



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2026
Classical Studies
Ordinary Level

Monday 22 June Afternoon 2:00 - 4:30

400 marks

Examination Number

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Date of Birth

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For example, 3rd February
2005 is entered as 03 02 05

Centre Stamp

Instructions

Write your examination number and date of birth in the boxes on the front cover.

Write your answers in blue or black pen.

You may use pencil, including colouring pencils, **only** in drawings or diagrams.

Write all your answers in the spaces provided in this booklet. There is additional answer space at the end of the booklet. Label any such extra work clearly with the question number and part.

This examination booklet will be scanned and your work will be presented to an examiner on screen. Anything that you write outside of the answer areas may not be seen by the examiner.

There are **two** sections in this paper.

Section A	Stimulus Questions	300 marks
	• Answer all questions presented.	

Images for Questions 1 – 9 in Section A are on **Paper X** which accompanies this examination paper.

Section B	Extended Answers	100 marks
	• Answer Question 11.	(50 marks)
	• Answer one from Questions 12-16.	(50 marks)

Where appropriate, you may include drawings, diagrams, etc., in the blank answer space on pages 14, 18 and 23.

Answer all **ten** of the following questions. Each question carries thirty marks.
Refer to the images on **Paper X** as indicated for Questions 1-9.

Question 1**(30 marks)**

Image A shows an Olympian god who plays a key role in Homer's *Odyssey*.

(a) Name the Greek god shown in Image A.

--

(b) List **two** symbols of the god in image A.

1.
2.

(c) Name **another** god/goddess in Homer's *Odyssey*.

--

(d) Write about **any** myth that involves an ancient Greek or Roman god/goddess.

Question 2**(30 marks)**

Image B and Image C show the two sides of an ancient Roman coin.

Image B is a scene from Virgil's *Aeneid* and Image C is the face of Emperor Augustus.

(a) Why is Aeneas carrying his father in Image B?

(b) Briefly explain the connection between Aeneas and Augustus.

(c) Why do you think that Augustus decided to issue a coin with these two images on it?

Question 3**(30 marks)**

Image D and Image E relate to the worship of the same goddess in ancient Rome.

(a) Complete the grid below with information about the goddess of the temple in Image D.

Name of Roman Goddess	Domain (goddess of...)	Symbol

(b) List **three** architectural features of the temple shown in Image D.

1.
2.
3.

(c) Write a note about the lives of the priestesses shown in Image E. You may include points on the following:

- duties; family background; importance in society.

Question 4**(30 marks)**

Image F and Image G show the prothesis (laying out) during an ancient Greek funeral.

(a) How do Image F and Image G show the grief of the mourners? Refer to details in **both** images.

(b) Answer these true or false questions by ticking (✓) the correct box for each one.

	True	False
(i) A stele is a carved piece of stone used to identify a grave.	☐	☐
(ii) Male relatives were responsible for preparing the corpse for burial.	☐	☐
(iii) A lekythos is a type of vase used in funerary rites.	☐	☐

(c) Which element of Greek **or** Roman funeral practices do you find most interesting?
Give reasons for your answer.

Question 5**(30 marks)**

Image H shows a scene from Plato's *Crito*.

- (a)** Give **two** arguments that Crito makes when trying to convince Socrates to escape from prison.

1.
2.

- (b)** Give **two** reasons why Socrates will not let his friends take him out of prison.

1.
2.

- (c)** Do you agree with Socrates **or** Crito? Give a reason for your answer.

Question 6**(30 marks)**

Image I shows a reconstruction of the ancient Greek theatre of Dionysus in Athens.

(a) List **three** architectural features of the theatre.

1.
2.
3.

(b) Based on your study of Euripides' *Medea* **or** Sophocles' *Philoctetes*, give an account of your favourite scene from the play.

(c) Explain why the scene you chose for part **(b)** is your favourite scene.

Question 7**(30 marks)**

Image J shows a reconstruction of the Colosseum in Rome.

Image K shows a photograph of the Aviva Stadium in Dublin.

(a) Name **one** event that took place in the Colosseum in ancient Rome.

--

(b) List **two** similarities between the two buildings in Image J and Image K.

1.
2.

(c) Based on your study of the Colosseum, which of these two buildings do you think is more impressive? Give reasons for your answer.

(d) Do you think that live entertainment is as important today as it was in ancient Rome?
Explain your answer.

Question 8**(30 marks)**

Image L and Image M are visual sources of gladiators in ancient Rome.
Image L shows a piece of graffiti and Image M is a mosaic.

- (a)** What can we learn about gladiators from Image L and Image M? Support your answer with details from **both** images.

