

OCR

Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Monday 22 May 2017 – Morning

AS GCE CLASSICS: CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

F385/01 Greek Historians

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet.

OCR supplied materials:

- 12-page Answer Booklet (OCR12)
(sent with general stationery)

Other materials required:

None

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Complete the boxes on the Answer Booklet with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Use black ink.
- Answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.
- Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Start your answer to each question on a new page.
- Write the number of each question answered in the margin.
- Do **not** write in the barcodes.

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.

INSTRUCTION TO EXAMS OFFICER/INVIGILATOR

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Answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.

SECTION A – Commentary Questions

Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.

Marks are awarded in parts (b) and (c) of Questions 1 and 2 for the quality of written communication in your answer.

1 Read the passage and answer the questions.

He then prepared to move forward to Abydos, where a bridge had already been constructed across the Hellespont from Asia to Europe. Between Sestos and Madytus in the Chersonese there is a rocky headland running out into the water opposite Abydos. It was here not long afterwards that the Athenians under Xanthippus the son of Ariphron took Artaÿctes the Persian governor of Sestos, and nailed him alive to a plank – he was the man who collected women in the temple of Protesilaus at Elaeus and committed various acts of sacrilege. This headland was the point to which Xerxes’ engineers carried their two bridges from Abydos – a distance of seven furlongs. One was constructed by the Phoenicians using flax cables, the other by the Egyptians with papyrus cables. The work was successfully completed, but a subsequent storm of great violence smashed it up and carried everything away. Xerxes was very angry when he learned of the disaster, and gave orders that the Hellespont should receive three hundred lashes and have a pair of fetters thrown into it. I have heard before now that he also sent people to brand it with hot irons. He certainly instructed the men with the whips to utter, as they wielded them, the barbarous and presumptuous words: ‘You salt and bitter stream, your master lays this punishment upon you for injuring him, who never injured you. But Xerxes the King will cross you, with or without your permission. No man sacrifices to you, and you deserve the neglect by your acid and muddy waters.’ In addition to punishing the Hellespont Xerxes gave orders that the men responsible for building the bridges should have their heads cut off. The men who received these invidious orders duly carried them out, and other engineers completed the work. The method employed was as follows: penteconters and triremes were lashed together to support the bridges – 360 vessels for the one on the Black Sea side, and 314 for the other. They were moored slantwise to the Black Sea and at right angles to the Hellespont, in order to lessen the strain on the cables.

Herodotus, *Histories* 7.33–36

- (a) Briefly describe what Herodotus has told us about the Persian plans to invade Greece since the death of Darius. [10]
- (b) How typical is this passage of Herodotus’ style of writing? [20]
- (c) ‘Herodotus always portrays Xerxes as an emotional and tyrannical ruler.’ Using this passage as a starting point, explain how far you agree with this statement. [25]

Do **not** answer this question if you have already answered Question 1.

Marks are awarded in parts (b) and (c) of Questions 1 and 2 for the quality of written communication in your answer.

2 Read the passage and answer the questions.

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Thucydides *History of the Peloponnesian War* 1, 85–87

- (a) Briefly describe what Thucydides has told us about the dispute over Potidaea which led to the debate at Sparta. **[10]**
- (b) How typical is this passage of the way Thucydides uses speeches in his writing? **[20]**
- (c) Using this passage as a starting point, explain how effectively you feel Thucydides explains the reasons for the Peloponnesian War breaking out. **[25]**

[Section A Total: 55]

SECTION B – Essays

Answer **one** question.

Start your answer on a new page.

Marks are awarded for the quality of written communication of your answers.

- 3** Herodotus has been described as both ‘The Father of History’ and ‘The Father of Lies’. Which of these do you think is the better description of Herodotus and his style of writing history?

In your answer, you should

- consider the sort of information Herodotus gives in his work and his style of writing
- analyse how far this information is accurate and how this affects Herodotus’ style of writing history
- use evidence from Herodotus’ *Histories*. **[45]**

- 4** ‘Plutarch shows Themistocles as being more interested in himself than in Athens.’ Explain how far you agree with this statement.

In your answer, you should

- consider what Plutarch tells us about what Themistocles said and did
- analyse how far the motives for his actions were selfish and how far they were patriotic
- use evidence from Plutarch’s *Life of Themistocles*. **[45]**

- 5** Which of the three historians you have studied have you enjoyed reading the most?

In your answer, you should

- consider what makes reading history enjoyable
- analyse how far the work of each of the historians is enjoyable to read
- use evidence from Herodotus’ *Histories*, Thucydides’ *History of the Peloponnesian War* and Plutarch’s *Life of Themistocles* and *Life of Pericles*. **[45]**

[Section B Total: 45]

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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