

Classical Studies

Question Book

VCE Examination – Wednesday 6 November 2024

- Reading time is **15 minutes**: 11.45 am to 12 noon
- Writing time is **2 hours**: 12 noon to 2.00 pm

Materials supplied

- Question Book of 20 pages
- One or more Answer Books

Instructions

- Follow the instructions on the front cover of any Answer Books you use.
- At the end of the examination, place all additional Answer Books inside the front cover of the first Answer Book.
- You may keep this Question Book.

Students are **not** permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any unauthorised electronic devices into the examination room.

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Section A – Individual study

Instructions

- There are eight questions in **Section A**. Answer only **two** of these. Each question has three parts.
 - Write your responses in English.
 - Clearly number your answers in the Answer Book(s) provided.
 - The mark allocation for each question provides a guide in determining the length of your response.
 - All questions in **Section A** are worth 20 marks.
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Question 1 (20 marks)

Homer, *The Iliad*, Book 22

translated by Robert Fagles, with an introduction and notes by Bernard Knox, Penguin Classics, 1998

With that he wrenched his bronze spear from the corpse,
[...]
glorified in their city like a god!”

Due to copyright restrictions, the VCAA is unable to reproduce the full passage when this examination is published on the VCAA website. Instead, the opening and closing words of the passage have been provided.

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- a.** Describe the events in Book 22 that led to this scene. 4 marks
- b.** Explain the techniques used in this extract. 6 marks
- c.** Using evidence, evaluate the significance of this extract to Book 22 as a whole. 10 marks

Question 2 (20 marks)**Herodotus, *The Histories***

translated by Aubrey de Sélincourt and revised, with an introduction and notes by John Marincola, Penguin Classics, 2003

‘My son,’ said Croesus, ‘of course you are not a coward or
[...]
allow you to join the expedition.’

Due to copyright restrictions, the VCAA is unable to reproduce the full passage when this examination is published on the VCAA website. Instead, the opening and closing words of the passage have been provided.

- a. Describe the circumstances of Atys and Croesus that have led to the event in this extract. 4 marks
- b. Explain how Herodotus creates pathos in this extract. 6 marks
- c. Using evidence, evaluate the significance of this extract to the work prescribed for study. 10 marks

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Question 3 (20 marks)**Sophocles, *Ajax***

translated by David Raeburn with an introduction by Pat Easterling, Penguin Classics, 2008

TECMESSA:

At last he shot through the doors and yelled aloud

[..]

Of loot go on forever, while I die?

Due to copyright restrictions, the VCAA is unable to reproduce the full passage when this examination is published on the VCAA website. Instead, the opening and closing words of the passage have been provided.

- a.** Describe the circumstances that have led to this scene. 4 marks
- b.** Explain how tension is created in this extract. 6 marks
- c.** Using evidence, evaluate the significance of this extract to the work as a whole. 10 marks

Question 4 (20 marks)

Greek sculptures

Image A



Source: Archaeological Museum of Olympia, Greece; image: Graham Mulrooney/Alamy Stock Photo

Image B



Source: British Museum, London; image: Trigger Image/Alamy Stock Photo

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- a.** Describe the scenes depicted in Image A and Image B. 4 marks
- b.** Compare the techniques used to create each of the sculptures presented in Image A and Image B. 6 marks
- c.** Evaluate how the sculptures reflect the beliefs of Greek society. Refer to the sculptures presented in Image A and Image B and to **two** other sculptures prescribed for study this year. 10 marks

Question 5 (20 marks)**Virgil, *The Aeneid*, Book 12**

translated and with an introduction by David West, Penguin Classics, 2003 (revised edition)

Turnus was thunderstruck, bewildered by the changing shape
[...]
with the sword.'

Due to copyright restrictions, the VCAA is unable to reproduce the full passage when this examination is published on the VCAA website. Instead, the opening and closing words of the passage have been provided.

- a. Describe the circumstances in Book 12 that have led to this scene. 4 marks
- b. Explain the techniques used in this extract. 6 marks
- c. Using evidence, evaluate the significance of the extract for the poet's characterisation of Turnus in Book 12. 10 marks

Question 6 (20 marks)**Suetonius, 'Life of Nero' in *The Twelve Caesars***

translated by Robert Graves, revised with an introduction and notes by James B Rives, Penguin Classics, 2007

30. He believed that fortunes were made to be squandered,
[...]
Golden House'.

Due to copyright restrictions, the VCAA is unable to reproduce the full passage when this examination is published on the VCAA website. Instead, the opening and closing words of the passage have been provided.

- a. Describe other examples in 'Life of Nero' of Nero's wastefulness. 4 marks
- b. Explain how Nero is portrayed in this extract. 6 marks
- c. Using evidence, evaluate the significance of this extract to the characterisation of Nero in the work as a whole. 10 marks

Question 7 (20 marks)**Catullus, *The Complete Poems***

translated with an introduction and notes by Guy Lee, Oxford World's Classics, 2008

Extract, 68B

How the famished altar craves blood-sacrifice

[...]

Are held by an alien land in distant soil.

100

Due to copyright restrictions, the VCAA is unable to reproduce the full passage when this examination is published on the VCAA website. Instead, the opening and closing words of the passage have been provided.

