



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

**Friday 23 June 2017 – 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 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**.
- Quality of written communication will be assessed in this paper.
- 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.

1 Read the passage and answer the questions.

STREPSIADES:	Ah, holy Clouds, that's harsh – but you're right: I shouldn't have tried to cheat my creditors out of their money. [To Pheidippides] My dear, dear son – come with me and let's murder that villain Chaerephon and Socrates for the way they swindled both of us.	5
PHEIDIPIIDES:	No, no! I couldn't harm my teachers!	
STREPSIADES:	Aye, aye! Revere the great Paternal Zeus!	
PHEIDIPIIDES:	Paternal Zeus indeed! How out of date you are! Do you mean you think Zeus exists?	
STREPSIADES:	He does.	10
PHEIDIPIIDES:	No, he doesn't, he doesn't! 'Vortex is king now; he's driven Zeus from power.'	
STREPSIADES:	No, he hasn't. I only believed that because of this image here [pointing to a whirlpool-shaped cup standing on a pillar in front of the Thinkery]. How stupid could I be, to take a piece of earthenware like you for a god!	15
PHEIDIPIIDES:	If you want to yammer to yourself, you can do it on your own. [He goes inside.]	
STREPSIADES:	How mad, how insane I was, to let Socrates persuade me to discard the gods! [Addressing the image of Hermes on a pillar in front of his house] Dear Hermes, don't be cross with me, don't destroy me. Have pity on me, if a set of clever windbags made me take leave of my senses for a time. Give me some advice. Should I launch a prosecution against them, or what do you think? [He pauses for a reply – and fancies he can see the image moving its head to signify 'no'.] You're right. I shouldn't bother cooking up lawsuits – I should go right away and set this school for slick talkers on fire. [Calling into his house] Xanthias, come here, and bring a ladder and a mattock with you! [His slave XANTHIAS comes out, carrying the items requested.] Now get up on the roof of that Thinkery and hack it down, if you love your master, until you've brought the whole house down on them! [XANTHIAS climbs up the ladder and sets to work.] And someone bring me a lighted torch. I'm going to make this lot pay for what they've done; it'll take more than big talk to save them this time!	20 25 30 35

Aristophanes, *Clouds* 1462–1492

(a) 'During the course of the play, Strepsiades changes more than Pheidippides.' Using the passage as a starting point, discuss whether you agree with this statement. [25]

(b) Which play do you feel has the more serious message, *Clouds* or *Lysistrata*? You should support your answer with evidence from **both** plays. [25]

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

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

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Plautus, *The Brothers Menaechmus* 1000–1030

(a) How typical is this passage of the different ways in which Plautus creates comic drama in *The Brothers Menaechmus*? [25]

(b) 'The slave Messenio in *The Brothers Menaechmus* is more believable than Palaestrio in *The Swaggering Soldier*. This makes him a more interesting character than Palaestrio.' How far would you agree with this opinion? [25]

**[Section A Total: 50]**

**SECTION B – Essays**

Answer **one** question.

Start your answer on a new page.

3 'Theatre buildings, machinery, costumes, props and masks are more essential to the comedy of Plautus than to the comedy of Aristophanes.'

Using evidence from the plays of Aristophanes **and** Plautus, assess how accurate you consider this statement to be. **[50]**

4 'Successful comedy holds the audience's attention throughout and always leads to a happy ending.'

To what extent do you feel this statement is true of the plays of Aristophanes **and** Plautus? **[50]**

**[Section B Total: 50]**

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**





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