

Modified Enlarged 24pt
OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Monday 19 May 2025 – Afternoon

AS Level Classical Civilisation

H008/21 Greek Theatre

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes
plus your additional time allowance

YOU MUST HAVE:
the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF



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 ALL the questions in Section A and ONE question in Section B.

INFORMATION

The total mark for this paper is 65.

The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].

Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).

ADVICE

Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

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SECTION A

SOURCE A

Bell krater by McDaniel Painter



Figure 1

- 1 What kind of mythological creature is FIGURE 1? [1]**
- 2 State the name of FIGURE 1. [1]**
- 3 What is the technical name given to the building shown in SOURCE A? [1]**
- 4 Analyse how useful SOURCE A is in telling us how a comedy by Aristophanes might originally have been staged.**

Make FOUR points and support each point with reference to SOURCE A. [8]

SOURCE B

Aristophanes' 'Frogs' 33–56

XANTHIAS

Ah woe is me, poor wretch! Why didn't I fight in that sea-battle! Then I could tell you to bugger off.

DIONYSUS

Get down, you idiot. My journey's taken me right up to this door here, my first destination. 5
Slave, I say, slave, slave!

HERACLES

Who's that battering the door, flinging himself at it like a centaur? Who the... say, what is all this? 10

DIONYSUS

Slave.

XANTHIAS

What is it?

DIONYSUS

Did you notice that?

XANTHIAS

Notice what exactly?

DIONYSUS

How scared he was of me.

15

XANTHIAS

Oh, yes, by Zeus – scared that you're a maniac.

HERACLES

By Demeter, I just can't stop laughing. I'm biting my lip, but I just can't help myself.

20

DIONYSUS

My good chap, step forward. I have a favour to ask of you.

HERACLES

I can't stop laughing – look at that lionskin on top of your little yellow number. What's the idea? Why these boots and club? Where on earth were you heading?

25

DIONYSUS

I was sailing with Cleisthenes.

HERACLES

You fought at sea?

XANTHIAS

**Yes, and sank – oh, must have been 30
twelve or thirteen enemy ships.**

HERACLES

The two of you?

DIONYSUS

Yes, by Apollo.

XANTHIAS

In your dreams...

DIONYSUS

**And while I was on board, reading 35
'Andromeda' to myself, a sudden
desire filled my heart – you wouldn't
believe how strong it was.**

HERACLES

Desire? What kind of desire?

DIONYSUS

Just a little one – the size of Molon. 40

- 5 Which sea-battle is Xanthias referring to in line 2? [1]**
- 6 Why do you think that Xanthias refers to this battle? Make TWO points. [2]**
- 7 Who was Cleisthenes (line 28)? [1]**
- 8 What was the sudden desire (lines 36–37) felt by Dionysus? [1]**
- 9 Explain how Aristophanes makes the scene in SOURCE B a successful piece of comic drama.
Make FOUR points and support each point with reference to SOURCE B. [8]**
- 10* ‘When the play was first produced, the audience found Aristophanes’ ‘Frogs’ to be entertaining because of what they heard, rather than what they saw.’
Explain how far you agree with this statement.
You may use SOURCE(S) A AND/OR B as a starting point in your answer. [16]**

[SECTION A TOTAL: 40]

SECTION B

Answer ONE question from this section.

EITHER

11* ‘Sophocles’ ‘Oedipus the King’ is Greek tragedy at its best.’

Assess how far you agree with this statement.

In your answer, you should consider what elements make a great tragedy and how far ‘Oedipus the King’ has these elements. [25]

OR

12* 'It is impossible for the audience to feel any pity for Pentheus in Euripides' 'Bacchae'.'

Assess how far you agree with this statement.

In your answer, you should consider how Pentheus acts and how he is treated by Dionysus. [25]

[SECTION B TOTAL: 25]

END OF QUESTION PAPER



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