- a. Describe the context of lines 79–90 of this extract. 4 marks
- b. Explain how Catullus creates sympathy for Laodamia in the extract. 6 marks
- c. Evaluate Catullus' representation of his brother's death. Refer to the extract, Poem 68 (68A and B) as a whole, and **one** other poem prescribed for study this year. 10 marks

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Question 8 (20 marks)

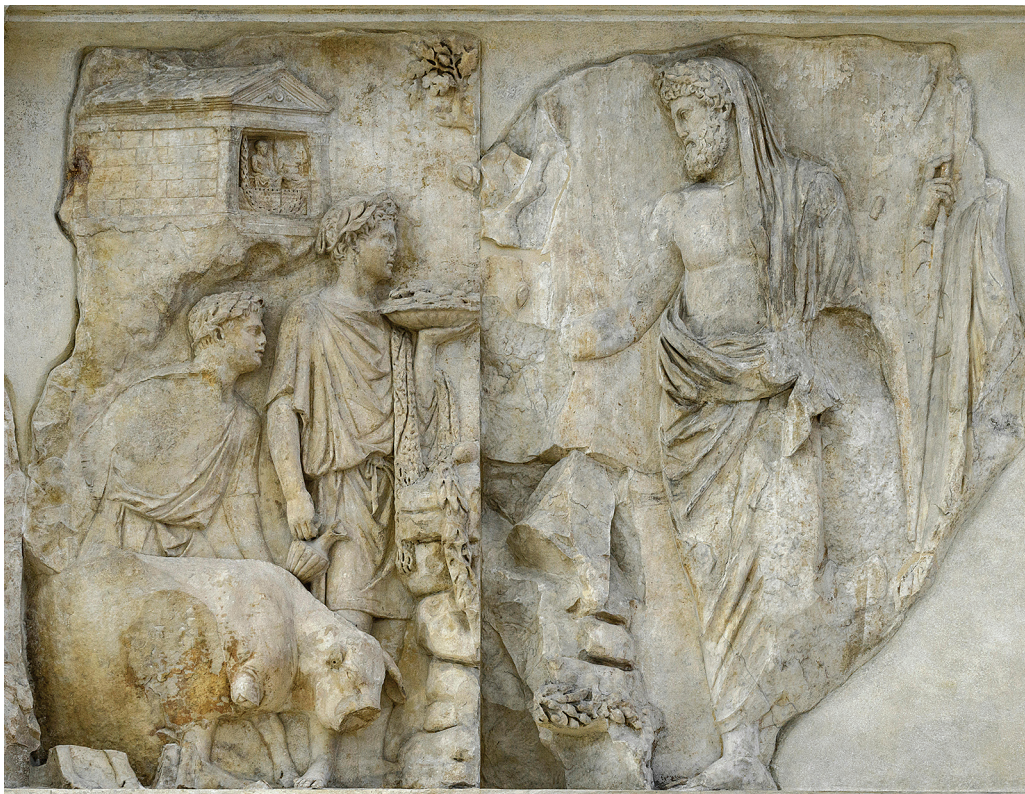
Roman reliefs

Image A



Source: Via Sacra, Forum, Rome; image: Jozef Sedmak/Alamy Stock Photo

Image B



Source: Museo dell'Ara Pacis, Rome; image: Adam Eastland/Alamy Stock Photo

-
- a. Describe the sociohistorical contexts of the reliefs presented in Image A and Image B. 4 marks
- b. Compare the techniques used to create the reliefs presented in Image A and Image B. 6 marks
- c. Evaluate how the reliefs reflect the values of Roman society. Refer to the reliefs presented in Image A and Image B and to **two** other reliefs prescribed for study this year. 10 marks

Section B – Comparative study

Instructions

- Write an essay on **one** of the following questions.
 - Write your responses in English.
 - All questions in **Section B** are worth 40 marks.
 - Clearly number your response in the Answer Book(s) provided.
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Question 1 (40 marks)

Aristophanes, *Lysistrata* and Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*

‘Athenians were motivated only by simple desires.’

Analyse this statement using evidence from both works.

Question 2 (40 marks)

Aeschylus, *Prometheus Bound* and Plato, *Apology*

‘Aeschylus and Plato focus on the misuse of knowledge for different purposes.’

Analyse this statement using evidence from both works.

Question 3 (40 marks)

Sophocles, *Antigone* and Euripides, *Electra*

‘In *Antigone* and *Electra*, only the acts of revenge are inherently transgressive.’

Analyse this statement using evidence from both works.

Question 4 (40 marks)

Cicero, ‘The First Philippic Against Marcus Antonius’ and Plutarch, *Mark Antony*

‘Cicero’s and Plutarch’s depictions of Mark Antony only differ because of their respective sociohistorical contexts.’

Analyse this statement using evidence from both works.

Question 5 (40 marks)

Livy, *The Rise of Rome* and Tacitus, *The Annals of Imperial Rome*

‘No one is truly virtuous in the Rome depicted by Livy and Tacitus.’

Analyse this statement using evidence from both works.

Question 6 (40 marks)

Petronius, *Dinner with Trimalchio* and Juvenal, *Satires*

‘Juvenal and Petronius are only concerned about the excesses of their Roman societies.’

Analyse this statement using evidence from both works.

Question 7 (40 marks)**The Parthenon and the Colosseum**

'The Parthenon and the Colosseum clearly reflect their respective societies' priorities and values.'

Analyse this statement using evidence from both structures.

Question 8 (40 marks)**Virgil, *The Aeneid*, Book 4 and Euripides, *Medea***

'Human weakness causes pain and sorrow for all.'

Analyse this statement using evidence from both works.

Assessment criteria for Section B

The essay will be assessed against all four of the following criteria:

- knowledge of the classical works and their relationships with their sociohistorical contexts
 - analysis of the ideas and the techniques used to express these ideas in the classical works
 - comparison and evaluation of the ideas and techniques used in the classical works
 - construction of an argument based on relevant evidence.
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