



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Monday 12 October 2020 – Morning

A Level Ancient History

H407/11 Sparta and the Greek World

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Answer **four** questions in total:
Section A: Answer Question 1 **or** Question 2 **and** answer Question 3.
Section B: Answer Question 4 **and** answer Question 5 **or** Question 6.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **98**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document has **4** pages.

ADVICE

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

**Section A: Relations between Greek states and
between Greek and non-Greek states, 492–404 BC**

Answer **either** question 1 **or** question 2 **and** then question 3.

Answer **either** question 1 **or** question 2.

- 1*** ‘The change in relationship between Sparta and Corinth after 446 BC led to the Spartans declaring war on Athens in 432 BC.’ To what extent do you agree with this view?

You must use and analyse the ancient sources you have studied as well as your own knowledge to support your answer. **[30]**

- 2*** ‘After the Peace of Nicias (421 BC), Alcibiades could have won the war for Athens, but in the end caused her to lose it.’ To what extent do you agree with this view?

You must use and analyse the ancient sources you have studied as well as your own knowledge to support your answer. **[30]**

Answer question 3.

- 3** Read the interpretation below.

...Greek cities collaborated in the war effort against Persia to secure success, but Greek unity is largely a myth. In addition to Athens and the Peloponnesian League the number of mainland Greek cities who joined the struggle on the Greek side was small, their combined forces practically insignificant. What Herodotus’ account of the war reveals is how slight and how temporary a concession was made in the in-fighting of Greek cities. Even those cities which fought together rapidly turned to claiming of one another that they had tried to desert, or to casting aspersions on the motives which led others to fight. 5

R. Osborne, *Greece in the Making, 1200–479 BC*

How convincing do you find R. Osborne’s interpretation of the contribution of Greek unity to the victory over the Persians in 480–479 BC?

You must use your knowledge of the historical period and the ancient sources you have studied to analyse and evaluate R. Osborne’s interpretation. **[20]**

Section B: The Society and Politics of Sparta, 478–404 BC

Answer question 4 **and** then **either** question 5 **or** question 6.

Answer question 4.

4 Read the passage below.

When he came on the scene he found that Lakedaimonians, like all the other Greeks, lived and dined at home. He [Lykourgos] realised that this was a primary source of disorderly conduct, and so he set out to reduce this indifference to established codes of conduct by setting up the system of open public messes. He laid down a specific level of nutrition designed to ensure that no one over-ate or starved. But hunting can be a source of many dietary supplements; and there are times when rich men provide wheat loaves instead of the usual ones. As a result, the tables are never bare of food while the diners are present, yet they are never extravagantly supplied. He put a stop to the custom of compulsory drinking, which is physically debilitating and mentally damaging. He permitted each man to drink when he was thirsty, in the belief that this was the least harmful and most socially pleasant form of consumption. After all, how could anyone do any harm to himself or his household through gluttony or drunkenness under such a system of open public eating together. For of course in other states the usual custom is for men of the same age to socialise together, and that is a sure recipe for the lowest level of self-restraint. But in Sparta Lykourgos mixed the age groups together, so that the younger men could learn as much as possible from the experience of their elders. Indeed the custom is for the conversation at such mess dinners to revolve around the great achievements of the state's heroes, with the result that in such gatherings there is little room for vulgarity, drunken excess, or insulting language and behaviour. This custom of public dining has other beneficial effects as well.

Xenophon, *Constitution of the Spartans* 5.2–5.7 [Lactor 21 D61]

How useful is this passage for our understanding of the importance of the mess system in Sparta? **[12]**

Answer **either** question 5 **or** question 6.

5* 'Spartan kings could only be trusted to act in their own interests not in the interests of the Spartans.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?

You must use and analyse the ancient sources you have studied as well as your own knowledge to support your answer. **[36]**

6* 'The Spartans were never successful when acting in the interests of their allies.' To what extent is this an accurate assessment of the period 478–404 BC?

You must use and analyse the ancient sources you have studied as well as your own knowledge to support your answer. **[36]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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