

# OCR

Oxford Cambridge and RSA

## Monday 21 May 2018 – 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.

In the course of that fight Leonidas fell, having fought most gallantly, and many distinguished Spartans with him – their names I have learned, as those of men who deserve to be remembered; indeed, I have learned the names of all the three hundred. Amongst the Persian dead, too, were many men of high distinction, including two brothers of Xerxes, Habrocomes and Hyperanthes, sons of Darius by Artanes' daughter Phratagune. Artanes, the son of Hystaspes and grandson of Arsames, was Darius' brother; as Phratagune was his only child, his giving her to Darius was equivalent to giving him his entire estate.

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There was a bitter struggle over the body of Leonidas; four times the Greeks drove the enemy off, and at last by their valour rescued it. So it went on, until the troops with Ephialtes were close at hand; and then, when the Greeks knew that they had come, the character of the fighting changed. They withdrew again into the narrow neck of the pass, behind the wall, and took up a position in a single compact body – all except the Thebans – on the little hill at the entrance to the pass, where the stone lion in memory of Leonidas stands today. Here they resisted to the last, with their swords, if they had them, and, if not, with their hands and teeth, until the Persians, coming on from the front over the ruins of the wall and closing in from behind, finally overwhelmed them with missile weapons.

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Of all the Spartans and Thespians who fought so valiantly the most signal proof of courage was given by the Spartan Dieneces. It is said that before the battle he was told by a native of Trachis that, when the Persians shot their arrows, there were so many of them that they hid the sun. Dieneces, however, quite unmoved by the thought of the strength of the Persian army, merely remarked: 'This is pleasant news that the stranger from Trachis brings us: if the Persians hide the sun, we shall have our battle in the shade.'

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Herodotus, *Histories* 7.224–226

- (a) Briefly describe what Herodotus says happened in the Battle of Thermopylae from the arrival of the Persian army at the pass to the start of this passage. [10]
- (b) How typical is this passage of Herodotus' style of writing? In your answer, you should include discussion of what Herodotus says and how he says it. [20]
- (c) 'Herodotus always shows the Greeks as being very brave and heroic.' 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.

He did not choose to speak on every question, but reserved himself, as Critolaus says, like the state galley, the *Salamina*, for great occasions, and allowed his friends and other public speakers to deal with less important matters. One of these, they say, was Ephialtes, who destroyed the power of the Council of the Areopagus and in this way, as Plato the philosopher puts it, poured out neat a full draught of freedom for the people and made them unmanageable, so that they ‘nibbled at Euboea and trampled on the islands, like a horse which can no longer bear to obey the rein.’

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Pericles wished to equip himself with a style of speaking which, like a musical accomplishment, should harmonize perfectly with his mode of life and the grandeur of his ideals, and he often made use of the instrument which Anaxagoras had put into his hand and tinged his oratory, as it were, with natural philosophy. It was from this philosophy that he had acquired, in addition to his natural gifts, what the divine Plato calls ‘the loftiness of thought and the power to create an ideally perfect work’, and by applying this training to the art of oratory he far excelled all other speakers. This was the reason, some people say, for his being nicknamed the Olympian, though others believe that it was on account of the buildings with which he adorned Athens, and others again because of his prowess as a statesman and a general; but it may well have been the combination of many qualities which earned him the name. However, the comic poets of the time, who were constantly letting fly at him either in earnest or in fun, declare that the title originated mainly from his manner of speaking. They refer to him as thundering and lightning when he addressed his audience and as wielding a terrible thunderbolt in his tongue. A saying of Thucydides, the son of Melesias, has come down to us, which was uttered in jest, but which bears witness to Pericles’ powers of persuasion. Thucydides belonged to the aristocratic party and was a political opponent of Pericles for many years. When Archidamus, the king of Sparta, asked him whether he or Pericles was the better wrestler, Thucydides replied: ‘Whenever I throw him at wrestling, he beats me by arguing that he was never down, and he can even make the spectators believe it.’

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Plutarch, *Life of Pericles* 7–8

- (a) Briefly describe what Plutarch has told us about Pericles’ family and early life before this passage begins. [10]
- (b) How typical is this passage of the way Plutarch uses his sources in his *Life of Pericles*? [20]
- (c) ‘Plutarch’s account of Pericles’ career is totally uncritical.’ Using this passage as a starting point, explain how far you agree with this statement. [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 in your answer.**

- 3** ‘Herodotus’ style and approach to his subject matter make him unreliable as an historical source.’ Explain how far you agree with this statement.

In your answer, you should:

- consider what Herodotus says about his subject matter and how he says it
- include an analysis of how accurate Herodotus is as an historical source
- use evidence from Herodotus’ *Histories*.

**[45]**

- 4** ‘Thucydides’ use of speeches in the *History of the Peloponnesian War* means that he cannot be considered to be a good historian.’ To what extent do you agree with this statement?

In your answer, you should:

- consider a variety of speeches and their use in Thucydides’ work
- include an analysis of how these speeches, **and** other factors, contribute to whether or not Thucydides is a good historian
- use evidence from Thucydides’ *History of the Peloponnesian War*.

**[45]**

- 5** Which of the three authors you have studied do you think is the best military historian?

In your answer, you should:

- consider how each of the historians describes battles and military campaigns
- include an analysis of how accurate and useful these descriptions are
- 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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