



**ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY GCE**  
**CLASSICS: CLASSICAL CIVILISATION**  
 Greek Historians

**F385**

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet

**OCR Supplied Materials:**

- 8 page Answer Booklet

**Other Materials Required:**

None

**Friday 22 May 2009**  
**Afternoon**

**Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes**



**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Write your name clearly in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided on the Answer Booklet.
- Use black ink. Pencil may be used for graphs and diagrams only.
- Read each question carefully and make sure that you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.
- 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.

**1** Read the passage and answer the questions.

In this way Sardis was captured by the Persians and Croesus taken prisoner, after a reign of fourteen years and a siege of fourteen days. The oracle was fulfilled; Croesus had destroyed a mighty empire – his own.

The Persians brought their prisoner into the presence of the king, and Cyrus chained Croesus and placed him with fourteen Lydian boys on a great pyre that he had built; perhaps he intended them as a choice offering to some god of his, or perhaps he had made a vow and wished to fulfil it; or it may be that he had heard that Croesus was a godfearing man, and set him on the pyre to see if any divine power would save him from being burnt alive. But whatever the reason, that was what he did; and Croesus, for all his misery, as he stood on the pyre, remembered with what divine truth Solon had declared that no man could be called happy until he was dead. Till then Croesus had not uttered a sound; but when he remembered, he sighed bitterly and three times, in anguish of spirit, pronounced Solon's name.

5

10

Herodotus *The Histories* 1.86

[trans. A. de Selincourt, Herodotus *The Histories*; Penguin]

- (a) 'The oracle was fulfilled' (line 2). Describe the oracle Croesus received and how it was fulfilled. [10]
- (b) What features of Herodotus' interests are shown in this passage? How typical are they of his narration of events? [20]

**You are reminded that marks are awarded for the quality of written communication of your answer.**

- (c) 'Oracles and the supernatural are a very significant aspect of Herodotus' work.' Using this passage as a starting point, discuss how far you agree with this statement. [25]

**You are reminded that marks are awarded for the quality of written communication of your answer.**

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

2 Read the passage and answer the questions.

And with regard to my factual reporting of the events of the war I have made it a principle not to write down the first story that came my way, and not even to be guided by my own general impressions; either I was present myself at the events which I have described or else I heard of them from eye-witnesses whose reports I have checked with as much thoroughness as possible. Not that even so the truth was easy to discover: different eye-witnesses give different accounts of the same events, speaking out of partiality for one side or the other or else from imperfect memories. And it may well be that my history will seem less easy to read because of the absence in it of a romantic element. It will be enough for me, however, if these words of mine are judged useful by those who want to understand clearly the events which happened in the past and which (human nature being what it is) will, at some time or other and in much the same ways, be repeated in the future. My work is not a piece of writing designed to meet the taste of an immediate public, but was done to last for ever.

Thucydides *History of the Peloponnesian War* 1.22  
[trans. R. Warner, *Thucydides History of the Peloponnesian War*, Penguin]

- (a) What has Thucydides said about war before this passage begins? [10]
- (b) What approach to the writing of history does Thucydides outline in this passage? Why do you think he wanted to explain this approach to his audience?  
In your answer you should consider Thucydides' aims in writing his work. [20]

**You are reminded that marks are awarded for the quality of written communication of your answer.**

- (c) Using this passage as a starting point, discuss how useful Thucydides is as an historical source.  
In your answer you should include discussion of this passage and other parts of the text which you have read. [25]

**You are reminded that marks are awarded for the quality of written communication of your answer.**

[Section A Total: 55]

## Section B: Essays

Answer **one** question.

Start your answer on a new page.

**You are reminded that marks are awarded for the quality of written communication of your answer.**

**3** How successful do you think Herodotus is as an historian?

In your answer, you should:

- consider the events Herodotus describes;
- include an analysis of Herodotus' aims;
- support your answer with evidence from Herodotus' work.

[45]

**4** How effectively does Thucydides use speeches in his work?

In your answer, you should:

- consider how and when Thucydides uses speeches;
- include an analysis of what Thucydides himself says about speeches and the choice of occasions when speeches are used;
- support your answer with evidence from Thucydides' work.

[45]

**5** To what extent does Plutarch's interest in individuals make his work different from that of other Greek historians you have studied?

In your answer, you should:

- consider how Plutarch describes individuals and their personalities;
- include an analysis of the portrayal of individual personalities as opposed to historical events or other factors;
- support your answer with evidence from **at least one** Plutarch *Life* and **either** Herodotus *The Histories* **or** Thucydides *History of the Peloponnesian War*.

[45]

**[Section B Total: 45]**

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