



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Wednesday 4 June 2025 – Morning

A Level Classical Greek

H444/02 Prose Composition or Comprehension

Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

Do not use:

- a dictionary

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 **either** the questions in Section A **or** the question in Section B.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **50**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- This document has **8** pages.

ADVICE

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

Answer **either** Section A **or** Section B

Section A

Comprehension and Grammar

Read the passage below carefully and answer the questions which follow.

When a citizen called Aristophanes was sentenced to death, the Athenian state confiscated his property and auctioned it off to make a profit. Raising less money from the sale than expected, the state accused Aristophanes' family of stealing from the estate before the auction. In this passage the defendant, the brother-in-law of Aristophanes, is discussing Aristophanes' character and attitude towards Athens.

Aristophanes focused his attention and energy not only on his own private matters but also on the state; any money that he had, he would spend it in the pursuit of glory.

γνώσεσθε δὲ ὅτι ἀληθῇ λέγω ἐξ αὐτῶν ὧν ἐκεῖνος ἔπραττε. πρῶτον μὲν γὰρ βουλομένου Κόνωνος πέμπειν τινὰ εἰς Σικελίαν, ὁ Ἀριστοφάνης ᾤχετο ὑποστὰς μετὰ Εὐνόμου, Διονυσίου φίλου ὄντος καὶ ξένου, τὸ πλῆθος τὸ ὑμέτερον πλεῖστα ἀγαθὰ πεποιηκότος.

ἦσαν δ' ἐλπίδες τοῦ πλοῦ πείσαι Διονύσιον πολέμιον μὲν γενέσθαι 5
Λακεδαιμονίους, φίλον δὲ καὶ σύμμαχον τῇ πόλει τῇ ὑμετέρῃ. καὶ ταῦτ' ἔπραττον πολλῶν κινδύνων ὑπαρχόντων πρὸς τὴν θάλατταν καὶ τοὺς πολέμιους, καὶ ἔπεισαν Διονύσιον μὴ πέμψαι τριήρεις ἄς τότε παρεσκευάσατο Λακεδαιμονίοις. μετὰ δὲ ταῦτα ἐπειδὴ οἱ πρέσβεις ἦκον 10
σπεύδων. ὑμεῖς δὲ δέκα τριήρεις αὐτοῖς ἔδοτε καὶ τᾶλλα ἐψηφίσασθε, ἀργυρίου δ' εἰς τὸν ἀπόστολον ἠπόρουν. ὀλίγα μὲν γὰρ ἦλθον ἔχοντες χρήματα, πολλῶν δὲ προσεδέθησαν. οὐ γὰρ μόνον εἰς τὰς ναῦς, ἀλλὰ καὶ πελταστὰς ἐμισθώσαντο καὶ ὅπλα ἐπρίαντο.

Ἀριστοφάνης δ' οὖν τῇ προτεραίᾳ ἤ ἀνήγετο, εἰσελθὼν ὡς τὸν πατέρα τὸν 15
ἐμὸν ἐκέλευσε χρῆσαι ὃ τι εἴη ἀργύριον. προσδεῖν γὰρ ἔφη πρὸς τὸν μισθὸν τοῖς πελτασταῖς.

Lysias, *On the Property of Aristophanes* 19–22 (adapted)

Names

ὁ Κόνων, -ωνος	Conon, a Greek general
ἡ Σικελία, -ας	Sicily
ὁ Εὐνόμος, Εὐνόμου	Eunomus
ὁ Διονύσιος, Διονυσίου	Dionysius, tyrant of Syracuse (a city in Sicily)
ἡ Κύπρος, -ου	Cyprus
ὁ Ἀριστοφάνης, -ους	Aristophanes

Words

ὕφίστημι	I pledge myself, I give a promise
σπεύδω	I act eagerly
πρίσμαι	I purchase

- 1** γνώσεσθε δὲ ... ἔπραττε (line 1): what does the speaker say will show that he is telling the truth? [1]
- 2** πρῶτον μὲν ... ἀγαθὰ πεποιηκότος (lines 1–4):
- (a) State what was Conon's wish. [2]
- (b) State what Aristophanes did. [2]
- (c) What does the speaker say about Eunomus? [3]
- 3** ἦσαν δ' ἐλπίδες ... τῇ πόλει τῇ ὑμετέρῃ (lines 5–6): explain what were the hopes regarding the voyage. [3]
- 4** καὶ ταῦτ' ἔπραττον ... Λακεδαιμονίοις (lines 6–9):
- (a) Why was the task dangerous? [2]
- (b) State the outcome of the discussion with Dionysius. [3]
- 5** μετὰ δὲ ταῦτα ... εἰς τὸν ἀπόστολον ἠπόρουν (lines 9–12): translate these lines into English. [10]
- Please write your translation on alternate lines.**
- 6** ὀλίγα μὲν γὰρ ... ὅπλα ἐπρίαντο (lines 12–14): describe the problem faced by the envoys. [4]
- 7** Ἀριστοφάνης δ' οὖν ... τοῖς πελτασταῖς (lines 15–17):
- (a) When did Aristophanes go to see the defendant's father? [2]
- (b) What did Aristophanes ask for? [2]
- (c) Why was this needed? [1]
- 8** Which part of the verb are the following?
- (a) γνώσεσθε (line 1) [1]
- (b) πέμψαι (line 8) [1]

9 Give the first person singular, present indicative of the following:

- (a) *πεῖσαι* (line 5) [1]
- (b) *παρεσκευάσατο* (line 9) [1]
- (c) *προσεδέγησαν* (line 13) [1]

10 State and explain the case of the following words:

- (a) *πόλει* (line 6) [2]
- (b) *ἄς* (line 8) [2]
- (c) *προθυμίας* (line 10) [2]

11 Explain, using a translation if you think it is helpful, the grammar of the following words:

- (a) *πεποιηκός* (line 4) [2]
- (b) *προσδεῖν* (line 16) [2]

Section B

Prose Composition

Do **not** answer this question if you have already answered Section A.

12 Translate this passage into Classical Greek prose.

You are reminded that marks will be awarded for the style of your translation.

Please write your translation on alternate lines.

[50]

Once upon a time Hermocrates was a ruler in Syracuse. He had a daughter called Callirhoe, who fell in love with a young man. She was admired by everyone because they thought that she was as beautiful as Aphrodite.

At that time, when there was a festival to this goddess in the city, almost all the women went to her temple. The girl's mother led her there to honour the goddess, and they took many gifts from home. A certain Chaereas, whose father was an enemy of Hermocrates, happened to be going home when he saw her unexpectedly; immediately a passion arose in both of them. He hoped to marry her, and she wanted the same thing, secretly saying to Aphrodite "Mistress, give me this man you have shown me as my husband."

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Names

Syracuse (a city in Sicily)
Hermocrates
Callirhoe
Aphrodite
Chaereas

αἱ Συρακούσαι, Συρακουσῶν
ὁ Ἑρμοκράτης, -ους
ἡ Καλλιρρόη, -ης
ἡ Ἀφροδίτη, -ης
ὁ Χαιρέας, Χαιρέου

Words

fall in love

ἐράω + genitive, aorist ἠράσθην

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