



ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY GCE
CLASSICS: CLASSICAL CIVILISATION
Roman Society and Thought

F383

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.

Vibídius turned to Bálatro:

“If we don’t drink him out of house and home we’ll die in vain.”
And he called for larger tankards. At this a ghastly pallor
appeared on the host’s face; he detested strenuous drinkers,
whether because their scurrilous humour gets out of hand 5

or because a fiery wine dulls the palate’s edge.
Vibídius and Bálatro proceeded to tip whole jug-fulls of wine
into mugs of the type made in Allífae. The rest followed suit
except for the host’s clients, who refrained from hitting the bottle.

‘Then a lamprey arrived, stretched on a dish, with prawns swimming
around it, at which his lordship remarked “This one was caught 10
while she was pregnant; after spawning the flesh is inferior.

The sauce has the following ingredients: Venafran oil (*the first*
pressing of course), liquamen (from the guts of the *Spanish mackerel*),
wine that is five years old, but grown in Italy (this 15
to be added in the course of boiling; after boiling, Chian
is better than anything else), *white* pepper, and one mustn’t
forget the vinegar, made from fermented Methymnaean grape.

I pioneered the practice of boiling sharp elecampane
and green rockets with the sauce. Curtillus uses sea-urchins – 20
unwashed, for the liquor provided by the shell-fish is better than brine.”

Horace, *Satires* 2.8 lines 39-53

[trans. N. Rudd, *Horace: Satires and Epistles and Persius: Satires*; Penguin]

(a) Briefly describe the event at which Vibídius is talking to Bálatro. [10]

(b) To what extent do you think ‘his lordship’ (line 11) is showing off in this passage?
In your answer you should refer to Horace’s use of language. [20]

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

(c) To what extent do you think that Horace was sorry to miss the event?
In your answer you should refer to other *Satires* of Horace you have read. [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.

Pliny to Trajan

While I was visiting another part of the province, a widespread fire broke out in Nicomedia which destroyed many private houses and also two public buildings (the Elder Citizens' Club and the Temple of Isis) although a road runs between them. It was fanned by the strong breeze in the early stages, but it would not have spread so far but for the apathy of the populace; for it is generally agreed that people stood watching the disaster without bestirring themselves to do anything to stop it. Apart from this, there is not a single fire engine anywhere in the town, not a bucket nor any apparatus for fighting a fire. These will now be provided on my instructions.

5

Pliny, *Letters* 10.33

[trans. B. Radice, *The letters of the younger Pliny*; Penguin]

- (a) Briefly explain who Trajan was and Pliny's purpose in writing this letter. [10]
- (b) How does Pliny use language to achieve what he wants? How successful was he in persuading Trajan? In your answer you should make reference to Trajan's reply. [20]

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

- (c) To what extent do you feel that Roman society relied on people such as Pliny? You should refer to your knowledge of Roman society including the letters of Pliny that 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** Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of being a freedman in Roman society.

In your answer, you should:

- consider who freedmen were in Roman society;
- include analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of being a freedman;
- support your answer with evidence from the works of **at least two** of Juvenal, Pliny and Petronius. **[45]**

- 4** According to Juvenal, life in Rome was very dangerous. What were the dangers of living in Rome, and to what extent do you think that Juvenal was telling the truth?

In your answer, you should:

- consider a range of dangers of life in Rome;
- include some analysis of how reliable Juvenal's information is;
- support your answer with evidence from Juvenal's *Satires*. **[45]**

- 5** 'The Romans were obsessed with money and wealth.'
To what extent do you agree with this statement?

In your answer, you should:

- consider how the Romans displayed their wealth;
- include analysis of the Romans' use of money;
- support your answer with evidence from the works of **at least two** of Juvenal, Pliny, Petronius and Horace. **[45]**

[Section B Total: 45]

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