



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

**Friday 12 June 2015 – Morning**

**A2 GCE CLASSICS: CLASSICAL CIVILISATION**

**F389/01 Comic Drama in the Ancient World**



Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet.

**OCR supplied materials:**

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

**Other materials required:**

None

**Duration: 2 hours**



**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 bar codes.

**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 **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

**INSTRUCTION TO EXAMS OFFICER/INVIGILATOR**

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

### SECTION A – Commentary questions

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

**Marks are awarded for the quality of written communication in your answer.**

1 Read the passage and answer the questions.

XANTHIAS:	[as <i>Heracles</i> ] To hell with the lot of you! Don't you dare come near me!	
AEACUS:	Oh, so you're a tough guy, eh? Ditylas! Skobylas! Pardokas! Come here! The man wants a fight.	
	[ <i>Three more SLAVES</i> come forward.]	
DIONYSUS:	He ought to be ashamed of himself. Taking other people's things and then resisting arrest!	5
AEACUS:	The cheek of the man!	
DIONYSUS:	He's a hardened criminal.	
XANTHIAS:	Listen, I've never been here before and I've not stolen so much as a bean off of you, I swear on my life. I'll tell you what I'll do: I'll let you torture this slave of mine. And if I'm proven guilty, take me off and execute me.	10
AEACUS:	Hm. What kind of torture do you suggest?	
XANTHIAS:	Give him the full works. Rack, thumbscrew, gallows, cat-o'-nine-tails. Pour vinegar up his nose, pile bricks on his chest – anything you fancy. Only don't hit him with leeks or spring onions – it'd bring tears to my eyes.	15
AEACUS:	Fair enough. And if he gets damaged in the process, I suppose you'll want compensation.	
XANTHIAS:	No, no. Don't worry about that. Just take him away and do your worst.	
AEACUS:	We might as well do it here, under his master's eye. [To DIONYSUS] Come on, put down those bags, and mind you tell the truth.	20
DIONYSUS:	You can't torture <i>me</i> – I'm an immortal. If you do, I'll ... hold you responsible!	
AEACUS:	You'll <i>what</i> ?	
DIONYSUS:	Look here, I'm a god: Dionysus, son of Zeus. It's this fellow who's a slave.	25
AEACUS:	Did you hear that?	
XANTHIAS:	I most certainly did. All the more reason to flog him: if he's a god, he won't feel a thing.	
DIONYSUS:	Well, you're a god too, aren't you, Heracles? Why not let them flog you as well?	
XANTHIAS:	Fair enough. Whichever of us squeals first, or even winces, isn't really a god.	30
AEACUS:	You're a good sport, sir. That's what I call fair and square. [ <i>He takes a rope's end from one of the SLAVES.</i> ] Right! Bend over, the pair of you.	
XANTHIAS:	Wait a minute. How are you going to ensure it's a fair test?	
AEACUS:	Easy. You each receive alternate strokes.	35
XANTHIAS:	Good idea. [ <i>He bends over and DIONYSUS reluctantly follows suit.</i> ] There!	
AEACUS:	[ <i>giving XANTHIAS a good whack</i> ] There!	
XANTHIAS:	I bet you I won't even feel it.	
AEACUS:	I've hit you already.	
XANTHIAS:	[ <i>feigning incredulity</i> ] No!	40

Aristophanes, *Frogs* 607–645

(a) How effective is this passage as a piece of comic drama? [25]

(b) Using this passage as a starting point, assess whether role-reversal is used more effectively in *Frogs* or in *Lysistrata*. [25]

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

**Marks are awarded for the quality of written communication in your answer.**

**2** Read the passage and answer the questions.

PERIPECTOMENUS: No, no; it's only a fool and an ignoramus who would arraign the gods and find fault with their designs. But enough of this; I must get off to market, so that I can provide you, my friend, with such hospitality as shall be worthy of us both, a hearty welcome and good hearty fare. 5

PLEUSICLES: I am more than satisfied with what you have done for me already. To have a guest, even your dearest friend, planted on you for three days together is something of an affliction; ten days of it must be a whole Iliad of afflictions. Even if the master puts up with it willingly, the servants grumble. 10

PERIPECTOMENUS: My dear friend, my servants are taught to serve, not to give me orders or expect me to consider their convenience. If they don't like what suits me – well, I'm skipper and they have to get on with it; they just have to do what they don't like, and get cuffs instead of thanks for it. Now for my shopping. 15

PLEUSICLES: If you must, sir; but please don't kill the fatted calf; anything will do for me. 20

PERIPECTOMENUS: Oh good heavens, you're not going to sing that old song, are you? You're talking like a lower-class person; the sort of person who, when he sits down at your table and food is put in front of him, says 'Oh, you shouldn't have gone to all this expense for me; no really, it's ridiculous, there's enough for ten people here' – complains of what you've bought for him, and eats it up just the same. 25

PALAESTRIO: That's it! That's exactly what they do. The wise old bird, he doesn't miss anything! 30

PERIPECTOMENUS: And mark you, however high the table is heaped, you'll never hear them say 'No more of that, thank you ... you can take this dish away ... I shan't need the ham, thanks ... nor the pork ... the conger will be very nice cold, you'd better remove it ... go on, take it away.' Oh no, you won't hear anything like that from one of them; they just fall to and sprawl all over the table in their eagerness to help themselves. 35

PALAESTRIO: You've a good manner of describing bad manners, sir. 40

PERIPECTOMENUS: I haven't said a hundredth part of what I could find to say if I had time. 45

PALAESTRIO: Yes...well... perhaps we ought now to turn our attention to the business in hand. Please listen to me, gentlemen. I shall need your help, sir, to carry out the ingenious ruse which I have devised for trimming Captain Curlylocks and assisting our loving friend in his design of abducting and possessing his beloved Philocomasium. 50

PERIPECTOMENUS: Let's hear the plan. 55

PALAESTRIO: Let's have that ring of yours. 60

Plautus, *The Swaggering Soldier* 736–771

(a) How typical is the portrayal of Periplectomenus in this passage of the way he is portrayed elsewhere in *The Swaggering Soldier*? [25]

(b) 'Periplectomenus in *The Swaggering Soldier* and Simo in *Pseudolus* are the most important factors in the success of the plans of Palaestrio and Pseudolus.' How far do you agree with this opinion? [25]

**[Section A Total: 50]**

**SECTION B – Essays**

Answer **one** question.

Start your answer on a new page.

**Marks are awarded for the quality of written communication in your answer.**

- 3 'Greek comedy makes more effective use of slaves than Roman comedy.' How far do you agree with this opinion? You should support your view with evidence from the plays of Aristophanes and Plautus. **[50]**
- 4 To what extent do you think that visual humour contributes more to the audience's enjoyment of Aristophanes' plays than those of Plautus? You should support your views with evidence from the plays of Aristophanes and Plautus. **[50]**

**[Section B Total: 50]**

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**

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