

**GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION**  
**ANCIENT HISTORY**

**A031**

The Greeks at war

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet

**OCR Supplied Materials:**

- 8 page Answer Booklet

**Other Materials Required:**

None

**Wednesday 9 June 2010**  
**Morning**

**Duration: 1 hour 15 minutes**



**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Write your name in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided in the Answer Booklet.
- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Use black ink.
- This paper has **two** options:  
Option 1: The Greeks defend themselves, 499-479 BC.  
Option 2: Alexander the Great, 356-323 BC.
- Answer questions from **one** option only.
- Answer **all** the questions in Section A and **one** question from Section B.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

- The number of marks for each question is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **80**.
- Marks are awarded in Section B for the quality of written communication of your answer.
- This document consists of **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

**Option 1: The Greeks defend themselves, 499-479 BC****Section A**

Answer **all** the questions in this section.

- 1 Briefly outline **two** reasons why Darius decided to attack Greece in 490 BC. [5]
- 2 Read the following passage from Herodotus, and answer the questions which follow.

After this, as each of the generals who had voted for engaging with the enemy became commander for a day in turn, they surrendered their position to Miltiades. Miltiades accepted their offer, but did not make the decision to fight until he was commander for the day in his own right.

When it was Miltiades' turn, the Athenians were drawn up for battle, with the War Archon commanding the right wing; this was the usual practice in Athens at this time. The tribes then took up their positions in their usual order, and the Plataeans were drawn up last on the left wing. Ever since this battle, when the Athenians are performing sacrifices at their four-yearly festival, the herald prays that both the Athenians and the Plataeans may be granted good fortune.

Herodotus, *The Histories* 6.110-111

- (a) What does this passage tell us about the commanders and what they did at Marathon? [4]
- (b) The generals 'surrendered their position to Miltiades.' (line 2). Explain why this was important. [4]
- (c) In this passage Herodotus gives an account of the preparations for Marathon. Explain how accurate you think it is. [5]

**Option 1: The Greeks defend themselves, 499-479 BC**

- 3 Read the following passage from Herodotus, and answer the questions which follow.

Xerxes was not at all eager to march against Greece, and gathered his army for an expedition against Egypt. Mardonius, the son of Gobryas, who was Xerxes' cousin and son of Darius' sister, was with him and had the most influence of all the Persians at his court. He made the following argument: 'Master, it is not reasonable that the Athenians who have done the Persians a great deal of harm should not pay the penalty for what they have done. You should complete what you have in hand at the moment; but when you have subdued the revolution in Egypt, lead your army against Athens so that you may have a noble reputation amongst men and everyone after this will be wary of marching against your territory.'

Herodotus, *The Histories* 7.5

- (a) In what ways does this passage help us to understand Xerxes' reasons for attacking the Greeks in 480 BC? [14]
- (b) Do you think Herodotus' account of Xerxes' reasons for his attack on the Greeks is reliable? Explain your opinion. You must refer **both** to this passage **and** to other passages of Herodotus which you have studied. [18]

**Option 1: The Greeks defend themselves, 499-479 BC****Section B**

Answer **either** Question 4 **or** Question 5.

- 4 'Leonidas and the Spartans were more concerned with glory than victory.' Using Herodotus' account, explain how far you agree with this view.

In your answer you should:

- give an account of how Leonidas and the Spartans prepared for and fought in the battle of Thermopylae;
- explain why Leonidas and the Spartans acted as they did;
- show knowledge of the relevant sections of Herodotus;
- consider how reliable you think Herodotus is. **[30]**

- 5 'Xerxes' poor military planning brought about the Persian defeat.' Using Herodotus' account, explain how far you agree with this view.

In your answer you should:

- give a brief account of the strengths and weaknesses of Xerxes' military planning compared to that of the Greeks;
- explain why the weaknesses of Xerxes' military planning led to the Persian defeat;
- show knowledge of relevant sections of Herodotus;
- consider how reliable you think Herodotus is. **[30]**

**Option 2: Alexander the Great, 356-323 BC**

**Do not answer questions from this option if you have already answered Option 1.**

**Section A**

Answer **all** the questions in this section.

- 1 Briefly outline **two** details of how Alexander's parents influenced him. [5]
- 2 Read the following passage from Plutarch, and answer the questions which follow.

Whilst he was still a child, his self-restraint became clear: although he was impetuous and violent in other respects, the pleasures of the body moved him little, and he made contact with such things with great moderation. Love of honour made him think seriously and in a lofty way, beyond what might have been expected at his age. He did not like all forms of fame and from any quarter, as Philip did. Philip had shown off as a sophist with his cleverness in argument and had his chariot victories at the Olympic Games engraved on coins. When, however, those around him asked if he was willing to compete in the foot-race at the Olympics – for he was a good runner – he said, 'If kings are intending to compete, yes.'

Plutarch, *Life of Alexander* 4

- (a) What does this passage tell us about Alexander's character? [4]
- (b) Using this passage, explain why Alexander did not want to race at the Olympics. [4]
- (c) How accurate do you think this account of Alexander's character is? Explain your opinion. [5]

**Option 2: Alexander the Great, 356-323 BC**

- 3 Read the following passage from Arrian, and answer the questions which follow.

He also held weddings at Susa for himself and his companions. He himself married Barsine, the eldest of the daughters of Darius, and another woman in addition to her, Parysatis, the youngest of the daughters of Ochus, according to Aristobulus. He was already married to Roxanne, the daughter of Oxyartes from Bactria. To Hephaestion he gave Drypetis, another daughter of Darius and the sister of his own wife. For he wanted Hephaestion's children to be cousins to his own. To Craterus he gave Amastrine the daughter of Oxyartes, Darius' brother; to Perdikkas, a daughter of Atropates, satrap of Media. Ptolemy, his bodyguard, and Eumenes, the royal secretary, married the daughters of Artabazus, Artacama and Artonis respectively. Nearchus married the daughter of Barsine and Mentor; Seleucus the daughter of Spitamenes from Bactria, and likewise the other Companions – about eighty in all – married the most noble daughters of the Persians and the Medes. These marriages were conducted according to Persian custom.

Arrian, *Anabasis of Alexander* 7.4

- (a) In what ways does this passage help us to understand the relationships Alexander wanted to develop between different peoples within his empire? [14]
- (b) Do you think Arrian and Plutarch give us a reliable account of Alexander's intentions for his empire after the death of Darius? Explain your opinion. You must refer **both** to this passage **and** to other passages from Arrian and Plutarch which you have studied. [18]

**Option 2: Alexander the Great, 356-323 BC****Section B**

Answer **either** Question 4 **or** Question 5.

**4** To what extent do you think Alexander's military career showed him to be a great general?

In your answer you should:

- give a brief account of at least **two** of Alexander's battles;
- explain to what extent you think these show him to be a great general;
- show knowledge of the views of Arrian and Plutarch;
- consider how reliable you think Arrian and Plutarch are.

**[30]**

**5** 'In the end Alexander was betrayed by those closest to him.' How far does this statement explain the events surrounding his death?

In your answer you should:

- give an account of the events surrounding his death;
- explain the role of those closest to him when he died;
- show knowledge of relevant sections of Arrian and Plutarch;
- consider how accurate you think the accounts of his death are.

**[30]**

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