- (b)** Why do you think that graffiti and mosaics of gladiators were so popular in ancient Rome?
Give reasons for your answer.

- (c)** List **four** facts about chariot racing in the Circus Maximus.

1.
2.
3.
4.

Question 9**(30 marks)**

Image N shows Alexander with Darius' body. Image O shows Caesar meeting with Vercingetorix.

- (a)** Based on Image N and Image O, what impression do you get of Alexander's **and** Caesar's characters? Refer to details in **both** images to support your answer.

- (b)** Answer **(i)** or **(ii)**.

- (i)** How does Alexander treat Darius and the Persians after he conquers them?

OR

- (ii)** How does Caesar treat Vercingetorix and the Gauls after he conquers them?

Question 10**(30 marks)**

Read Extract A **or** Extract B and answer the questions that follow.

Tick (✓) the box of your chosen extract.

Extract A: Plutarch, Alexander the Great ☐

In the matter of delicacies, too, Alexander himself, at all events, was master of his appetite, so that often, when the rarest fruits or fish were brought to him from the sea-coast, he would distribute them to each of his companions until he was the only one for whom nothing remained.

Extract B: Plutarch, Julius Caesar ☐

Caesar would distribute rewards and honours, and his own share in all this wealth was no greater than what he bestowed on his soldiers who deserved it. And secondly, he showed that there was no danger which he was not willing to face, no form of hard work from which he excused himself.

- (a)** What impression do you get of Alexander's **or** Caesar's character from your chosen extract? Support your answer with reference to the extract.

- (b)** Do you find ancient sources on Alexander **and/or** Caesar reliable? Give a reason for your answer.

- (c) What is your opinion of the achievements of Alexander **or** Caesar? Support your answer with **at least one** example.

Section B – Extended Answers – begins on page 15.

Optional Answer Space for drawings, diagrams, etc:

Question 11

(50 marks)

Answer **(a)** and **(b)** on the following pages.

(a) Read the statements below and answer the questions which follow.

- In Homer's *Odyssey*, Odysseus is called 'the man of twists and turns'.
- In Virgil's *Aeneid*, Aeneas is called 'pious and dutiful'.

(i) Do you think that these statements are good descriptions of the characters of Odysseus and Aeneas? Explain your answer with reference to the *Odyssey* **and/or** the *Aeneid*.

(ii) Who do you think is a more interesting character, Odysseus **or** Aeneas? Give a reason for your answer.

(b) Answer **one** of these questions.

(i) Write about **any two** female characters in Homer's *Odyssey*.

Examples of points may include: portrayal, role, relationship with other characters, importance to the plot, key moments, comparison, etc.

OR

(ii) Write about the character of Odysseus' son Telemachus in Homer's *Odyssey*.

Examples of points may include: portrayal, role, relationship with other characters, importance to the plot, key moments, etc.

OR

(iii) Write about **any two** female characters in Virgil's *Aeneid*.

Examples of points may include: portrayal, role, relationship with other characters, importance to the plot, key moments, comparison etc.

Optional Planning Space:

Answer for Question 11 (b), part

Optional Answer Space for drawings, diagrams, etc:

Answer **one** of the five questions below.

Question 12

(50 marks)

Give an account of **one** major military event in the campaigns of Alexander the Great **or** Julius Caesar. You may include points related to:

- formation
- tactics
- course of the battle/siege
- leadership.

OR

Question 13

(50 marks)

Discuss the importance of ancient Greek temples. In your answer you may include information about civic, religious, social and architectural importance.

OR

Question 14

(50 marks)

Comment on the relationship between **any two** characters in Euripides' *Medea* **or** Sophocles' *Philoctetes*. Support your answer with examples from the text.

OR

Question 15

(50 marks)

Based on your study of Horace, what do you think was his most important message? Support your answer with examples from **at least one** poem you have studied.

OR

Question 16

(50 marks)

Describe the ancient Greek **and/or** Roman beliefs about the afterlife. Support your answer with examples from **any** written or visual sources you have studied. You may include evidence from **any** of the four Strands on your course.

Optional Planning Space:

Answer for Question

Optional Answer Space for drawings, diagrams, etc:

Additional Answer Space:

[illegible]

Do not write on this page

Acknowledgements:

Texts

Page 12:

Plutarch. *The Age of Alexander*. Trans. I. Scott-Kilvert, Ed. G. T. Griffith. London: Penguin Books, 1973. [adapted]

Plutarch. *Fall of the Roman Republic: Six Lives*. Trans. R. Warner. London: Penguin Books, 2006. [adapted]

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