for he had won no less than nine victories as Athens' commander-in-chief. 10

Plutarch, *Life of Pericles* 38

- (a) What has Plutarch described between the fall of Samos and the start of this passage? [10]
- (b) In what ways is this passage typical of Plutarch's style of writing? In your answer you should include discussion of what he says and how he says it. [20]
- (c) 'Plutarch's *Lives* are designed to show us people we want to be like.' Explain how far you agree with this statement with reference to the *Life of Pericles*. [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** ‘Herodotus should be seen as a storyteller more than an historian.’ How far do you agree with this statement?

In your answer you should:

- consider the reasons Herodotus may have had for writing *The Histories*;
- include a discussion of the stories in his work;
- use evidence from Herodotus’ *The Histories*.

[45]

- 4** ‘Thucydides says that his work is intended to inform the future about the Peloponnesian war, but it was really meant to inform the people of Athens in his own time.’ How far do you agree with this statement?

In your answer you should:

- consider the usefulness of the work in his own time and to a modern-day audience;
- include an analysis of what Thucydides’ aims were in writing this work;
- use evidence from *History of the Peloponnesian War*.

[45]

- 5** Which of the three historians that you have read do you think is the least biased?

In your answer you should:

- consider the levels of bias in the books you have read;
- include an evaluation of the facts and ideas given;
- use specific evidence from Herodotus’ *The Histories*, Thucydides’ *History of the Peloponnesian War* and Plutarch’s *Life of Pericles* and *Life of Themistocles*.

[45]

[Section B Total: 45]

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